Civic Video Tagging (CVT) for Archived TV Coverage
A pilot project of Access Humboldt - Outline and proposal
In collaboration with City of Fortuna, California

Overview
Civic Video Tagging (CVT) is a pilot project and proof of concept for Archived TV Coverage. Access Humboldt is working in collaboration with City of Fortuna, California and seeking support to continue this project beyond the pilot phase.

Background
Civic media is a core service of Access Humboldt and many other community media organizations across the nation. Gavel-to-gavel video coverage of open public meetings is recorded, transmitted live on local community TV channel(s) and archived online for posterity.

A similar service is provided for Congress by C-SPAN, a cable TV industry supported enterprise. Locally, the service is supported by participating jurisdictions and managed by a regional non-profit community media enterprise - Access Humboldt (AH). For the County of Humboldt and adjacent tribal lands, AH offers production and distribution support services to public jurisdictions, community based organizations and residents.

Access to archived meeting coverage is provided by AH through free and open services of Internet Archive and the Community Media Archive project. Some larger jurisdictions in Humboldt County also engage outside vendors for proprietary archiving and agenda linking services. This feature has not been available for free and open local archiving - until now!

Civic Video Tagging (CVT) - Pilot Project
Access Humboldt's team, led by Jerusha Wilhelmi, has developed a shareable method for linking archived video in the Community Media Archive collection to a meeting agenda with hyper-links so that journalists, citizens, students and other folks can access specific parts of the program that interest them based on agenda listings.

To demonstrate this solution, Access Humboldt's Civic Video Tagging (CVT) initiative is launching a pilot project with City of Fortuna to provide CVT agendas for all recorded Fortuna City Council meetings in 2016. CVT linked agendas are available on the archive pages for the meetings within a few days of the event. Agendas from January through April are available here:

City Collaboration Advances Transparency
The City of Fortuna is the largest local jurisdiction within the Eel River watershed, which covers much of the Southern part of Humboldt County (and reaches into Trinity and Mendocino Counties as well). Regular live coverage of City Council and other local meetings is televised from Fortuna City Hall, but the archived footage has not been linked or tagged to agendas until this year.

Since January 2016, Access Humboldt staff are annotating Fortuna City Council agendas and tagging archived videos to demonstrate the CVT capability and to develop efficient workflow for the service to be sustainable at very low cost using open source tools. This is similar to one subset of service features of vendors (Granicus, etc.) for which other jurisdictions pay dearly.

Scaleable Model for Transparency
The CVT pilot project is building on Access Humboldt's free and open Community Media Archive project - a collection of the Internet Archive - which hosts thousands of local videos, including meeting coverage for many local jurisdictions and community TV programs aired on our five channels. The story of Community Media Archive is documented here - http://accesshumboldt.net/wiki/index.php/Community_media_archive

The CVT pilot program seeks to develop a simple workflow and service design for anyone who wants to tag video coverage of any meeting on Internet Archive. If successful, we'll see many local communities adopting CVT to link video archives to their local meeting agendas and other documents. Local news organizations could adopt CVT methods to support their reporting on local government activities and share links to pertinent video from the archived sources.

Seeking Financial Support
If you are interested in supporting the CVT pilot, please contact AH executive director Sean McLaughlin, c: 707-616-2381, e: sean@accesshumboldt.

In addition to funding, we are seeking help to promote and develop this new service. During 2016, we want to make sure folks are aware of the pilot project with City of Fortuna and how to find the linked agendas.

Summary
The Civic Video Tagging (CVT) project has potential to attract national/international attention because it reflects a new open-source way to access archived meetings via metadata. The project tool set is an innovation - building upon the Internet Archive's success - that is immediately available to communities around the world!

This pilot project creates an excellent example for jurisdictions anywhere who want a free and open solution to host archives of meeting coverage and link those files to the meetings' agendas.

During the pilot year, we will be exploring the most cost-effective way to continue the service and seek to expand the benefit of video tagging agendas to more local meetings. We welcome any support you can offer in expanding this exciting and useful project.