

# MEMORANDUM

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS County of Placer

TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

DATE: October 7, 2014

FROM: KEN GREHM / WILL GARNER

SUBJECT: **PROPOSED PLACER COUNTY TRANSIT ROUTE MODIFICATION –  
HIGHWAY 49 ROUTE NEAR THE AUBURN AIRPORT**

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### **ACTION REQUESTED / RECOMMENDATION**

1. Hold a public hearing to receive public comment on the proposed modification to the Placer County Transit (PCT) Highway 49 Route.
2. Authorize the Director of Public Works to execute an amendment to the agreement with the City of Auburn to provide transit services to the City.
3. Approve the implementation of the proposed route modifications by Placer County Transit contingent upon the amended agreement with the City of Auburn There is no net County Cost.

### **BACKGROUND / SUMMARY**

Placer County Transit (PCT) operates the Highway 49 route which provides hourly service, Monday through Saturday, between Auburn Station (train station) and Dry Creek Road. The route makes timed transfers at the Auburn Station with Auburn Transit, Nevada County's Gold Country Stage and other PCT routes. The north end of this route serves some key locations such as the County Government Center, shopping centers, medical offices, and residential areas.

In the spring of 2014, we received a request to add service to the Auburn Interfaith Food Closet which recently relocated from Atwood Drive to Earhart Avenue. The former location on Atwood Drive was served by the Highway 49 route. The new location is not served by the Highway 49 route. Since the new location of the food closet is in the City of Auburn near the airport, the Department of Public Works (DPW) staff coordinated with the City of Auburn to work with the food closet. Any addition of service within the City of Auburn would require approval of the City and an amendment to the existing transit services agreement with the City.

We learned that in addition to the food closet there were other entities that wanted the bus route to serve their location. This included the Auburn Airport Business Association and PRIDE Industries, which are located near the food closet. Also showing interest in a new bus route are the Community Outreach Recovery Services (CORE) and Sierra Aids Foundation located on Locksley Lane in the unincorporated County area.

Taking into consideration the comments received from the stakeholders requesting the new routes, DPW staff has developed a new proposed route. The route would be extended east of Highway 49 to the locations on Locksley Lane and Earhart Avenue. An important feature of the route is to connect all locations on the route in both the northbound and southbound directions. The current configuration of the route allows for this expansion of the route. However, to do so, the portion of the route known as the North Auburn Loop would need to be eliminated. The North Auburn Loop is a lightly used 15 to 20 minute route that occurs between the full northbound and southbound runs between the Auburn Greens, the shopping centers and the County Government Center. With the combination of the northbound, southbound and North Auburn Loop segments of the route, the Auburn Greens has 30 minute service.

By eliminating the North Auburn Loop, the proposed route would decrease service to Auburn Greens from 30 minutes to 60 minutes. However, the route would now provide service to both the Locksley Lane and Earhart Drive locations to and from Auburn Greens. Fiscal Year 2013-2014 ridership on the Highway route averaged 223 passengers per day. The North Auburn Loop portion of the route had an average of only 7 passengers per day. The North Auburn Loop accounted for 3.2 percent of the ridership on the route, while it makes up for 17 percent of the service on the full Highway 49 Route.

Pursuant to our public involvement policies, DPW staff is recommending that the Board hold a public hearing prior to making a decision on implementation of the proposed route. Attachment 1 is the existing route alignment, Attachment 2 is the proposed southbound route, and Attachment 3 is the proposed northbound and southbound route. DPW staff, along with staff from the City of Auburn and PCTPA met twice with the interested parties that requested the route change. Public notices have also been placed on buses, at key bus stops and on the Placer County Transit web page.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL**

