

Staff Report

DATE: SEPTEMBER 8, 2020
TO: BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF DEL NORTE
FROM: TAMERA LEIGHTON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUBJECT: ORGINAZIONAL AND AGENCY SUPPORT FOR SAFE STAA ACCESS ON US
HIGHWAY 197/199

PROPOSED ACTION: Adopt resolution affirming continual support for Safe STAA access on State Route 197/US Highway 199 corridor.

BACKGROUND: The Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) is a 1982 trucking standard. US Highway 101 at Richardson Grove and the US Highway 199/State Route 197 corridor do not meet this 38-year old standard, leaving Del Norte without common goods movement systems. The improvements would also widen the 199/197 corridor and make the highway safer for all. The Safe STAA Access project was funded in 2008 and the total project cost is approximately \$34 million for all locations. When funded in 2008, the attached list of agencies, organizations and businesses were among many more who support the project.

In 2014, Friends of Del Norte, Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC) in Arcata, and the Center for Biological Diversity in Berkeley initiated litigation just after the project entered the construction phase resulting in an injunction to stop the project until the Federal court received more information and made a decision.

In 2020, Del Norte Local Transportation Commission was awarded Intervenor status by the Federal Court, becoming a formal representative in the case. The basis for the Intervenor status is that elected officials who are elected by the public, and not the litigants listed above, are the representatives of the public.

The County of Del Norte has supported this work by unanimous vote since 2008 and confirmed its support, again by unanimous vote, in 2014. To update the Court's administrative record as an Intervenor, Del Norte Local Transportation Commission is requesting that you again affirm your support for a final submission to the Federal court.

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**A RESOLUTION OF THE COUNTY OF DEL NORTE ENDORSING
SAFE STAA ACCESS ON CALIFORNIA STATE ROUTE 197 AND US HIGHWAY 199 FROM US
HIGHWAY 101 TO INTERSTATE 5**

WHEREAS, the 197/199 Corridor (California State Route 197 and US Highway 199) is the sole interregional and interstate route linking Highway 101 to Interstate 5 at Crescent City, California; and

WHEREAS, the current alignment and physical constraints have restricted common truck access based on the 1982 Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) route designation standards; and

WHEREAS, The 197/199 Corridor is the Del Norte and Border Coast regions' only reasonable access to Interstate 5, which is a major interstate route that holds considerable interregional importance to northern California and southern Oregon, and is key to the safety and economic vitality of Del Norte County; and

WHEREAS, Del Norte County has long been dependant upon the 197/199 Corridor for the movement of essential goods and services, for access to healthcare, and access to the travel and tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, the only alternate route for entering or leaving the region is US Highway 101, that is threatened by a significant and active landside at Last Chance Grade to the south of Crescent City; and

WHEREAS, Del Norte County's past, present, and future allocation of State transportation funding sources have been dedicated to the 197/199 Safe STAA Access Project. The Project includes replacing a functionally obsolete bridge that was built in 1925 and is in the top 1% of the oldest bridges on the State Highway System; and

WHEREAS, a lawsuit and court ordered injunction now threatens the Project and the community's investment in it.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Del Norte does officially endorse and support safe STAA route access on the 197/199 Corridor from US Highway 101 to Interstate 5 in Del Norte County, California.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board of Supervisors of the County of Del Norte, California, this 8th day of September 2020, by unanimous polled vote.

Gerry Hemmingsen, Chair
Board of Supervisors
Del Norte County, California

Kylie Goughnour, Clerk
Board of Supervisors
Del Norte County, California

All of the following organizations voted again to affirm their support for Safe STAA Access on the 197/199 Corridor in 2014.

All of the votes were unanimous.

City of Crescent City

County of Del Norte

Crescent City/Del Norte Chamber of Commerce

Crescent City Harbor District

Curry County, Oregon, Board of Commissioners

Del Norte County Board of Education

Del Norte Healthcare District

Del Norte Solid Waste Management Authority

Sutter Coast Hospital Board of Directors

Additional written support has been provided by the following representatives and organizations when the project was approved for funding in 2008:

Tribal Governments and Elected Representatives

- California State Senator, Sam Aanestad
- California State Assemblymember, Patty Berg
- Elk Valley Rancheria
- Smith River Rancheria
- United States Congressman, Mike Thompson
- Yurok Tribe

Regional Agency and Business Representatives

- Alexandre EcoDairy Farm
- Brookings-Harbor Chamber of Commerce
- BRWEH, Inc.
- California Highway Patrol

- California Redwood Company
- California Trucking Association
- Caltrans District 1
- City of Crescent City
- Combined Maintenance Services
- County of Del Norte
- Crescent City Harbor District
- Crescent City/Del Norte Visitors Bureau
- Curry County Board of Commissioners
- Curry County Economic and Community Development Department
- Del Norte County Unified School District
- Green Diamond Resource Company
- Hambro Forest Products
- Hambro/WSG Inc
- Home Depot
- Humboldt Flakeboard Panels, Inc.
- Lily Growers Association
- Mendocino Council of Governments
- John W. Pritchett
- Shasta County Regional Transportation Planning Agency
- Snoozie Shavings, Inc.
- Tri-Agency Economic Development Corporation