

UpState RailConnect Committee

Dedicated to Completion of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study

Meeting Announcement

October 1, 2014

11:00AM

**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 May 7, 2014 Meeting (action anticipated)**
 - 5. Discussion on Feasibility Study Funding Progress (action anticipated)**
 - 6. Summer 2014 RailConnect Committee progress report and recommendations**
 - 7. 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**
 - 8. Task Assignments/Items for Next Agenda**
 - 9. Next Meeting/Adjourn**
- For information regarding this meeting, please contact the *Upstate RailConnect Committee* at www.ci.eureka.ca.gov/depts/council/rail_study.asp

UpState RailConnect Committee

Dedicated to Completion of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study

May 7, 2014
Minutes
(Subject to Approval)

Trinity County Public Utilities District Conference Room
26 Ponderosa Street,
Weaverville CA
10:30 AM

1. Introductions

Supervisor Fenley called the meeting to order at 11:05 AM. The following Committee Members were present: City of Eureka Councilmember Marian Brady; Humboldt County representative David Tyson; Tehama County CAO Bill Goodwin; County of Trinity Supervisor John Fenley and CAO Wendy Tyler; Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association representative Nick Angeloff.

Committee Members Absent: County of Trinity Supervisor Debra Chapman; Tehama County Supervisor Steve Chamblin; Upstate California Economic Development Council Board President Brynda Stranix; Upstate California Economic Development Council representative Marc Nemanic; and Humboldt County Supervisor Rex Bohn.

Staff: David Hull

Guests: Larry Glass; Jeff Morris; Andrew Franklin; Joseph Bauer; Alex Cousins

- 2. Public Comment –** Bill Goodwin reported that in a conversation with Bob Martin, that Bob wanted to make sure the RailConnect Committee knew that he hoped that the feasibility study looked at positive aspects of an east-west rail and that he supports the UpState RailConnect Committee and the Committee's efforts.

Alex Cousins of the Trinity County Resource Conservation Council noted that he hoped the study would be as objective as possible and cover social and economic issues.

3. Review of Agenda

By consensus, the proposed agenda for the May 7, 2014 meeting was approved.

4. Consideration of appointing a new Chair for the UpState RailConnect Committee.

Due to the passing of Lance Madsen on April 5, 2014, a new Chair of the RailConnect Committee needed to be selected.

Bill Goodwin nominated John Fenley as Chair of the UpState RailConnect Committee, and made a motion to that effect; Seconded by David Tyson. Motion carried without dissent.

5. Approval of minutes from April 2, 2014 meeting

David Tyson moved for approval of the April 2, 2014 minutes; Seconded by Nick Angeloff. Motion carried with Bill Goodwin abstaining as he was not at the April 2, 2014 meeting.

6. Feasibility Study Funding Progress

David Hull reported on the recent US DOT TIGER grant submittal as follows:

TIGER VI: US DOT

Applicant: Trinity County Department of Transportation

Title: Upstate California RailConnect Feasibility Study

Applied: April 25, 2014

Award Notification: Summer 2014

Grant request: \$345,000

Match (not required): \$35,000 LBA cash and in-kind

Support letters received specific to TIGER Grant Application:

Humboldt County Association of Governments

North State Super Region

CalTrans

Land Bridge Alliance

CSU Chico, Center for Economic Development

Hull also reported the status of other funding opportunities as follows:

USDA Rural Communities – gap funding only

EDA – in research

CalTrans Partnership Grant – next cycle 2015

CalTrans CBTP Grant – Declined 2013/next cycle 2015

HCAOG - Declined

Andrew Franklin asked what kind of public outreach was included in the study process. Hull responded by reading the text of "Task 12: Public Outreach", from the approved feasibility study Scope of Work.

Alex Cousins asked about funding for the study. Goodwin answered that the RailConnect Committee is in the funding phase of the process. Brady added that utilizing public funding for the feasibility study ensures that study results are treated with the greatest transparency. Goodwin added that there are also some private studies that are presumably underway, but the information is proprietary at this time.

Andrew Franklin asked about the Forest Service interaction. Tyson noted that both Six Rivers and Shasta Trinity have been supportive of the feasibility study and that the architecture of the RailConnect process is to answer as many of the questions that the Forest Service and others may have. Tyson also noted that as Humboldt County's regional transportation agency, HCAOG's support for the study is also important to many of the other agencies.

