

MEMORANDUM

To: CHAIR AND COMMISSIONERS
CALIFORNIA TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

CTC Meeting: May 14-15, 2026

From: STEVEN KECK, Chief Financial Officer

Reference Number: 2.8a.(5), Action Item

Prepared By: Dee Lam, Chief
Division of Local Assistance

Subject: **REQUEST TO EXTEND THE PERIOD OF PROJECT ALLOCATION FOR A
LOCALLY-ADMINISTERED MULTI-FUNDED STATE TRANSPORTATION
IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM AND ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM
PROJECT, OFF THE STATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM, PER STIP AND ATP
GUIDELINES
WAIVER 26-62**

ISSUE:

Should the California Transportation Commission (Commission) extend the period of project allocation for the locally-administered multi-funded State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Active Transportation Program (ATP) Bay to Zoo Trail project (PPNO 2595), in Humboldt County, for the time period as identified in the attachment?

RECOMMENDATION:

The California Department of Transportation recommends that the Commission extend the period of project allocation for the locally-administered multi-funded STIP and ATP Bay to Zoo Trail project (PPNO 2595), in Humboldt County, for the time period as identified in the attachment.

BACKGROUND:

The local agency will not be able to request allocation for funds by the June 30, 2026, deadline. The attachment shows the details of the project and the explanation for the delays. The respective agency requests an extension, and the regional planning agency concurs.

Current STIP and ATP Guidelines adopted by the Commission stipulate that programmed funds are available for allocation only until the end of the fiscal year programmed. The Commission may approve a waiver to the Timely Use of Funds deadline, one-time only, for up to 20 months.

Attachment

**Time Extension/Waiver – Project Allocation
Multi-Funded STIP and ATP**

Project Number: 1
Applicant: City of Eureka
County: Humboldt
District: 01
PPNO: 2595
Allocation Amount: \$9,380,000 (ATP: \$8,356,000 and STIP: \$1,024,000)
Phase: Construction
Number of Months Requested: 20 Months
Extended Deadline: 02/29/2028
Department Recommendation: Support

Bay to Zoo Trail

The City of Eureka (City) requests a 20-month time extension for the period of project allocation for the Construction (CON) phase of the Bay to Zoo Trail project. The City is experiencing delays with the pre-construction phases.

The project proposes to construct a new trail connecting the Humboldt Bay to Sequoia Park Zoo and residential neighborhoods.

The City experienced delays due to unforeseen circumstances stemming from delays in survey and geotechnical work, expanded environmental studies, and right of way negotiations. The Department determined additional cultural resources review were required to complete the National Environmental Policy Act. The Project Approval and Environmental Document phase was expected to be completed by September 2024, but due to additional requested studies it was not completed until March 2025.

In February 2026, the draft design plan reached 60 percent due to the associated delays, which enabled the City to proceed with the right of way process. The design process included lengthy analysis for trail alignment that included options and alternatives to reduce impacts such as tree removal, wetland impacts, and placement of fill. The City and design team evaluated scenarios for each trail segment to include using the boardwalk to avoid wetlands, shifting the trail to preserve larger diameter tree species, and changing trail alignment to ensure trail grade and design requirements. The additional time spent on this process has ensured the trail alignment and will reduce issues that may arise during future design development. Similarly, coordination with property owners such as the school district to reach a suitable alignment adjacent to school facilities required alternative analysis and added time to the Plans Specifications, and Estimate phase. There are approximately 37 total parcels, of which 5 parcels are full acquisitions. One is in escrow and four are in negotiations. The negotiations are with two owners, and they are willing to sell. There are 2 easements that are secured, 11 parcels have been appraised, and the offers will go out in May 2026. The

remaining parcels will be appraised within the coming weeks. Condemnation or relocation is not expected and based on timelines provided by the City's right of way agent, it is expected that right of way will be obtained by June 2027. Pre-construction activities have taken longer than anticipated as the City progresses through each phase. Due to the complexities of the project and remaining activities required before the project is ready to list, the City is requesting the maximum allowable time to complete and resolve the design and right of way issues to request the CON phase allocation.

Therefore, the City is requesting a 20-month time extension for the period of project allocation for the CON phase from June 30, 2026 to February 29, 2028.