



Rails with Trails Corridor Plan

Mendocino Council of Governments

Community-Based Transportation Planning
FY 10-11 Grant Cycle
District 1
Grant Award Amount: \$90,000



Project Summary:

With a vision of a multi-use railroad corridor through Mendocino County and by recognizing the need for non-motorized connections, the “Rails with Trails Corridor Plan” was created. The main focus concentrated on the urban areas, but also gave consideration to inter-regional networks. The Mendocino County Rail-with-Trail Corridor Plan provides an analysis of general conditions along the length of the 103-mile corridor and identifies priority “rails with trails” projects for the Cities of Ukiah and Willits, and the County of Mendocino.

Community Outreach

- Outreach for each workshop was a multifaceted effort that utilized diverse media outlets and existing relationships with local decision-makers, trail advocates, and other stakeholders.
- A stakeholder list was created from past lists, as well as by reaching out to local bicycle shops, trail advocacy groups, social service groups, neighborhood associations, Tribes, and fire and law enforcement. Advertisement for the workshops included versions in Spanish.
- The project included public outreach from the start: two workshops were held which consisted of an open house, a presentation, and a breakout session. A third workshop was held for the public to review and comment on the draft Plan.

Project Outcome

- The Mendocino County Rail-with-Trail Corridor Plan provides a framework for initial planning of portions of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad corridor in this county with specific regard to multimodal transportation.

Successes & Next Steps

- The City of Ukiah has initiated their number one priority project- a rail trail in downtown Ukiah.
- Possible funding options include: the Federal Recreational Trails Program, the State Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA), and Local Transportation Funds.
- The Rail-with-Trail Corridor Plan has been posted on the agency website and is utilized in the prioritization of projects and the programming of funds.