

# *UpState RailConnect Committee*

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

Trinity Public Utility District Conference Room

26 Ponderosa

Weaverville, CA

11:00 AM-2:00 PM

**February 15, 2013**

**Minutes**

## **1. Introductions**

**Committee Members Present:** City of Eureka Councilmember Lance Madsen; Tehama County Supervisor Steve Chamblin; and Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association representative Nick Angeloff.

**Committee Members Absent:** County of Humboldt Supervisor Rex Bohn; Trinity County Supervisor Debra Chapman; Eureka Councilmember Mike Newman; County of Trinity Supervisor John Fenley; CAO Wendy Tyler; Upstate California Economic Development Council Board President Brynda Stranix; Upstate California Economic Development Council General Manager Alison O'Sullivan; Tehama County CAO Bill Goodwin.

**Staff:** David Hull

**Public:** David Tyson; Larry Glass

## **2. Public Comment:** None

## **3. Review of Agenda**

Nick Angeloff moved for approval of the agenda; Supervisor Chamblin seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

## **4. Approval of minutes from January 18, 2013 meeting**

Nick Angeloff moved for approval of the January 18, 2013 minutes; Lance Madsen seconded the motion. Motion carried without dissent.

## **5. Discussion on Potential Funding Sources**

a. **Public Sources:** David Hull described the list and progress made on exploring public sources of feasibility study funding as follows:

- **MAP-21 Grants** – David Hull noted that Trinity County Supervisor and RailConnect Committee member Debra Chapman made contact with USDA representative. David Hull will follow up and get a de-brief from her on the results of that meeting. Nick Angeloff noted that funding through the tribal portion of MAP-21 will be competitive.

- **US Department of Commerce – Economic Development Administration Grants** – Research in progress
- **CalTrans Transportation Planning Grants** – Grant app due April 2 – funding ~ July 2013
- **Headwaters Community Investment Fund Grants**- Research in progress
- It was also discussed that the ultimate funding source may be a combination of the above. No new sources were discussed.

b. **Private Sources:** David Tyson, Chair of the Land Bridge Alliance (LBA), reported that this group is developing an information base and collateral materials for use in project education and outreach. The LBA is now available to provide information and make presentations. It was reported that LBA has now developed an initial list of potential donors and has begun soliciting private contributions to be used in funding the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study. It was also emphasized that it is desirable to have an LBA Board member from Trinity and Tehama County. Anyone interested in filling these positions should contact David Tyson.

The Committee then continued to brainstorm on additional potential private donors. Supervisor Chamblin agreed to assist in creating a potential list in the Sacramento valley.

## 6. Discussion on the Draft Scope of Work

No additional changes to the Scope of Work were made. The draft Scope of Work stands as follows:

- Identification of a proposed route and alternatives
- Identification of land ownerships
- Assessment of economic benefit of a connection to the national rail system
  - Assessment of market potential
  - Assessment of community and socioeconomic benefits along the proposed route
  - Assessment of impact to ports
- A conceptual development plan that will include:
  - Ownership/governance of the rail line
  - Prelim engineering
  - Highway/port connectors/potential stops/spurs along the route
  - Outline of national security issues
  - Additional uses of the corridor (fiber optic, trail, water, passenger, etc)
  - Estimated permitting needs
  - Estimated environmental issues and mitigations
  - Estimated development costs and timelines

## 7. Discussion on Public Outreach/Input Process and Timelines in each Jurisdiction

No changes were made to the draft outreach process. The draft outreach process stands as:

Prior to the Feasibility Study:

- i. Schedule a presentation to the communities of Southern Trinity and Hayfork. At these meetings RailConnect Staff and Committee members can explain the concept of the feasibility study and note any questions or concerns for inclusion into the Scope of Work.
- ii. Add into the Request for Proposals for a consultant to conduct the feasibility study time for outreach/public meetings as follows:

Humboldt/Eureka: 5 public meetings

Trinity County: 9 public meetings

Tehama County: 3 public meetings

Tribal (NCTCA): 3 public meetings

It was previously agreed that the Upstate RailConnect staff and member agencies would conduct the pre-feasibility study outreach and the consultant teams would conduct presentations of the preliminary findings and final presentations in each member agencies territory.

## 8. Reports:

- i. **Staff:** David Hull reported that the comment period on the State Rail Plan ends on March 11. While the draft State Rail Plan recommends that one of the State's objectives is to connect every seaport to the national rail network, the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility study is not specifically mentioned. Comments will be prepared and submitted.
- ii. **Humboldt/Eureka:** Chair Madsen reported that the Humboldt Bay Harbor District has approved a support letter to be addressed to the UpState RailConnect Committee. Chair Madsen read the draft letter to the Committee and read a draft response. Committee made no changes to the response letter.
- iii. **Trinity:** No report
- iv. **Tehama:** Supervisor Chamblin discussed the slide show presentation generally used and provided comments on tailoring it for use in the Sacramento valley.
- v. **Upstate California Economic Development Council:** No report
- vi. **Northern California Tribal Chairmen's Association:** Nick Angeloff reported that he will be a contact for the NCTCA and that he will reach out to other NCTCA members in the Sacramento valley to schedule a presentation on the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study.

9. **Task Assignments/Other:** The committee agreed the following tasks would be carried over from the last meeting:

- Nick Angeloff to get MOA signed by NCTCA and follow up with NCTCA members in the Sacramento valley to schedule a presentation.
- Alison O'Sullivan to work with Bill Goodwin on presentations to Prather Ranch, Gazelle Ranch and Dudley Construction.
- All members to forward interested potential donors to Chair Madsen.
- Judy Harrison to develop draft of a word-picture for fundraising use
- Bill Goodwin and Supervisor Chapman to forward names of interested potential members of East-West Rail Advocates and Land Bridge Alliance.
- Supervisor Chamblin agreed to make a list of potential donors and businesses, organizations or agencies that he thinks may benefit from a presentation of the Alternative Rail Route Feasibility Study.

10. **Next Meeting:** Next meeting was set for to be a telephonic meeting to be set for 10:00 AM, March 21, 2013. Call-in information is to be provided along with the agenda.

11. Meeting adjourned 12:55 PM

Approved:

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Lance Madsen, Chair