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Del Norte
Local
Transportation Commission

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September 9, 2013

Malcolm Dougherty, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: US Highway 101 – One Lane for One Year.

Dear Mr. Dougherty,

US Highway 101 in Del Norte County is still closed to two-way traffic with no end in sight. In the fall of 2012, Del Norte Local Transportation Commission (DNLTC) was informed that US Highway 101 at Last Chance Grade would be closed to two-way traffic and a signal would be installed, and that this closure would last for two to three months.

Without explanation to the public and after nearly a year, the road is still closed to two-way traffic.

Where are the facts? District 1 has promised but has not provided facts about the project to the public. District 1 reports to DNLTC staff that even though the project is taking four to six times the estimated closure time to complete, there are no cost escalations. We can only conclude that Caltrans believes a one lane road for a US Highway doesn't merit a sense of urgency or that the cost statement is not fully accurate.

The latest report from District 1 is that by October 30 the lane will reopen. There is no actual announcement of this next additional delay and there is no explanation. Without information or explanation, it is unreasonable for Caltrans to expect the public will trust that this date is accurate after so many other opening dates have come and gone, also without explanation.

U.S. Highway 101 is a Focus Route, a Lifeline and a Gateway into Oregon. It's also the only road that connects us to other parts of California – there's not even a dirt road alternative. There is a continuous stream of public outrage expressed through letters to the editor in our local newspaper and continuous complaints to DNLTC. Please provide accurate public information, and please consider an internal investigation of the project with conclusions released to the public.

Sincerely,



Richard Enea, Chair
Del Norte Local Transportation Commission

Cc: Barbara Boxer, U.S. Senator; Jerry Brown Jr., Governor; Wesley Chesbro, State Assemblymember; Dianne Feinstein, US Senator; Charlie Fielder, District 1 Director; Jared Huffman, U.S. Congressman; Jim Nielsen, State Senator