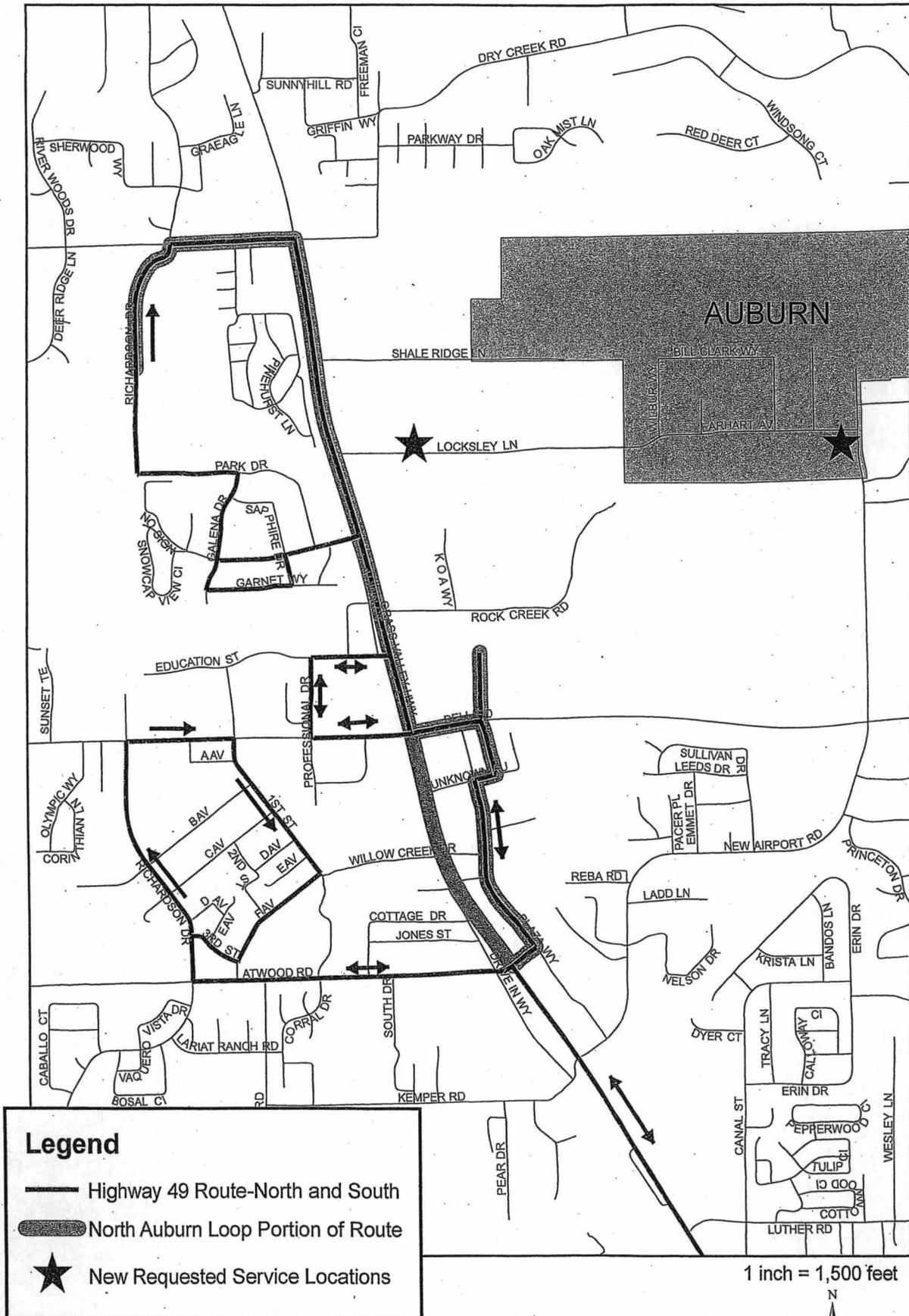
The project is statutorily exempt from CEQA pursuant to section 21080(b)(10), as it is a project to provide passenger service.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The new proposed route adds 60 miles per day, but does not add any additional service hours or driver pay hours. This results in a 20 percent increase in miles on this route. The added cost is associated primarily with added fuel and maintenance, which will be approximately \$23,000 per year. If approved, the route would start late enough in this fiscal year that the contingency budget would be adequate to cover the added cost of the route. Since a portion of the Route is in the City, the City of Auburn would need approve the route and contribute funds toward the route. The contribution by the City of Auburn will be based on the time and mileage within the City limits. Without City of Auburn approval or participation, staff would return to your Board for any consideration of an alternate bus route.

