

# ***UpState RailConnect Committee***

***Dedicated to Completion of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study***

## **Meeting Announcement**

**April 2, 2014**

**10:30AM**

**Trinity County Public Utilities District Conference Room  
26 Ponderosa Street, Weaverville CA**

## **AGENDA**

1. **Introductions**
2. **Public Comment**
3. **Review of Agenda**
4. **Approval of Minutes from January 15, 2014 Meeting (action anticipated)**
5. **Discussion on Feasibility Study Funding Progress (action anticipated)**
6. **Development of a 2014 Task List and Strategy for the Committee (action anticipated)**
7. **Future Committee Staffing and Funding Plan (action anticipated)**
8. **Legislative Outreach Progress in the Sacramento Valley (action anticipated)**
9. **Reports**
  - a. **Staff**
  - b. **Humboldt/Eureka representatives**
  - c. **Trinity representatives**
  - d. **Tehama Representatives**
  - e. **UpState California Economic Development Council representatives**
  - f. **Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association representatives**
10. **Task Assignments/Items for Next Agenda**
11. **Next Meeting/Adjourn**

For information regarding this meeting, please contact the *Upstate RailConnect Committee* at [landbridgealliance@gmail.com](mailto:landbridgealliance@gmail.com)

Or see

[www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/depts/council/rail\\_study.asp](http://www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/depts/council/rail_study.asp)

# ***UpState RailConnect Committee***

***Dedicated to Completion of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study***

**January 15, 2014  
Minutes (Subject to Approval)**

**Tehama County Administrative Building  
Tuscan Room, First Floor  
727 Oak Street  
Red Bluff, CA  
2:00 PM**

## **1. Introductions**

**Bill Goodwin called the meeting to order at 2:15 PM. The following Committee Members were present:** City of Eureka Councilmember Marian Brady; Tehama County CAO Bill Goodwin; Tehama County Supervisor Steve Chamblin; Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association representative Nick Angeloff; and Upstate California Economic Development Council representative Marc Nemanic.

**Committee Members Absent:** City of Eureka Councilmember Lance Madsen; County of Trinity Supervisors Debra Chapman and John Fenley and CAO Wendy Tyler; Upstate California Economic Development Council Board President Brynda Stranix; Humboldt County Supervisor Rex Bohn; and Humboldt County representative David Tyson.

**Staff:** David Hull

**Guests:** Melanie Thompson; Robert Thompson; John Troughton; Anderson City Councilmember Melissa Hunt.

- 2. Public Comment –** John Troughton noted that he had recently attended a couple of infrastructure funding conferences and that his perception is that there are people and firms that have the capability to invest in an east-west rail line.

Melanie and Robert Thompson noted that they had heard about the east-west rail and were interested in more information as they may have a potential use (they did not state) for such a rail.

### 3. Review of Agenda

Motion by Brady, Seconded by Chamblin to approve the January 15, 2014 agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

### 4. Approval of minutes from October 30, 2013 meeting

Marian Brady moved for approval of the October 30, 2013 minutes; Seconded by Chamblin. Motion carried unanimously.

### 5. Presentation on North State Super Region

David Hull noted that both the North State Super Region (NSSR) Director and the Tehama County Transportation Representative (on the North State Super Region) were unable to attend and make a presentation at this meeting to describe the purpose of the NSSR and to summarize their recent transportation for economic development report. In their absence, Hull read a couple of passages from the NSSR's "*North State Transportation for Economic Development Study*" October 2, 2013 report, Executive Summary:

Page xii: "*Stakeholders in the North State may wish to consider support for the east-west railroad concept between the Port of Humboldt Bay and northern Sacramento Valley. Several elected officials and North State stakeholders have provided letters of support. In addition, Upstate California has adopted the east-west concept. Whereas current efforts focus on initiating a technical and engineering feasibility of the project, **the North State may want to study the potential market for the east-west railroad prior to or in tandem with the technical study.***"

AND

Page xv: "*5. Exploring the need for new goods movement infrastructure. The North State is served by only one port that historically focused on the wood products and commercial fishing industries. The proposed feasibility study of constructing an east-west railroad to connect the Port of Humboldt Bay to the Class 1 railroad network should include an analysis of the market demand and economic feasibility in addition to the engineering and environmental feasibility of the proposed project. A minimal market study should identify how large a potential market could be based on products that move by rail and what share the North State may expect to attract given market and spatial considerations. The proposed study should also analyze the market feasibility of locating in the North State a freight rail loading facility that could serve the railroad and port.*"

It was noted that the adopted RailConnect Committee study Scope of Work IS consistent with the recommendations in the NSSR report as it contains a task on market assessment and economic impacts.

