

Last Chance Grade Project

Progress Update

Summer 2022



Stay Up to Date!

Caltrans is committed to a complete, thorough, and inclusive process of keeping the public informed about the progress of the LCG Project and providing opportunities for input.

A virtual Community Town Hall will be hosted on Zoom by Senator Mike McGuire on July 12, 2022. Log-in information will be posted on LastChanceGrade.com when available.

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

www.LastChanceGrade.com

Or contact

Jaime Matteoli
Last Chance Grade Project Manager
lastchancegrade@dot.ca.gov
(707) 498-0961



The Last Chance Grade (LCG) Permanent Restoration Project is a collaborative, multi-year effort to find a permanent solution to geologic and roadway instability on a 3-mile segment of U.S. 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.

Current Repairs

Caltrans recently completed emergency repairs following a landslide in February 2021 which significantly impacted U.S. 101 with closures for much of that year. All of the slide material has been removed and the slope has been stabilized with an anchored cable net drapery system. On-site monitoring of the location is ongoing.

Construction of retaining walls is also continuing at Last Chance Grade above and below the roadway using ground anchors, walers, and steel piles. Construction at Walls 5B and 7 is expected to be completed by the fall of this year, which barring unforeseen circumstances could return the roadway to two-way traffic.

Current Planning

Caltrans continues to maintain communications and dialogue with the Last Chance Grade partners, Huffman Stakeholder Group, members of the biological and cultural working groups, and regulatory agencies. Caltrans expresses deep appreciation to the tribal governments for hosting Caltrans at their council meetings and sharing their ideas and concerns. These ongoing discussions are helping Caltrans to continue to refine the alternatives so that they produce a long-term solution while avoiding and minimizing impacts.

For more information, visit: lastchancegrade.com

Alternatives for Further Study

X Alternative X is a holistically engineered end-to-end alternative that minimizes impacts and maximizes safety by mitigating the landslide hazard along an alignment similar to the existing highway. It includes improvements far beyond the scope of emergency repairs, including realignment at key locations, additional retaining structures, and drainage infrastructure.

F Alternative F would feature a tunnel that avoids the landslide and minimizes impacts by passing deep underground, with a variety of measures to enhance safety.



What's Happening Behind the Scenes?

There is significant activity going on behind the scenes, in the office and out in the field. Please visit lastchancegrade.com and follow Caltrans District 1 on social media for updates online.

Value Analysis (VA) Completed!

The VA is an analysis of the two alternatives conducted by an independent team. First, their work validated that Alternatives X and F were feasible based on the information to date. In addition, the VA team also kick-started the design refinement process by bringing fresh ideas for the team to consider.

Moving From a Line on a Map to the Project Description

It's a steady, complicated path moving from the high-level mapping of the alternatives to a more precise description of the alternatives for analysis in the environmental document. During the refinement process, Caltrans more precisely identifies the locations, potential road configuration, support structures and other elements that will define the alternative in the Project Description. The Project Description describes the features, footprint, and more specific details of each alternative. These include road features and design criteria (design speed

and standards), structures such as retaining walls, tunnels, bridges, and other facilities that will have to be built as part of the alternative.

Minimizing and Avoiding Impacts

A key focus of the refinement process is to avoid and minimize impacts. Caltrans needs to think through every refinement that is being considered so that a change meant to avoid impacting one resource doesn't inadvertently result in a different impact somewhere else.

Staying on Schedule!

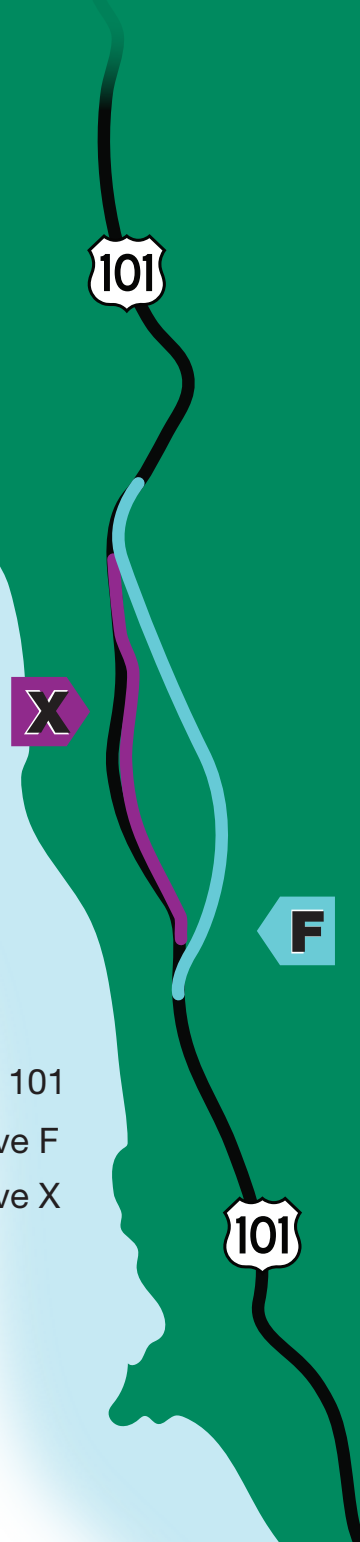
Getting to the Project Description is critical to staying on schedule. The refinement process used to get to the Project Description helps inform the studies that determine the impacts that will need to be addressed. Focused studies help the data collection and analysis stay on track so Caltrans can stay on target to complete the draft environmental document.

LAST CHANCE
GRADE PROJECT

Project Alternatives

Routes

-  Highway 101
-  Alternative F
-  Alternative X



Key Steps in the Environmental Process

