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TO: Chair Arroyo
All Governing Board Members

FROM: Katie Collender, General Manager

DATE: August 5, 2026

SUBJECT: Discontinuation of Cal Poly Funded Arcata Services

HTA took over operations and management of the Arcata and Mad River Transit (A&MRTS) as of July 1, 2025. Before this, the City of Arcata ran A&MRTS directly. Cal Poly Humboldt has contracted with the City of Arcata for many years to allow students to use the service with their ID card (or "Jackpass"), as well as directly funding the only late-night service in Arcata from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Cal Poly added an additional route, the Green and Gold, in Fall 2023. The City of Arcata billed Cal Poly for actual costs of running these services. When HTA took over A&MRTS, Cal Poly contracted with HTA directly at a set hourly rate to continue these services and added an additional dormitory shuttle. There were five more options to renew the annual agreement.

Due to the stability of these services, HTA included them in the draft budget for the current fiscal year. On June 16, 2026, representatives from Cal Poly contacted HTA to set up a meeting to discuss their contract. At this meeting, HTA was notified that due to budgetary constraints, they did not plan to continue any of their public transit services.

This has implications for transit riders that use these services in Arcata. Those used to use Arcata Green and Gold can get similar services from Arcata Gold, so its loss is not a major concern. However, anyone who relies on the evening routes will be without fixed route service entirely. A total of 1,028 riders used evening routes in the first quarter of 2026, 72% of which used their Cal Poly student ID. Cal Poly was paying for thirty-four (34) weeks of service, excluding summer and winter breaks.

HTA has not budgeted for these routes outside of the revenue from this contract and does not have additional operational revenue for this purpose. To continue serving the public in Arcata without a supplemental contract from an outside party, HTA would be required to make adjustments elsewhere or pull from limited fiscal cliff funding. The estimated cost of a late-night run would be \$2,925 per week.

2025/26 CPH Contract for 34 Weeks	2026/27 Estimated Cost for 34 Weeks	2026/27 Estimated Cost for 52 Weeks
\$82,875.00	\$99,450.00	\$152,100.00

Action Recommended: Discuss and direct staff as necessary.