

DARCIE ANTLE
INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
INTERIM CLERK OF THE BOARD



**COUNTY OF MENDOCINO
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

CONTACT INFORMATION
501 Low Gap Road • Room 1010
Ukiah, California 95482
TELEPHONE: (707) 463-4221
FAX: (707) 463-7237
Email: bos@mendocinocounty.org
Web: www.mendocinocounty.org/government/board-of-supervisors

June 7, 2022

Brad Mettam
CALTRANS
Division of Local Assistance
1120 N Street, MS 1
Attn: Office of State Programs
Sacramento, CA 95814

Mr. Mettam,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisor's supports the City of Ukiah's "Great Redwood Trail – North Ukiah Valley" application to the CTC/Caltrans Active Transportation Program to construct a new section of the Great Redwood Trail creating a ten-mile class 1 multi use path from Brush Street in Ukiah to Laughlin Way in Redwood Valley.

This long-anticipated project will be transformative for inland Mendocino County. The project will transform an unmaintained and out of service transportation corridor into an Active Transportation corridor with economic, health, quality of life, and climate friendly benefits to the region.

Once complete, the newly accessible corridor will allow the thousands of residents who live within bicycling distance of the corridor to replace car trips into Ukiah with bicycle or electric assist modes of transportation. Hundreds, if not thousands, of trailer homes are located immediately adjacent to, or within walking distance of the corridor. For these low-income residents, the cost of transportation can equal the cost of housing. Used cars now have an average cost of over twenty-five thousand dollars and the average American spends more than eight thousand dollars per year, per car. The existence of a safe path for pedestrians or bicyclists will allow residents to supplant car trips or potentially, get rid of their cars and save thousands of dollars per year. Alta Planning estimates that converting this corridor to an Active Transportation route will yield 290,832 walk/bike trips per year and reduce vehicle trips by 148,731 leading to a decrease of 154,141 in vehicle miles.

The corridor passes within walking distance of Calpella and Eagle Peak Elementary Schools as well as a number of charter schools. It also will greatly improve safe access to Mendocino College and the Sonoma State University Ukiah Campus. The new trail will allow students coming from north of Ukiah to bypass the high speeds of North State Street and travel on a car-free route and connect to low volume residential streets a mile from Ukiah High School and Pomolita Middle School.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

GLENN MCGOURTY
First District

MAUREEN MULHEREN
Second District

JOHN HASCHAK
Third District

DAN GJERDE
Fourth District

TED WILLIAMS
Fifth District

The revitalized corridor will also act as an economic stimulus to the region while encouraging smart growth around the population nodes of Redwood Valley and Calpella. While these unincorporated communities are primarily rural, they do have town centers. These centers struggle to provide economically stable services such as grocery stores and laundromats.

Replacing the unmaintained railroad tracks with trails and trailheads in these communities will provide much needed business from both local residents and tourists to the centers. Alta Planning has estimated the direct annual economic benefit of these trails as \$4,970,322 with additional health and recreation benefits of \$15,745,654. The proximity of the Active Transportation corridor along with the economic stimulus will help the County encourage walkable and bikeable development around these population centers, further increasing the number of walk and bike trips.

The County of Mendocino and the City of Ukiah are in ongoing discussions regarding the management of services and facilities in inland Mendocino County. These discussions include the possibility of tax sharing agreements, annexations, and the shared management of parks. Although there are and will continue to be many details to work out, the clear benefits of this project compel us to join in the effort to make the Great Redwood Trail a reality. We look forward to working with the City of Ukiah and the Great Redwood Trail Agency and anticipate great returns on the investment of Active Transportation Program funds in the region. We urge you to fund this transformative project.

Sincerely,

Ted Williams, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors