



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CALTRANS AWARDS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT FOR U.S. ROUTE 101 WILLITS BYPASS

EUREKA – Caltrans announced today that the construction contract to build the first phase of the Willits Bypass has been awarded to the partnership of DeSilva Gates Construction and Flatiron West Inc., for the amount of \$107 million. This project will relieve congestion, reduce delays, and improve safety for traffic and pedestrians along U.S. Route 101 through Willits in Mendocino County.

"Hundreds of Caltrans staff, many now retired, have worked tirelessly on this important project," said Charlie Fielder, Caltrans District 1 Director. "Awarding the construction contract is a huge milestone, and puts us not just a step closer to easing congestion and increasing safety through Willits, but also a step towards giving the city of Willits greater flexibility for the future development of its historic downtown."

This \$210 million highway improvement project is funded by \$136 million in Proposition 1B funds, the 2006 voter-approved transportation bond. In total, about \$14 billion in Proposition 1B funds have been distributed statewide.

"The Willits Bypass is a prime example of the type of infrastructure projects Proposition 1B was meant to fund," said Caltrans Director Malcolm Dougherty. "It will provide jobs and boost the local economy, and help to move motorists and goods along the north coast for years to come."

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