

AGENDA SUMMARY

RE: AUTHORIZATION FOR THE CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PLANNING GRANT	FOR AGENDA DATE: MARCH 29, 2013 AGENDA ITEM NO.: 1
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RECOMMENDATION:
 Adopt a Resolution of the City Council authorizing the City Manager to execute all Fund Transfer Agreements and any amendments thereto with the California Department of Transportation for the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study.

SUMMARY:
 On January 17, 2012, the City Council adopted Resolution 2012-08 stating the Council’s support for a study to examine the feasibility of an alternative rail route connecting Humboldt Bay’s harbor to the national rail system in the Sacramento valley. Further, the Eureka City Council approved a Memorandum of Agreement on September 18, 2012 where the City of Eureka would ultimately be joined by the County of Humboldt, County of Trinity, County of Tehama, Upstate California Economic Development Council and the Northern California Tribal Chairmen’s association in the formation of the UpState RailConnect Committee. Since 2012, the multi-agency Upstate RailConnect Committee has been overseeing Phase 1 or the “Re-Feasibility”, public presentations on the proposed feasibility study, developing the scope of work for the proposed study and exploring public and private funding for the study. Together, this Committee geographically covers the likely proposed new rail corridor through Humboldt, Trinity and Tehama counties as well as over 30,000 square miles of Northern (Upstate) California. As of February 2013, this Committee has been joined by over 35 other government agencies, law enforcement, education, business, labor and citizen groups in support of such a study.
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FISCAL IMPACT:
 Approval of the proposed Resolution will allow the City of Eureka to apply for a \$295,000 CalTrans Transportation Planning Grant. This application is proposed to have the following as matching components to the application: a \$25,000 grant previously acquired by the City of Eureka to develop the scope of work, public outreach planning and execution and preparation and circulation of the consultant request for qualification documents; \$17,500 of City and sub-applicant Staff time; and an in-kind contribution of \$35,000 from the non-profit organization, the Land Bridge Alliance

CITY MANAGER SIGNATURE:

William T. Panos
City Manager

REVIEWED BY: City Attorney	DATE: _____	INITIALS: _____
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Council Action:

Ordinance No. _____ Resolution No. _____

As applicant for a CalTrans Transportation Planning Grant that has been deemed by the UpState RailConnect Committee as an appropriate funding source for Phase 2 of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study, the City of Eureka is required to adopt a Resolution allowing the City Manager to be able to sign agreements relative to that grant. Phase 2 of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study Project is actual preparation of the feasibility study. Generally, the proposed Feasibility Study (Phase 2) would involve identification of a proposed route from the analysis of no less than three possible routings; identification of land ownerships along the proposed route; an assessment of market potential; a conceptual development plan that includes rail ownership/governance recommendations, preliminary engineering feasibility, additional uses of the corridor (such as fiber optic, trail, passenger, etc), highway connectors and any proposed modifications to improve highway/rail interface, estimated permitting needs, estimated environmental issues and potential mitigations and estimated development costs and timeline. The Resolution under consideration is a common action for the City of Eureka in grant applications such as this by authorizing the City Manager to execute agreements with the California Department of Transportation for the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study. Applications are due the close of business on April 2, 2013.