



HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS

611 I Street, Suite B

Eureka, CA 95501

(707) 444-8208

<http://www.hcaog.net>

March 17, 2014

United States Department of Transportation
Office of the Secretary
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Subject: Support for the City of Arcata Bay Trail North Project

Dear Application Review Committee:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG), we appreciate this opportunity to extend our support for the City of Arcata's "Bay Trail North Project". HCAOG represents a rural county with seven incorporated cities and eight federally recognized tribes. As the regional transportation planning agency for Humboldt County, HCAOG works closely with multiple public and private partners to coordinate transportation projects in the region.

The Arcata Bay Trail North Project is an exceptional project that will fill a gap of a high priority regional trail that shares right-of-way with a historic rail line along the Humboldt Bay and is part of the California Coastal Trail System. The planning for this project was a collaborative effort and has support from the local, state and tribal governments in the region. It is adjacent to an important, fully funded, highway project that will solve a long standing safety problem. The primary purpose of the project is to improve safety for non-motorized and motorized travelers along a high-volume (AADT 36,300) portion of state highway connecting the two largest cities in the county. This section of highway has been designated as a Safety Corridor for the last decade. The project is needed because there is no non-motorized, Class I path between Eureka and Arcata and demand for a path is high. The project is identified as a regional priority in the Humboldt Regional Transportation Plan (2013), Regional Bicycle Plan (2012), Humboldt County Coastal Trail Implementation Strategy (2011), Regional Trails Master Plan (2010), Regional Pedestrian Plan (2008), and the Humboldt Bay Trail Feasibility Study (2007).

The City of Arcata worked with many stakeholders on this project including the local rail operator and owner to develop a trail design and management plan that will allow the trail and railroad to co-exist. Please do not hesitate to contact me for more information on this project.

Sincerely,

Marcella Clem
Executive Director
Humboldt County Association of Governments