



HUMBOLDT AREA FOUNDATION

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May 30, 2013

The Honorable Ray LaHood, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Arcata Rail-with-Trail Connectivity Project

Dear Secretary LaHood:

Please accept Humboldt Area Foundation's energetic **support for the TIGER grant application from the City of Arcata for the Arcata Rail-with-Trail Connectivity Project**. After many years of intensive planning and public process, and a great deal of state and local investment, **one of the most popular projects in Northwestern California** is poised to be realized with Federal funding assistance. The right time has come to ask for Federal support to achieve the priority goal of a connected multi-use commuter trail system through the population center of the region.

For the last two decades, the communities of the Humboldt Bay region have worked toward the goal of a connected regional multi-use trail system. **The City of Arcata has very diligently and responsively addressed complex issues of rail-with-trail planning, coastal zone impacts, US 101-trail interface and reduced significant associated costs for this Humboldt Bay Trail segment between Arcata and the Bracut Marsh.** Like other key regional multi-use trails in this area that have been completed one segment at a time, this important active transportation facility will leverage completion of the Arcata-Eureka segment of the Humboldt Bay Trail – which must be completed in segments for a number of reasons. Even as a standalone portion of a larger trail system, this segment of commuter trail will get bike commuters off of a popular section of US 101 with 65-mph traffic – and encourage many more to take up riding between neighboring cities of Arcata and Eureka. Once complete, this trail system will meet an enormous demand for non-motorized connectivity between the largest communities in a vast region north of Santa Rosa, east of Redding and south of Medford, Oregon. The Humboldt Bay Trail will inspire many more locals and visitors to bike commuting for work and pleasure. We are confident the trail will provide positive economic impacts by inspiring significant numbers of US 101 travelers and redwood coast visitors to explore the Humboldt Bay by bicycle.

Humboldt Area Foundation is also physically located between Arcata and Eureka. Like those in so many other local businesses and organizations, **HAF staff currently ride the US 101 corridor** and are eager for a safer and more encouraging bike commute on the Bay Trail.

We encourage the U.S. Department of Transportation to become a key partner in achieving implementation of an extremely popular public facility in high demand on California's redwood coast. Additionally -- thank you, Secretary, for your service to the nation's transportation systems and best wishes in your next endeavor.

Please contact me at the number above or patrickc@hafoundation.org if you have questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

Patrick Cleary, Executive Director
Humboldt Area Foundation