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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Public Asked to Share Ideas to Improve Transportation Services for Mendocino County Older Adults, People with Disabilities and Low-Income Residents

Mendocino County Human Service-Public Transportation Coordination Plan Community Workshops	
FORT BRAGG	Monday, May 19, 2008, 10:00-11:30 AM Mendocino Transit Authority Conference Room 190 E Spruce Street Fort Bragg, CA 95437
UKIAH	Monday, May 19, 2008 1:30-3:00 PM Victory Theater Building 367 N State Street, Suite 101 Ukiah, CA

The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG), in cooperation with Caltrans, is sponsoring two transportation workshops in Mendocino County. Organizations and residents are encouraged to attend to discuss strategies to improve transportation services throughout Mendocino County for low-income residents, seniors and people with disabilities.

The workshops are being held to develop the Mendocino County Human Service-Public Transportation Coordination Plan. Sponsored by Caltrans, the Plan's goal is to improve mobility for county residents and visitors through better coordination of services among transportation providers and human service agencies in Mendocino County.

The Plan will identify transportation improvements to help residents travel to medical appointments, classes, day care, jobs and other destinations. The Coordination Plan will also identify transportation services needed to help people connect to other transportation services, like Greyhound or Amtrak. During the workshops, which are scheduled to last approximately 1.5 hours, participants will help prioritize transportation needs and strategies based on community priorities. Several exercises are planned so community members can explore different ways to improve local transportation services.

For agencies seeking federal transportation funds, information will be available on three grant programs: Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC), New Freedom, and the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Assistance Program (5310 Grant Funds).

The Human Service-Public Transportation Coordination Plan is a required document for local organizations and Mendocino Transit Authority to apply for certain types of federal funds. These dollars can be used to add new transit service, replace buses or purchase new equipment like bus shelters or dispatch software.

Caltrans commissioned the Human Service-Public Transportation Coordination Plan in coordination with the Mendocino Council of Governments to identify transportation needs and gaps, and define opportunities for better coordination and improved service. An Existing Conditions Report, prepared in March 2008, presents findings from interviews with transit customers, transportation providers, community representatives and local agencies. The Report also includes an analysis of community demographics and transportation data, and a review of regional issues. The Report will be available at the workshops.

For more information about the Mendocino County Human Service-Public Transportation Coordination Plan and the community workshops, please contact Nephele Barrett with the Mendocino Council of Governments at 707-463-1859, barrettn@dow-associates.com