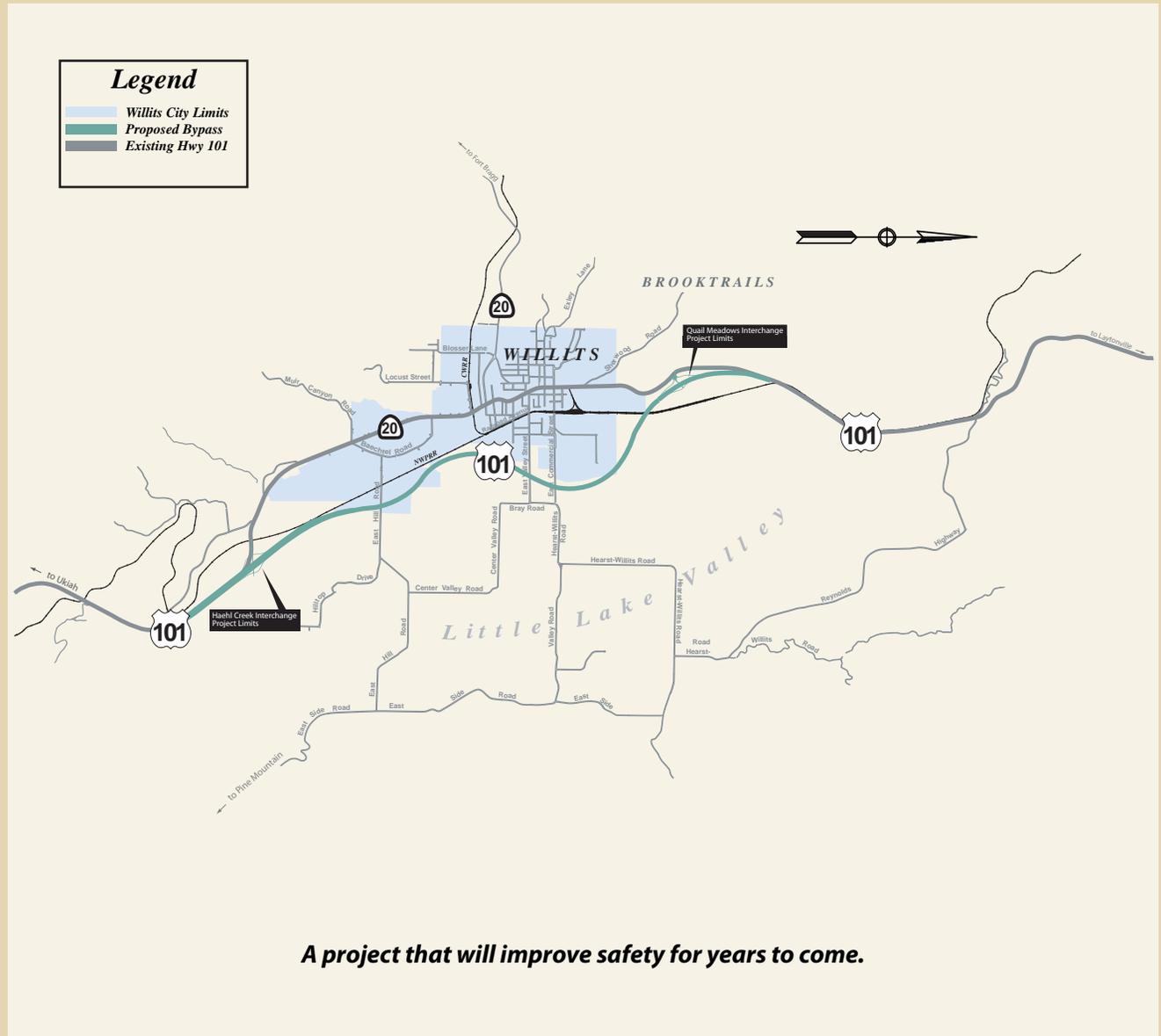


Project Purpose & Need

US 101 is the primary north-south route serving coastal California and is crucial in the commerce of northwestern California. On US 101, trucks and passenger vehicles transport goods and people to and from the many communities throughout the region. In the Willits area, US 101 serves an increasingly heavy commuter, recreational and commercial traffic demand.

Signalized intersections, on-street parking, frequent driveways and local roads, pedestrians and bicyclists all contribute to low travel speeds. Lack of capacity and congestion on US 101 result in delays and lengthy traffic queues within the project limits. Parking maneuvers, turning moves, added to the heavy traffic, make traveling along or crossing US 101 difficult for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized traffic.

Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration are proposing this bypass to reduce delays, and improve safety for interregional traffic on US 101.



A project that will improve safety for years to come.

Project Description

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) is currently preparing design plans for the first phase (Phase 1) of a new segment of US 101 that will bypass the City of Willits, CA. Phase 1 of the ultimate four-lane bypass project has been programmed in the State Transportation Improvement Program in combination with funding from Mendocino Council of Governments.

Phase 1 proposes to construct a two-lane bypass through the valley from the south end of the project at Haehl Creek to the north end of the project at Quail Meadows. A full four-lane interchange at Haehl Creek and a two-lane interchange at Quail Meadows are also proposed.

Right of way appraisal and acquisition for Phase 1 will commence this summer. The estimated construction and right-of-way cost is \$197 million. Construction is planned to begin in the summer of 2010, and completed by the winter of 2014.

PROJECT CONTACTS

Andrea Williams - Project Manager
(916) 274-0655

Media Inquires should be directed to
Phil Frisbie Jr. – Caltrans Public Information Officer
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For more information about the project, please contact Caltrans at the address below:
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(916) 274-0655
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Questions & Answers

- Q. What information is available at the open house on August 22nd?**
- A.** Caltrans staff from several functional units, including Project Management, Design, Right of Way, and Environmental will be available to answer questions about the project. The project maps and plans will be on display, as will the Cost, Schedule and Project Description.
- Q. Why phased?**
- A.** Caltrans did not receive funds from the Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) account to fully fund the four-lane bypass project in spring 2007. Therefore, Caltrans decided to phase the project to reduce the initial capital outlay. At the June 2007 California Transportation Commission meeting, \$60 million was allocated for the Willits Bypass. These additional funds were made available by voter approval of Proposition 1B in November 2006. The additional allocation provides the needed funds to construct the Phase 1 of the ultimate four-lane project. Phase 1 is a 2-lane bypass with southern and northern interchanges.

Q. What happens next?

- A.** Caltrans has already begun final design work for Phase 1. Phase 1 Right-of-way appraisal and acquisition will commence this summer. The Habitat Mitigation and Monitoring Plan is scheduled to be completed by September 2008, and Caltrans should have the Resource Agency Permits by June 2009. Phase 1 construction is planned to begin in the summer of 2010, and completed by the winter of 2014. Caltrans will continue to pursue additional State Transportation Improvement Program funds for Phase 2, which would complete the four-lane bypass project.

Willits Bypass

Public Open House

OPEN HOUSE
Wednesday, August 22nd, 2007
4:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Willits City Hall



Willits Bypass is a project our communities can be proud of; a project that will relieve congestion, reduce delays, and improve safety for years to come.

Thank you for taking the time out of your day to be involved in this transportation improvement project. Please sign in, view the displays, and discuss the project with Caltrans project development team. We hope that you find this meeting informative. Thank you for this opportunity to meet with you.