



**HUMBOLDT COUNTY ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS**  
**Regional Transportation Planning Agency**  
**Humboldt County Local Transportation Authority**  
**Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies**  
611 I Street, Suite B  
Eureka, CA 95501  
(707) 444-8208  
www.hcaog.net

**Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC)**  
**MEETING RECORD**

Regular Meeting  
March 6, 2024, 1:30 p.m.  
HCAOG Conference Room  
611 I Street, Suite B  
Eureka, CA 95501

Alternate Meeting Site:  
Contact: Samuel Martinez  
Yurok Tribal Office – Community Room  
190 Klamath Blvd. Klamath, CA 95548

**Members Present:**

Suresh Ratnam (Vice Chair)	Caltrans
Saskia Rymer-Burnett (Alternate)	Caltrans
Meghan Gallagher	Area 1 Agency on Aging
Isa Pritting	Headstart
Richard Johnson	Public Representative
Sherry Dunlap	Humboldt Transit Authority (CTSA)
Greg Pratt	Humboldt Transit Authority
Vance Law	A&MRTS
Nicholas Vulich	Humboldt Senior Resource Center
Charlotte Merkel	County of Humboldt
Samuel Martinez (Via Zoom)	Yurok Tribe

**Staff:**

Beth Burks	Executive Director
Amy Eberwein	Administrative Services Officer
Stevie Luther	Associate Regional Planner

**Absent:**

Juliannah Harris	Tri County Independent Living
Jaison Chand	City Ambulance
Catherine Sundquist	CAE Transport
Gavin Smiley	Humboldt Council of the Blind
Anita Huff	Blue Lake Rancheria Transit
Kathy Rexford	Fortuna Transit
Krista Paddock	Cal Poly Humboldt
Sharon Batini	Public Representative

**Call to Order** - Vice Chair Suresh Ratnam called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.

**1. Roll Call**

**2. Public Participation**

There was no public participation on non-agenda items at this meeting.

**3. Approval of Meeting Record – October 4, 2023**

**Motion was made** (Ratnam/Pratt) to approve the meeting record of October 4, 2023.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**4. Presentations**

None

**5. Discussion Items**

None

**6. Action Items**

**a. Election of Officers:** The SSTAC discussed nominations and voted to fill the Chair and Vice-Chair positions.

**Motion was made** (Ratnam/Gallagher) to elect Richard Johnson as Chair and Saskia Rymer-Burnett as Vice Chair.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**b. SSTAC Membership Appointments and Terminations:** The SSTAC appointed two new members and terminated two members.

**Motion was made** (Ratnam/Merkel) to recommend the HCAOG Board make the following appointments to the SSTAC: Peggy Martinez as the representative of potential transit users with a disability and Carol Moné as a public representative for the Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities and to authorize the Chair to write a Notice of Termination to the HCAOG Board recommending the Board take action to terminate Gavin Smiley and to terminate the seat for the Blue Lake Rancheria Transit System from the SSTAC.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**c. Revised SSTAC Bylaws:** The SSTAC discussed revisions to the SSTAC bylaws.

**Motion was made** (Ratnam/Pratt) to recommend the HCAOG Board approve revisions to the SSTAC Bylaws with additional edits to clarify that no more than 50% of meetings in a calendar year can be missed and that section 4.03 does not apply to the nine statutorily required members.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**d. FY 2024-25 Unmet Transit Needs (UTN) Comments and Reasonable to Meet Recommendations:** The SSTAC reviewed comments, survey results, and the draft FY 23-24 UTN Report of Findings.

**Motion was made** (Ratnam/Johnson) to direct staff to update the UTN comments matrix and proceed in preparing the FY 24-25 Report of Findings based on which needs are reasonable or not reasonable and to bring the report back to the SSTAC at the May meeting.

**Motion passed unanimously.**

**7. HCAOG Executive Director Report**

None

**8. SSTAC Member Reports**

- Meghan Gallagher announced she will be leaving Area 1 Agency on Aging and Erika Jack will be the new representative.
- Suresh Ratnam announced he will be stepping down from his role with the SSTAC.

- Saskia Rymer-Burnett announced that Caltrans District 1 has hired a Transit Planner. It is not clear yet whether or not that person will be attending SSTAC meetings.
- Greg Pratt announced that HTA is beta testing microtransit. Those interested in riding for free and providing feedback should reach out to him. Public transit is now available from Crescent City to Santa Rosa using tap and pay cards. RTS has returned to pre-COVID hours (earlier in the morning and later at night).
- New members Peggy Martinez and Carol Mone introduced themselves.

**Adjournment:** 2:22 p.m.

Approved