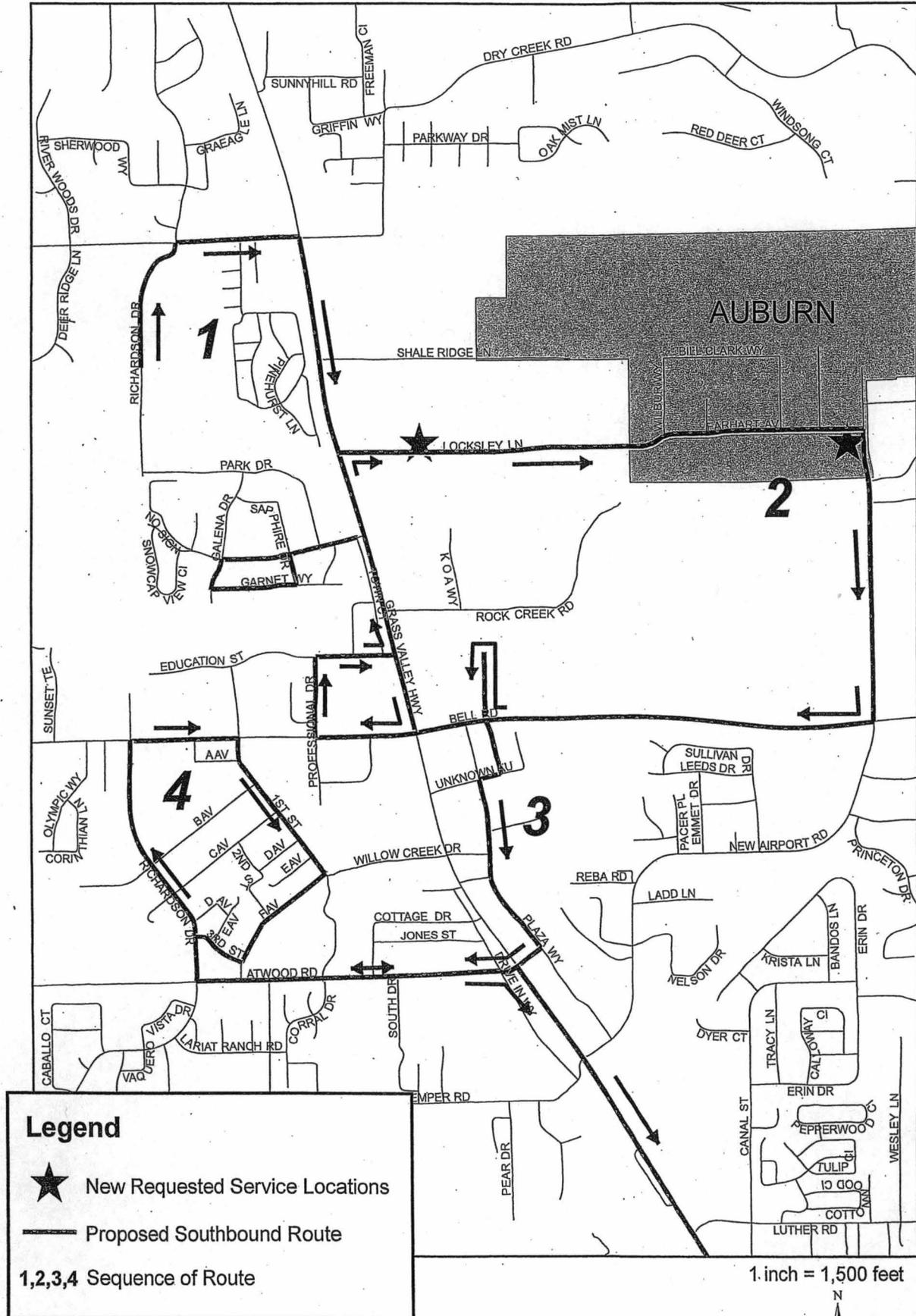
Attachments: Attachment 1 – Existing PCT Highway 49 Route  
Attachment 2 - Proposed PCT Southbound Highway 49 Route  
Attachment 3 - Proposed PCT Northbound and Southbound Highway 49 Route

