

State of California  
Business, Transportation and Housing Agency  
Department of Transportation

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MODAL ISSUES  
Status Report on Eureka Non-Freeway  
Alternative Projects  
Information Item

CTC Meeting: March 28-29, 2001

Agenda Item: 5.2

### **STATUS REPORT ON EUREKA NON-FREEWAY ALTERNATIVES PROJECT**

At the July 19, 2000, Highway and Interregional Mobility Committee (HIMC) meeting, Mr. Brent Siemer, City Engineer for the City of Eureka, presented the status of the Eureka Non-Freeway Alternatives Project. The Committee Chairman asked Mr. Siemer to return in March, 2001 and present a project status update to the HIMC.

This update will be presented at the Commission meeting because the HIMC will not meet in March. Mr. Siemer asked the Department to forward the attached letter and report to the Commission.

Attachment

(George, IDIR)



# CITY OF EUREKA

**CITY ENGINEER/PUBLIC WORKS**

**Brent Siemer, Director**

531 K Street • Eureka, California 95501-1165 • (707) 441-4191

March 2, 2001

Ms. Jan Bulinski  
District Local Assistance Engineer  
Department of Transportation  
District 1  
P.O. Box 3700  
Eureka, CA 95502-3700

Subject: Non-Freeway Project Status report for the  
Highway & Interregional Mobility Committee of the  
California Transportation Commission

Dear Ms. Bulinski,

On July 19, 2000, the Highway & Interregional Mobility Committee met in South Lake Tahoe. At that meeting, Caltrans presented a "Timeline and History for the Eureka Bypass". I attended that meeting at the request of District 1 Deputy Director Ms. Cheryl Willis.

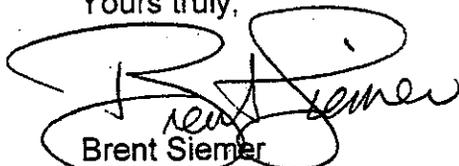
After a brief presentation by Caltrans staff, the Committee Chairman asked various questions about the proposed Waterfront Drive Extension delivery schedule. At that point, I came forward to respond to questions. The Chairman asked whether the City of Eureka could complete the Project Study Report (PSR) by March, 2001. I promised him, "We will try." The Chairman then told me that he expected to see me back before his committee in March 2001.

I have already made arrangements to be present at the Highway & Interregional Mobility Committee on March 28<sup>th</sup>. At that time, I am prepared to make a full presentation on the progress of our two Non-Freeway Alternative Projects and provide copies of all documents produced as of that date. I can also remain for the full CTC meeting if that is necessary as I have family in Fresno.

We were not able to muster the additional personnel resources necessary for a six month acceleration in PSR delivery. The City of Eureka is committed to \$30,000,000 in Capital Improvement Program projects that can not spare resources. However, we are still on target with our original Waterfront Drive Extension Project delivery schedule.

Please forward a copy of this letter and the attachments to CTC for inclusion if appropriate in the Highway & Interregional Mobility Committee agenda packet. I would also appreciate your assistance in determining when and before whom I am to make my presentation.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brent Siemer", is written over a circular stamp or seal.

Brent Siemer  
City Engineer/Public Works Director

Attachments

Cc: David Tyson, City Manager  
Kurt Gierlich, Deputy City Engineer  
Lisa Shikany, Environmental Planner  
Rick Knapp, District 1 Director  
Cheryl Willis, District 1 Deputy Director  
Spencer Clifton, