City of Blue Lake’s Annie & Mary Trail Project

North Coast Railroad Authority

January 9, 2019

Hank Seemann, Deputy Director
Humboldt County Public Works Department

Mike Foget, Principal Civil Engineering
SHN Engineers & Geologists
Blue Lake City Engineer
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1881</td>
<td>Arcata &amp; Mad River Railroad Co. incorporated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1884</td>
<td>First train operated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1992</td>
<td>A&amp;MRR Co. acquired by NCRA</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1995</td>
<td>Last train operated</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Rails and ties removed for salvage</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1997</td>
<td>Friends of the Annie &amp; Mary Trail formed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2003</td>
<td>Annie &amp; Mary Rail-Trail Feasibility Study</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>NCRA resolution supporting multi-modal use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008-present</td>
<td>Incorporation in regional transportation plans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>Environmental Assessment</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-2012</td>
<td>Evaluation of Mad River bridge at Glendale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2012-2015</td>
<td>Evaluation of railroad deeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>Initiation of scoping for phased projects near Blue Lake</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>Blue Lake applied for ATP funding for Phase 1 project -- awarded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016-2017</td>
<td>County evaluated Blue Lake-to-Glendale trail segment (Phase 2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>Caltrans applied for ATP funding for Phase 2 project -- not awarded</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018-2020</td>
<td>Arcata to evaluate multi-modal options near west end of A&amp;M line</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Arcata & Mad River Branch Line
Blue Lake's Phase 1 Project
Blue Lake’s A&M Trail Phase 1 Project
Blue Lake’s A&M Trail Phase 1 Project

- Project length = ½ mile
- 8-foot paved path and 4-foot gravel path adjacent to South Railroad Avenue
- Bridge over Powers Creek
- Construction targeted for 2019
- City and NCRA right-of-way
- NCRA right-of-way is fee title (30 feet)
- Rails and ties removed 20 years ago
- License agreement is proposed
Blue Lake’s A&M Trail Phase 1 Project

CALTRANS
Division of Local Assistance, MS 1
1120 N Street, MS 1
Attn: Office of Active Transportation and Special Programs
Sacramento, CA 95814-0001

Re: Support for the City of Blue Lake’s Annie & Mary Trail, Phase 1 Project

Dear Application Review Committee,

The North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) is writing to support the City of Blue Lake’s funding application to the state Active Transportation Program (ATP) for the Annie & Mary Trail, Phase 1 Project. The City of Blue Lake seeks ATP funds to design and construct the first portion of the Annie & Mary Trail, located along Railroad Avenue within city limits. Portions of the City’s project may be within the Arcata & Mad River Railroad (A&M) right-of-way, which is owned by NCRA. Advancing the Annie & Mary Trail with the ultimate goal of connecting the cities of Arcata and Blue Lake, has been a regional transportation priority for nearly two decades.

The A&M railroad line has a rich history going back to the 1850s. For much of the 19th and 20th centuries, this line served as a branch line to the Northwestern Pacific main line and provided a critical transportation and economic link in Humboldt County. Train operations ceased in the 1990s due to safety concerns regarding line conditions. In 2006, the NCRA passed Resolution No. 2006-11 to express its willingness to cooperate with local entities to effectuate multi-modal transportation use of the A&M line. Resolution No. 2006-11 noted that the A&M railroad is outside the prospective contract limits of NCRA’s contract operator (NWP Co.), and it is unlikely and infeasible that the NCRA will operate trains on the A&M railroad in the near future.

NCRA continues to be willing to cooperate with the City of Blue Lake and others to realize multi-modal transportation use of the A&M line. This approval is conceptual for funding application purposes only. Final design review by NCRA will be required prior to construction for all work to be performed within NCRA’s right-of-way. In addition, any entity such as the City of Blue Lake will be required to enter into an agreement to manage and maintain the constructed trail within the right-of-way.

We are pleased to support Blue Lake’s Annie and Mary Trail, Phase 1 Project and encourage financial assistance for this worthwhile project.

Sincerely,

Mitch Sopper, Executive Director

May 11, 2016
OTHER A&M TRAIL PROJECTS
A&M Trail Phase 2 Project: Blue Lake to Glendale

- Project length = 1.7 miles
- Majority of project is in Caltrans right of way along Highway 299
- 10-foot paved bike path
- 2018 ATP funding application not approved
City of Arcata’s Study for Multi-Modal Projects (2018-2020)
Conclusion

• The Annie & Mary Trail (A&M Trail) has been a vision and regional priority for over 20 years, and will be constructed in phases as a collaborative effort among several local agencies and community groups

• The City of Blue Lake has the first funded project to construct Phase 1 of the A&M Trail

• A draft License Agreement for Blue Lake’s project was shared with NCRA staff last week
  - We assume the Rail-with-Trail policy does not apply
  - We assume railbanking is not needed

• Target is to receive License Agreement by April/May 2019

• Humboldt County and City of Blue Lake are ready to work closely with NCRA to complete this project