

Community-Based Transportation Planning Grants

Laytonville Traffic Calming and Downtown Revitalization

- **Grant Amount:** \$86,102
- **Grant Recipient:** Mendocino Council of Governments/Local Government Commission
- **County:** Mendocino

Project Area – The project will focus on an approximate 1.5 mile stretch of Laytonville along Highway 101 through downtown Laytonville, bounded by Steel Lane to the south and Gravier's Tire and Auto to the north.

Project Focus – With the planned Highway 101 bypass in Willits -- just 22 miles south of Laytonville – the future of Laytonville will be largely determined by how well the community is prepared for the resulting changes, namely increased potential for capturing more retail activity. Future economic vitality of the town is dependent upon growth, and yet growth must be balanced with the community's stated desire to retain its rural heritage and uniqueness. This will require context-sensitive solutions and coordination between existing and planned land use and transportation planning projects.

Project Goals – The proposed project would organize a highly participatory design workshop series – called a charrette – at which Laytonville community members, leaders of the Cahto Tribe and residents of the Rancheria, business owners, Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) staff, County staff, Caltrans staff, a design team and others can work together on a vision and plan for improving traffic safety and mobility,

supporting economic development, and beautifying downtown Laytonville along Highway 101.

Community Outreach – With the guidance of the Advisory Committee, the Local Government Commission organized a public process to provide guidance during the charrette. This included a multi-day series of focus group meetings, presentations and workshops that engaged all stakeholders in a variety of activities designed to elicit their concerns and suggestions. Over 160 people attended the opening presentation to share their vision and values. During the opening presentation, participants viewed a presentation that showed existing conditions and some potential solutions used in other communities.

Project Outcome – The Laytonville Traffic Calming and Downtown Revitalization plan summarizes the results of a charrette and provides an overview of past planning efforts, community vision and goals and upcoming transportation projects in the downtown area. The Laytonville charrette was conducted to produce a conceptual plan for calming traffic along Highway 101, beautifying downtown Laytonville, improving the business climate, and improving walking, bicycling and equestrian conditions. These changes are intended to help revitalize the community by making it a more appealing place to walk, shop, gather, and do business.

Planning Goals Realized –

- Foster neighborhoods and project designs that enable more walking and biking
- Reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality