



# NEWS RELEASE

12-012

**Today's Date:** February 8, 2012

**District:** 1- Eureka

**Contact:** Scott Burger

**Phone:** (707) 441-3998

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CALTRANS ROUTE 255 FEASIBILITY STUDY OPEN HOUSE TO OFFER DETAILED LOOK AT EUREKA TO ARCATA ROUTE

**Eureka** – Caltrans will hold a public open house for the Route 255 Engineered Feasibility Study on Wednesday, February 15, 2012, from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at the Manila Community Center, 1611 Peninsula Drive. The study has taken a look at the non-motorized needs for the Route 255 corridor as well as community improvements in Manila highlighted during a previous planning study.

“Route 255 begins in Eureka at the intersection of Fifth Street/Route 101 and crosses the Samoa Bridges. It then heads northbound through the community of Manila, travels around Arcata Bay through the City of Arcata, and ends at the intersection with Route 101. The Route 255 Feasibility Study takes a detailed look at this highway, breaking it into four distinct segments to aid in the research. Studies like this are very complex since a number of factors and disciplines are involved.” said Cheryl Willis, Deputy District Director, Planning and Local Assistance.

“The study addresses concerns we’ve been hearing about non-motorized and community needs along the 255 corridor and also public needs for a safe and efficient highway system. Safety is Caltrans’ highest goal. In the short term, Caltrans has been working on more immediate measures to be responsive, but with limited funding sources and our need to compete for statewide sources, it has been difficult. We remain positive and will continue to develop a strategy for success,” Willis added.

The February 15 open house will be an opportunity for the public to drop-in as their schedule allows, hear a brief overview of the study’s progress, and visit several information stations with visual displays and staff available to help answer questions and gather comments and ideas. Detailed diagrams will include large maps of every part of Route 255 with added visuals from the study itself. California Highway Patrol and Caltrans Traffic Safety staff will also be on hand with information stations of their own to answer questions.

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Cheryl Willis said, “During this Feasibility Study, Caltrans has investigated a full range of possibilities. These include community needs, improvement options, ideas submitted at the study’s public ‘kick-off’ meeting in 2010, as well as regulatory, engineering, and financial constraints for traffic calming and non-motorized traffic accommodations along all sections of Route 255. In the future, the Route 255 Engineered Feasibility Study will be used as a reference document identifying potential improvement projects, enabling Caltrans to compete for various project funding opportunities as they become available. The study document makes us prepared and ready to respond to these funding sources as we learn of them.”

For more information, please visit [www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/hum-studies/](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/hum-studies/) or contact Brian Simon, Project Engineer at (707) 441-3935.

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