

RCWD  
10/28

October 27 2010

Planning Commission  
County of Humboldt

Re: Complete Streets Working Group Comments on the Circulation Element

Dear Commissioners,

We would like to support the comments and suggested edits to the Circulation Element Plan Alternatives that were submitted on behalf of the Complete Streets Working Group, a diverse group of transportation- and health-related organizations including the Humboldt Partnership for Active Living, Green Wheels, the Healthy Humboldt Coalition, California Center for Rural Policy and many others.

As a member group of the Healthy Humboldt Coalition, we support a County General Plan Update that emphasizes the conservation of our natural resources by more fully utilizing the existing urban infrastructures and by making that infrastructure more accessible by foot, bike, and public transportation.

The "Complete Streets" model focuses on improving active modes of transportation, public transportation, and reducing the negative effects of the built environment on public health. This also helps to decrease air and water pollution, as well as to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy consumption.

Improving the economy is good for the environment because more dollars can then be used for conservation and restoration. Developing a regional trail system that links neighborhoods, schools, services, retail centers, and parks will draw tourism dollars from the outside the area. Providing options that reduce reliance on automotive transportation helps decrease household and business expenditures and increases foot-traffic in commercial areas, benefiting the local economy.

Developing a regional trail system that also provides access to our beautiful natural areas will also help foster an appreciation for our environment, encouraging local involvement and stewardship. The Complete Streets Working Group recommendations are an excellent foundation for a Circulation Element that considers the health of our economy, our residents, and our environment.

Thank you for your time and dedication to completion of the General Plan Update.

Sincerely,



Gregg Gold, Chair  
North Group, Redwood Chapter Sierra Club

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