# Existing PCT Highway 49 Route

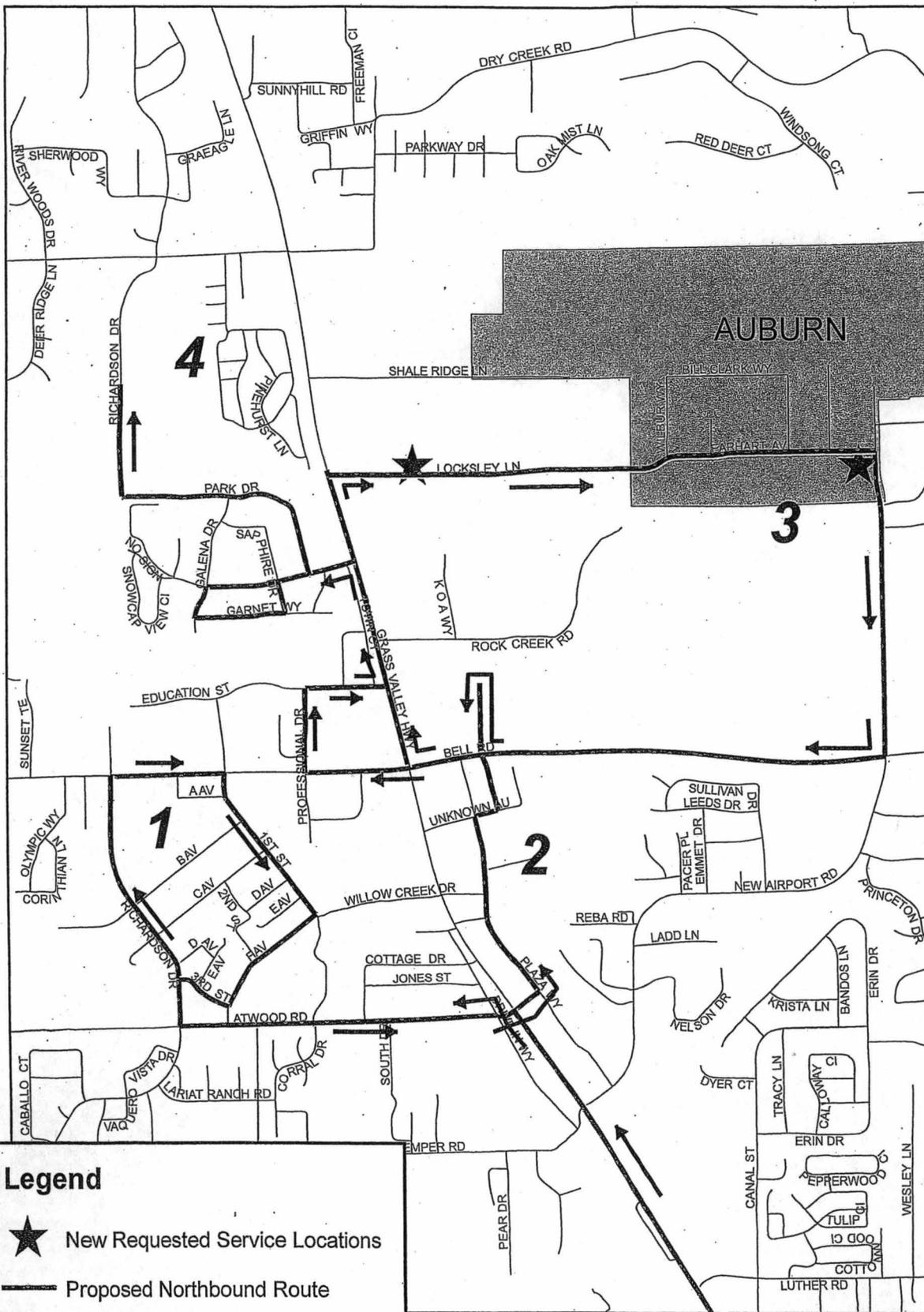


September, 2014 Placer County DPW

# Proposed PCT Southbound Highway 49 Route



# Proposed PCT Northbound Highway 49 Route



**Legend**

- ★ New Requested Service Locations
- Proposed Northbound Route
- 1,2,3,4 Sequence of Route

1 inch = 1,500 feet



September, 2014 Placer County DPW

