

Bay [T]rail Advocates • www.baytrailplan.org

May 31, 2013

Re: Support of the City of Arcata TIGER grant application

To Whom It May Concern:

Beginning about 18 months ago, a coalition that grew to include some 400 individuals, a dozen community organizations, and a number of area businesses coalesced in an effort to add new momentum to the creation of a multi-modal trail from Eureka to Arcata, along the perimeter of beautiful Humboldt Bay. Currently, the only option for cyclists and pedestrians is to use the shoulder of a treacherous six-mile stretch of freeway/expressway. The coalition includes members of our local medical community who see the health benefits of a Bay Trail; members of the environmental community who see the Bay Trail as a way of reducing our environmental footprint; businesses that see the potential attraction for visitors; and numerous other individuals who see immense safety benefits and are excited about an opportunity to complete a gap in the California Coastal Trail.

For more than 15 years, Humboldt Bay bike-pedestrian alternatives have been the subject of a number of studies (*Humboldt County Bicycle Facilities Planning Project*, 1997; *Humboldt Bay Trail Feasibility Study*, 2001; the *California Coastal Trail* plan, 2003; *Humboldt Bay Trail Feasibility Study: Arcata-Eureka*, 2007; *Humboldt County Coastal Trail Implementation Strategy*, 2011). After considering a wide variety of options, these studies have repeatedly concluded that the best routing of the multipurpose trail uses the land west of U.S. Highway 101. We are ready to cease studying and begin building and using.

The City of Arcata has developed detailed plans for a three-mile multipurpose paved path from Samoa Boulevard in Arcata along the west side of U.S. Highway 101 to the Bracut property. This would connect with a planned, approved, and funded trail that extends north from Samoa Boulevard to an area near Larsen Park in Arcata.

Our coalition, the Bay [T]rail Advocates, enthusiastically supports the City of Arcata plan and proposal to create the trail to Bracut.

We also believe that the completion of the northern portion of the Eureka-Arcata trail will serve as the catalyst for completion of the southern half. The southern effort achieved important momentum last year and that momentum continues to build. In 2012 Bay [T]rail Advocates worked extensively with local governance (the cities of Eureka and Arcata, the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, and the Humboldt County Association of Governments) as well as Caltrans, the Coastal Commission, and the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA). A critical change came

from the NCRA at its December board meeting. The Board voted (1) to authorize some exceptions to its current trail policy to enable development of a trail within the railroad right-of-way and (2) to prioritize rail infrastructure restoration and trail development between Arcata and Eureka. HCOAG and the County of Humboldt have since commissioned more detailed engineering studies on the Bracut-to-Eureka portion of the trail to be completed by this fall. This analysis will allow the search for funding to begin in earnest. In addition, Caltrans has already pledged \$1 million toward the construction of the Eureka-to-Bracut section of trail. (Feb. 6, 2013 Caltrans letter to California Coastal Commission.)

Eureka and Arcata are the two largest communities along the Pacific Coast north of San Francisco. Since Arcata and McKinleyville are already linked with a very popular bike-ped bridge and trail, more than 70 percent of the population of Humboldt County will potentially benefit enormously by the completion of the Arcata-Bracut link in the California Coastal Trail and eventually, the link from Bracut to Eureka.



On Behalf of all Bay [T]rail Advocates

Don Banducci

Judy Hodgson

Dr. Rees Hughes

Dennis Rael

- Community Organizations

The Bay [T]rail Advocates, Keep Eureka Beautiful, Humboldt Trails Council, Humboldt Bay Bicycle Commuters Association, Northcoast Environmental Center, Humboldt Baykeepers, Jennifer Kalt, Healthy Humboldt Coalition, The Greater Humboldt Literary Guild, Green Wheels, Siskiyou Land Conservancy, Friends of the Dunes

- Businesses

Los Bagels, Arcata/Eureka, North Coast Journal, Eureka, Kinetic Koffee, The Samoa Pacific Group and Danco, Bayfront Restaurant, Eureka, Greenway Partners, MikkiMoves Real Estate, Fieldbrook Winery, Revolution Bicycle Repair, Makino Studios, Cal Coast Computer, Arcata Scoop, Ramones Bakery and Cafes

- Families/Individuals

Nancy Langyel, John Calkins, Carl Chatfield, Susan Anderson, Nancy Stephenson, Frank Onstine, Jim Maher, Susan Penn, Eli Asarian, Eric Grantz, Joan Grantz, Merritt Perry, Stacy Becker, Gretchen Stadler, Chris DeHart, Richard Engel, Corey Lewis, Michael Proulx, Barry Evans, Louisa Rogers, Emily Sinkhorn, Jay Schock, Judy Webb, Judi Paul, Jan Friedrichsen, Peter Lehman, Amy Uyeki, Rees Hughes, Dr. Lawrence