7. Development of a 2014 Task List and Strategy for the RailConnect Committee

David Hull presented the task list that was adopted at the April 2, 2014 meeting as:

With organizations formed; vast public support obtained; initial outreach efforts concluded; and a Scope of Work defined, in 2014, the UpState RailConnect Committee will focus its efforts on:

- *Obtaining \$300,000 to complete the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study.*
- *If funded, the UpState RailConnect Committee will oversee the production of the final RFP, consultant advertising, consultant selection and consultant oversight.*
- *Continuing to make presentations and gather support for the study.*

Hull then asked if there were any additions to this list. Hearing none, the 2014 task list stands as adopted on April 2, 2014.

8. Future RailConnect Committee Staffing and Funding Plan

David Hull reported that at the April 2, 2014 RailConnect meeting, Land Bridge Alliance representatives stated that they would go back and see if LBA might be able to generate a list of potentially reimbursable RailConnect Committee expenses. Tyson reported that LBA had not had not met since the April 2 meeting.

The Committee proceeded to discuss other potential feasibility study funding sources including small grants; Humboldt Area Foundation/McLean Foundation/SPI Foundation; and Land Bridge Alliance. Angeloff noted that match funding for the TIGER grant is pledged by LBA.

Goodwin made a motion to give authority to David Hull to apply for any grant that comes up for funding the feasibility study. Angeloff seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

9. Legislative Outreach Status in the Sacramento Valley

David Hull reported that legislative outreach on the coast is nearly completed and the emphasis needs to switch to a similar effort in the Sacramento Valley. Bill Goodwin agreed to generate a list of Sacramento Valley legislative contacts that we could follow up with legislative briefings on the status of the feasibility study process.

10. Reports

David Hull reported that he attended meetings or made presentations at the following since the last RailConnect Committee meeting:

April 10 – Made presentation to HCAOG Technical Advisory Committee

April 17 - Met with Senator Boxer's Staff regarding Federal grant opportunities

April 17 - Made presentation to HCAOG Board

April 22 – Trinity County Board of Supervisors

Hull also reported that the results of HCAOG meeting of April 17, 2014 were that they:

- 1. Took action to write a letter supporting the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study*
- 2. Took action to support TIGER grant application for the Upstate California RailConnect Feasibility Study*
- 3. Considered HCAOG funding for the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study, but ultimately declined*
- 4. Took action to request broader engagement in the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study by the North State Super Region*
- 5. Agreed to edit the draft Regional Transportation Plan to include the status of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study process.*

Jeff Morris asked if the TIGER grant were successful, when would the feasibility study be done. Hull estimated summer of 2015.

Andrew Franklin asked why the TIGER grant was submitted through Trinity County. Wendy Tyler responded that Trinity County could not do the previous CDBG grant that the City of Eureka obtained for RailConnect Committee work, but that Trinity County could be the applicant for the TIGER grant. By Trinity County being the TIGER applicant, it showed that Trinity County is at the table and representing Trinity County's interests in this project. Tyson also noted that the previous CalTrans grant included the City of Eureka as applicant and the Upstate California Economic Development Council as the subapplicant thus demonstrating that the grant applications are shared amongst RailConnect Committee members.

Marian Brady reported that there is now a multi-agency harbor group in Humboldt Bay. They are still working out their charge but Brady was hopeful they would work toward fulfilling the original tasks as requested by the citizen group (the Humboldt Bay Harbor Working Group). Brady also mentioned that she was happy with HCAOG's recent vote in support of the feasibility study.

David Tyson also noted that he was happy with HCAOG's support.

John Fenley and Wendy Tyler reported that they were happy that Trinity County could be the TIGER applicant and glad to see some of Trinity County's residents at this meeting.

Bill Goodwin noted that there were a series of meetings in Tehama County last year and that Tehama County remains supportive of the feasibility study. He also noted that he was pleased with HCAOG's support and with Trinity County's effort to in applying for the TIGER grant.

Nick Angeloff noted that HCAOG also supported another TIGER application submitted by the North Coast Railroad Authority.

11. Task Assignments/Items for the Next Agenda: The Committee agreed the following items should be discussed at the next meeting:

- a. Set up meetings with Sacramento Valley legislators
- b. Request to LBA for occasional RailConnect Committee expenses
- c. Explore other funding opportunities and monitor TIGER grant

12. Next Meeting: It was decided that the next meeting would be held at 11:00 AM, October 1, 2014 in Weaverville, CA.

13. Meeting adjourned: Meeting was adjourned at 12:33 PM

Approved:
John Fenley, Chair