

UpState RailConnect Committee

Dedicated to Completion of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study

Trinity Public Utility District Conference Room
26 Ponderosa
Weaverville, CA
11:00 AM-2:00 PM

January 18, 2013 Minutes (Subject to Approval)

1. Introductions

Committee Members Present: City of Eureka Councilmember Lance Madsen; County of Humboldt Supervisor Rex Bohn; Trinity County Supervisor Debra Chapman; Tehama County CAO Bill Goodwin; and Upstate California Economic Development Council General Manager Alison O'Sullivan.

Committee Members Absent: Councilmember Mike Newman; County of Trinity Supervisor John Fenley; CAO Wendy Tyler; County of Tehama Supervisor Steve Chamblin; Upstate California Economic Development Council Board President Brynda Stranix

Staff: David Hull

Public: David Tyson; Judy Harrison; Nick Angeloff; Larry Glass

2. Public Comment: None

3. Review of Agenda

Chair Madsen moved "Item 10. Other" to agenda up to agenda item number 5.

4. Approval of minutes from November 14, 2012 meeting

Motion Goodwin/Second O'Sullivan to approve November 14, 2012 meeting minutes. Motion carried without dissent.

5. Other

- a. David Hull showed a draft of an updated two-page flyer and asked the committee now that David Tyson is not City Manager and project lead, who should be on the flyer as contact. The Committee agreed that Chair Lance Madsen should be listed on the flyer.

- b. David Hull noted that since the last meeting, two additional support letters have been received. These are from Sierra Pacific Industries and the Humboldt Cattlemen's Association.
- c. Chair Madsen introduced Judy Harrison of the City of Eureka's economic development staff. They both described the recent Northern California Economic Forecast Conference and the opportunity that was presented for David Hull, Chair Madsen and Nick Angeloff to promote the Feasibility Study and Humboldt's harbor. The Feasibility Study was well received at two of the breakout sessions.
- d. Bill Goodwin noted that he recently had a meeting with Senator Boxer's staff on another issue but stated that the Senator's staff had heard of the Feasibility Study effort and was interested in more information.
- e. David Hull noted that the Draft State Rail Plan will be available for review starting February 8, 2013.
- f. Supervisor Chapman noted that a special meeting of the rural USDA group would be in Trinity County on January 28-30 and asked that she get some Feasibility Study materials in case the opportunity presents itself for feasibility study funding.
- g. Supervisor Bohn asked Larry Glass about any concerns he may have with the feasibility study. Mr. Glass responded that he will be attending these meetings and relaying information to such groups as the Northcoast Environmental Center, Environmental Protection Information Center and other environmental groups. He stated that the environmental groups will want to be sure and monitor the Committees work so they can be involved in the process to address concerns earlier rather than later.

6. Presentation by Chairman Masten of Hupa Tribe and Nick Angeloff Director of Economic Development for the Blue Lake Rancheria on behalf of the Northern California Tribal Chair Association regarding Committee membership

Chair Masten was unable to attend so a presentation was made by Nick Angeloff, representing the Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association (NCTCA) requesting membership on the UpState RailConnect Committee. Mr. Angeloff explained that his Association had member tribes on the coast and in the Sacramento valley. Mr. Angeloff explained that the Wiyot tribe had actually been the first organization to support the concept of a feasibility study for an east-west rail line. He also noted that membership of the NCTCA could allow expanded access to federal funding, capital funding, grants and legislative support.

Motion Chapman/Second Bohn to approve membership of the NCTCA on the Upstate RailConnect Committee. Motion carried without dissent.

Committee Staff David Hull was asked to forward a copy of the UpState RailConnect Committee Memorandum of Agreement to the NCTCA for their action.

7. Discussion on Potential Funding Sources

- a. **Public Sources:** David Hull described the list and progress made on exploring public sources of feasibility study funding as follows:

- **MAP-21 Grants** – David Hull and Trinity County reps are following up on this through USFS.

