



Last Chance Grade Project

Progress Update

Summer 2021

The Last Chance Grade (LCG) Permanent Restoration Project is a collaborative, multi-year effort to find a permanent solution to geologic instability and roadway failure on a 3-mile segment of US Highway 101 in Del Norte County, extending from Wilson Creek to 9 miles south of Crescent City. Caltrans is committed to ensuring the safety and reliability of the highway—now and for the future.

Substantial progress has been made in the past year!

Current Repairs

Caltrans is on the fast track to complete repairs in response to the February 2021 landslides. Caltrans conducted extensive outreach with Tribal partners, emergency service providers and community leaders to plan and implement a changed schedule. In early July, Caltrans accelerated its work schedule and revised the scheduled road closures so that long closures can conclude by the end of August. In the meantime, by simply “timing it right,” motorists can reduce wait times by arriving slightly before or during the times the road is open. Find current information at LastChanceGrade.Com.

Planning for the Future

Caltrans continues to move forward with geotechnical investigations and environmental field studies to help refine project alternatives. Using data collected from initial field studies, Caltrans has completed an Alternatives Analysis process, informed by stakeholder input, that resulted in reducing the number of build alternatives for further study from seven to two—and shortening the Environmental Document timeline by a full year. See inside for more details of how Caltrans is working to select the best alternative based on its technological feasibility, responsiveness to the region’s unique geotechnical conditions, and cost considerations while minimizing impacts on our world-class natural and cultural resources.

Stay Up to Date!

Public Scoping meeting to be held in November 2021

The public scoping meeting is a key step in creating our Environmental Impact Statement. This meeting, open to all, will provide an opportunity to help ensure that the environmental document addresses all issues related to project impacts. Stay tuned for an announcement of the meeting.

For more information and to sign up for notifications when new information is posted:

www.LastChanceGrade.com

Or contact

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For more information, visit: lastchancegrade.com

Construction / Repair Activities

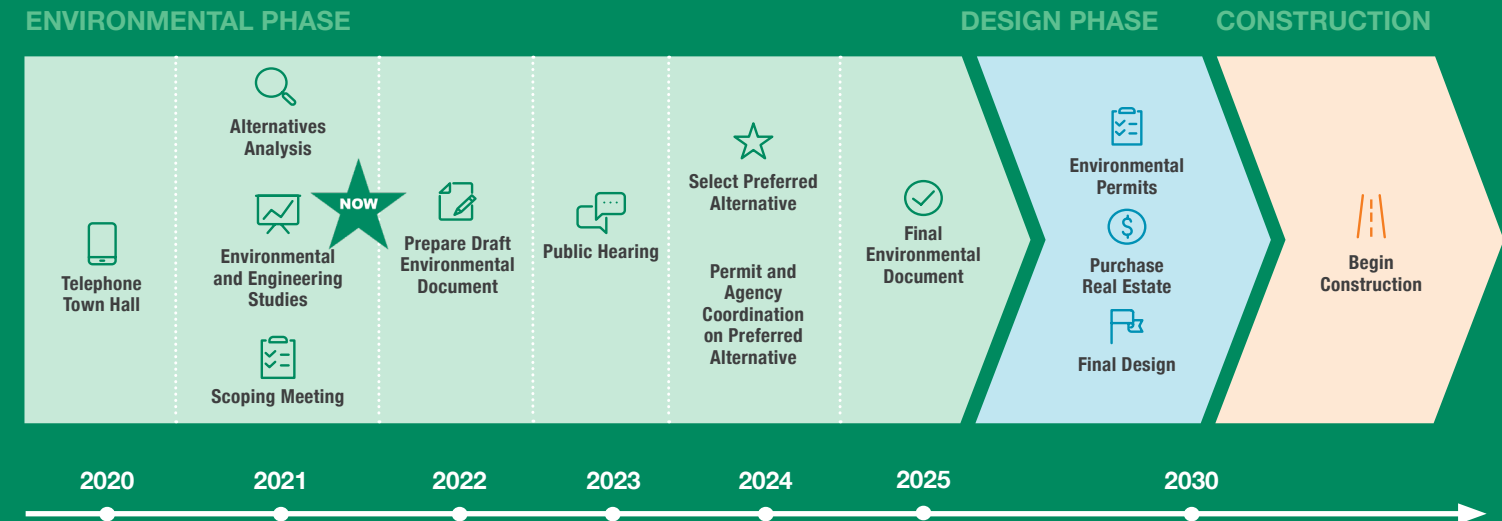
Ongoing repairs and improvements have been underway for the last several years to ensure Last Chance Grade stays safe and reliable for all travelers (upper photo). In February 2021, a landslide covered US 101, requiring a multi-million-dollar response to clear the slide and stabilize the slope by installing ground and rock anchors, cable netting and a mesh drapery system (bottom photo). Caltrans expects to have the roadway open at all hours with much shorter delays by the end of August 2021.



Project Schedule and Public Engagement

The LCG Project is a collaborative effort, requiring close coordination among local, regional, and state partners. Caltrans is committed to a complete, thorough, and inclusive process, keeping the public informed and providing opportunities for input. **A Public and Agency Scoping Meeting will be held in November 2021.** Area residents and members of the public will be welcome to participate.

Key Steps in the Environmental Process



Alternatives for Further Study

Between Fall 2020 and Spring 2021, Caltrans performed an alternatives analysis to determine which of the seven build alternatives under consideration should be studied in more detail in the environmental document. The alternatives analysis process and criteria matrix were developed with input from four stakeholder working groups, including representatives from groups with resource management and permitting, or land ownership and management responsibilities, as well local government, Native American tribes, businesses, public agencies, and environmental groups. The analysis was based on criteria and performance measures related to the project's major objectives, which include providing a long-term safe and reliable roadway, reducing maintenance costs, and protecting the economy and natural and cultural resources. At the conclusion of the alternatives analysis, the stakeholders confirmed their support to further study Alternatives F and X and to remove the remaining five alternatives, which performed less well with higher potential impacts, from further study at this time. **The smaller study footprint will save approximately \$10 million and reduce the project schedule by one year.** Staff are now in the field conducting a range of environmental surveys.

F Alternative F

Alternative F would feature a twin-bore tunnel that avoids the landslides and limits impacts to natural and cultural resources by passing deep underground. Use of tunnel boring machines would reduce construction impacts. It also has the lowest geotechnical risk and smallest environmental footprint of all alternatives studied to date, limiting potential environmental resource impacts. The tunnel would be similar in length and features to the tunnels at Devil's Slide on Highway 1 in San Mateo County, California.

- **Estimated construction cost:** \$1.3 billion
- **Construction footprint:** 5 acres
- **Construction schedule:** 7 years

X Alternative X

Alternative X is an holistically engineered end-to-end alternative that mitigates the landslide hazard along an alignment generally similar to that of the current highway. It would go far beyond what has been accomplished by emergency repairs. These would include realignment to the east at key locations with tiered and steel-reinforced walls above and below; dewatering infrastructure to minimize slope movement; and regrading adjacent slopes to flatter angles. It is currently the lowest cost alternative with the shortest construction duration and the second smallest environmental footprint.

- **Estimated construction cost:** \$500 million
- **Construction footprint:** 20 acres
- **Construction schedule:** 3.5 years

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Project Alternatives

Routes

- Highway 101
- Alternative F
- Alternative X

