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Recreation
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Community Development
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Finance
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Engineering
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Transportation
707-822-3775

May 18, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Support for Humboldt County Hammond Trail Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the City of Arcata, I urge you to support the County of Humboldt's request for \$8,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Hammond Trail Bridge Replacement Project. Funding for this project would be used to replace the Hammond Trail Bridge, which provides an active transportation route across the Mad River between Arcata and McKinleyville, the second and third largest communities in Humboldt County.

The Hammond Trail Bridge is a former railroad bridge that was re-purposed for bicycle and pedestrian use in 1983 but must be replaced because the steel trusses have suffered significant rust and deterioration, making rehabilitation prohibitive. The Hammond Trail Bridge is the lynchpin in the expanding regional trail system in Humboldt County, connecting the six-mile long Hammond Coastal Trail through McKinleyville to low-traffic roads in the Arcata Bottom and the City of Arcata's Humboldt Bay Trail North.

Trail counts at the Hammond Bridge have revealed that 200+ people daily cross the Mad River on the Hammond Bridge. Active transportation commuters rely on the safety afforded by the Hammond Trail Bridge crossing of the Mad River as the alternative crossing of the river requires out-of-direction travel and navigation of complicated, dangerous interchanges of Highway 101 and State Route 200. If the Hammond Bridge is not funded soon for replacement, this vital active transportation route connecting McKinleyville to Arcata's many employment centers and schools, including Humboldt State University, would be severed.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and is anticipated to yield significant community benefits by ensuring active transportation services in the area and continued public safety by replacing the deteriorating existing bridge. The project would provide local, regional, and statewide benefits by preserving a key link of the California Coastal Trail and U.S. Bicycle Route 95 and ensuring a non-motorized route alternative to Highway 101 between McKinleyville, Arcata, and Humboldt Bay.

The City of Arcata strongly supports the Hammond Trail Bridge Replacement Project, as the bridge is essential infrastructure connecting community members in McKinleyville to the many services and employment centers within the City of Arcata. We urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Should you have any questions regarding the City's support, please do not hesitate to contact City Manager Karen Diemer at 707-822-5953 or kdiemer@cityofarcata.org.

Sincerely,

Sofia Pereira, Mayor
City of Arcata