- **HCD CDBG Planning and Technical Grants** – Several months ago, the concept of partnering between the three counties to fund an equal share of the feasibility study through this funding source was discussed. Discussion at this meeting softened the idea somewhat based upon Trinity County’s concerns over using the funding opportunity for this project.
- **USDA** – Research in progress
- **US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration Grants** – Research in progress
- **CalTrans Transportation Planning Grants** – Grant app due April 2 – funding ~ July 2013
- **Headwaters Community Investment Fund Grants**- Research in progress
- It was also discussed that the ultimate funding source may be a combination of the above. No new sources were discussed.

b. **Private Sources:** Chair Madsen and David Tyson led the discussion on potential private sources by describing the role and activities of the non-profit “Land Bridge Alliance” (LBA) as described in detail at the November 14, 2012 RailConnect meeting. It was reported that LBA is developing a list of potential donors and discussed and accepted the conditions of private donations agreed upon by the Upstate RailConnect Committee at the November 14, 2012 meeting. It was also noted that it would be desirable to have an LBA Board member from Trinity and Tehama County and to forward anyone interested to Chair Madsen.

The Committee then brainstormed other potential private funding sources from agriculture, timber, and industrial organizations. Alison O’Sullivan and Bill Goodwin agreed to develop a list of potential donors from the Sacramento valley area. Supervisor Bohn, Chair Madsen and David Tyson agreed to further explore potential private donors on the coast side.

8. **Discussion on the Draft Scope of Work**

The Committee discussed the draft Scope of Work developed at the November 2012 meeting and edited it to read as follows:

- Identification of a proposed route and alternatives
- Identification of land ownerships
- **Assessment of economic benefit of a connection to the national rail system (new)**
 - Assessment of market potential
 - **Assessment of community an socioeconomic benefits along the proposed route (new)**
 - Assessment of impact to ports
- A conceptual development plan that will include:
 - Ownership/governance of the rail line
 - Prelim engineering
 - Highway/port connectors/potential stops/spurs along the route
 - Outline of national security issues
 - Additional uses of the corridor (fiber optic, trail, water, etc)

- Estimated permitting needs
- Estimated environmental issues and mitigations
- Estimated development costs and timelines

9. Discussion on Public Outreach/Input Process and Timelines in each Jurisdiction

The Committee discussed the need to have each member agency represented on the Committee craft a public outreach process for their community that would allow the public to feed input into the development of a scope of work. The Committee discussed the needs for this public outreach before and during the feasibility study. This discussion resulted in the following:

Prior to the Feasibility Study:

- i. Schedule a presentation to the communities of Southern Trinity and Hayfork. At these meetings RailConnect Staff and Committee members can explain the concept of the feasibility study and note any questions or concerns for inclusion into the Scope of Work.
- ii. Add into the Request for Proposals for a consultant to conduct the feasibility study time for outreach/public meetings as follows:

Humboldt/Eureka: 5 public meetings

Trinity County: 9 public meetings

Tehama County: 3 public meetings

Tribal (NCTCA): 3 public meetings

It was agreed that the Upstate RailConnect staff and member agencies would conduct the pre-feasibility study outreach and the consultant teams would conduct presentations of the preliminary findings and final presentations in each member agencies territory.

10. Task Assignments: The committee agreed to the following tasks in preparation for the next Committee meeting:

- o Nick Angeloff to get MOA signed by NCTCA
- o Alison O’Sullivan to work with Bill Goodwin on presentations to Prather Ranch, Gazelle Ranch and Dudley Construction.
- o All members to forward interested potential donors to Chair Madsen.
- o Judy Harrison to develop draft of a word-picture for fundraising use
- o Supervisor Chapman to meet with USDA reps regarding possible feasibility study funding
- o Bill Goodwin and Supervisor Chapman to forward names of interested potential members of East-West Rail Advocates and Land Bridge Alliance.

11. **Other:** None

12. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting was set for February 15, 2013 from 10 AM – 1 PM at the Trinity Public Utility District Conference Room; 26 Ponderosa, Weaverville, CA

13. Meeting adjourned 1:23PM

Approved:

Lance Madsen, Chair