Bill Goodwin noted the importance of having the transportation agencies supportive of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study. Hull showed a slide that listed all of the organizations that support the feasibility study, just in Humboldt County alone. It was recommended that the RailConnect Committee continue to outreach to the regional transportation agencies to keep them informed of the feasibility study and its progress.

## **6. Feasibility Study Funding Progress**

David Hull stated that with the Upstate RailConnect Committee now operating for a little more than a year; with numerous presentations and events aimed at obtaining public input and support; with more than 50 organizations now supporting the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study across the North state; and with a now approved scope of work and draft RFP completed; that it is now time to focus the RailConnect Committee's energy on funding the feasibility study.

Hull then mentioned that current efforts included:

Land Bridge Alliance will be staffing a East-West rail booth at tomorrow's North State Economic Forecast Conference and that a meeting has been scheduled with representatives from Senator Boxer's office regarding study funding. This meeting is a follow up to a previous meeting hosted by the Tehama County Supervisors. In addition, outreach has started with area foundations for study support.

Hull also noted that the City of Eureka's \$25,000 CDBG grant that has allowed staffing of the RailConnect Committee, grant research and correspondence, developing of the Scope of Work and draft RFP and other feasibility study planning tasks, is coming to an end. Hull suggested that the RailConnect Committee discuss at the next meeting how to continue future committee support and develop a task list for the next nine months.

In a general discussion, the Committee reviewed numerous potential funding sources and approaches.

Marc Nemanic agreed that there is a market to support a rail but that a technical feasibility is needed (like the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study). Nemanic also suggested perhaps breaking the study scope of work into \$50,000 pieces, if possible. It was noted that many of the scope of work components are interrelated in defining the ultimate location of potential routes that best meet the study's objectives.

## **7. Legislative Follow up**

David Hull noted that to date, legislative outreach has included:

- Senator Barbara Boxer's office
- Representative Jared Huffman's office
- State Senator Noreen Evans office
- State Assemblymember Wes Chesbro

Discussion followed regarding a plan to contact legislators in the Sacramento Valley. Chamblin, Goodwin and Melissa hunt agreed to consider a plan for the next meeting.

## 8. Reports

David Hull reported that he gave an update report to the North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) on January 8, 2014. David Tyson, also gave an update from the Land Bridge Alliance perspective at the same meeting. NCRA has been supportive of the RailConnect Committee's efforts and are interested in the Committee's efforts and progress.

Eureka Councilmember Marian Brady reported that a new group was forming on the coast that includes the four agencies that have land use authority over the Humboldt's harbor area. This multi-agency group is comprised of representatives from the City of Eureka, County of Humboldt, Wiyot Tribe and the Humboldt Bay Harbor District and grew out of a request from a citizen group called the Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group. The Working Group hopes that this new agency group will work together to promote a fuller utilization of Humboldt's Bay's harbor to create jobs by developing a joint national and international marketing effort; developing a joint needs assessment of harbor infrastructure; developing a joint action plan to acquire needed harbor infrastructure improvements; and to involve the public in harbor revitalization efforts. Brady noted that this is the first time all of these agencies worked together to focus energy on improving the economic potential of commercial shipping and manufacturing at Humboldt's harbor.

Nick Angeloff reported that there is a new chair for the Hoopa Tribe that is a member of the Northern California Tribal Chairs Association (NCTCA) and is now a representative on this committee for NCTCA along with Angeloff. Her name is Danielle Vigil Masten.

## 9. Task Assignments/Items for the Next Agenda:

The Committee agreed the following items should be discussed at the next meeting:

- a. Put Councilmember Hunt on the email list for this Committee
- b. Develop a 2014 task list and strategy for the Committee
- c. Develop a future Committee staffing and funding plan
- d. Legislative outreach progress in the Sacramento Valley

## 10. Next Meeting:

It was decided that the next meeting would tentatively be held March 12, 2014, in Weaverville, CA.

**11. Meeting adjourned: 4:26 PM**

Approved:

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Lance Madsen, Chair