Wieland, Robert Hodgson, Kirk and Jenner Cohune, Mary and Bob Gearheart, Peggy Pryor, Travis May, Jim Hight, Mike Buettner, Ethan Gahtan, Laura and Bob Chapman, Rob Christensen, Jennifer Kalt, Steve Fox, Coco and Trula Rael, Jacob Pounds, Natalie Arroyo, Dr. Lea Schroeder, Brett Gronemeyer, Catherine Desantis, Norm Green, Patsy Svavari, Bill, Tracy and Jeff Coomber, Mary Scoggin, Toby and Peter Shao, Beth Werner, Ron and Holly Vetter, Rondal Snodgrass, Tima Manos, Hal Grotke, M.D., Dave Grant, Andy Alm, Jennifer Weiss, Patricia Terry, Mike Turek, Ginny Mulle, Corey, Hunter, and Bodie Lewis, Tom Perrett, Chris Butner, Sarah and Corin Pilkington, Janet Biasca, Mary Ann Madej, Nicole Braafladt Farrell, Marsha Davenport, Matthew Smith, Nancy Holmes McPartland, Kay Farnsworth, Michael Furniss, Joel Mielke, Lea Schroeder, Jamie Ford, Dana Long, Bryan Thomas, Barbara Howe, Chris Collins, Dana Hope, Nancy Reichard, Arnold King, Lisa Hoover, John Schaefer, Beth Abels, Brian Ferguson, Berit Meyer, Claire Iris Schencke, Jerome Carmen, Mike Dronkers, Jeff, Gillian, Abi and Nick Black, Sharon Mehlman, Lynn, Andrew, Ava and Morgan Jones, Javan Reid, Michael Eldridge, Marianne Ahokas and Miles, Allison and Ryan Campbell, John Anderson, Zeke Smith, Valerie Gizinski, Patrick Carr, Navarra Carr, Colette Metz, Greg Willis, Quinlan, Melia and Lyla Porter, Mike Wiegand, Monica McGraw, Suzi and Richard Hendry, Rick Storre, Siddiq Kilkenny, Elisa Abelleira, Joan Woodcock, Jessica, Doug, Kevin, Susan, and Amanda Fuhriman, Kim Ervin, Tony Curtis, Jim Zoellick, Charis, Alicia, Dylan, Breon, Konnor, Kaelyn, Kohn, and Karl Arlett, Paul Moses, Kyle Palmer, Amy Berkowitz, Ben Henshaw, Quiteria Perreira, Ryan Wessells, David Vernon, Lee Sobo, James and Courtney Ladika, Bill Lydgate, Mark Moore, Jim Lamport, Benjamin, Ritva, Iris and Kirs Garlick, Greta Montagne, R. Scott Greacen, Martha and Rob Johnson, Jane Ford, Shari, Malcolm, Augie and Tux Duron, Greg Coit, Craig and Susan Redwine, Judy and Peter Haggard, Irith Shalmony, Leslie Stalder, Thom Nagel, Debbi Krukonis, Vincent Peloso, Melanie Vansell, Angela Lundeen, Joyce Houston, Steven Sipma, Susan Donovan, Linda Adams, Lee Ann Duclo, Jerry and Gisela Rohde, Barbara and Alan Wilkinson, Rob Thompson, Marilyn and Allen Thibeau, Thomas Burns, Karen Elfers, Bonnie Macraith, Heather Verville, Susan and Bob Ornelas, Patrick Conlin, Carol Davis, Charles Powell, Tamar Danufsky, Lew Litzky, Sue Cashman, Charlotte Cerny, Deborah Giraud, Emma Kelsey, Abigael Proctor, Gael Dougherty, Marsha Mielke, Mark and Margaret Shaffer, Ken Miller, Daniel Meaney, Shana Golden, Korina Johnson, Greg and Teri Bundros, Simeon Tauber, Marcia Tauber, Pam Mendelsohn, Larry Buwalda, Michael Morris, Dan Calderwood, Mark Lufkin, Julie Fulkerson, Cheryl Phillips, Marcella Humphrey, Breon Hole, Michael Zeppegno, Rosamel, Sarina, Benicio, Carmen, and Alejandro Benavides-Garb, Daniel Doble, Sara Demetroff, Thomas Harkins, Uzi Selcer, Michelle Fuller, Whelan Gilkerson, Joel Fonner, Carol Whitehurst, Gary Hughes, Phil Gutierrez, Steve Catton, Jonathan Weber, Mary Flowers, Bruce Fleck, Steve Coppin, William Prescott, Carolyn and Bryan Furman, Dr. Thomas Mays, Charles and Catherine Hoyle, Andrew McAfee, Jonathan Webster, Paul and Carla Kraus, Elaine Hogan, Karen Mayer, Brandon Wilcox, Tisa Jewell, Justin Jensen, Andrew McFarland, Jessica Bath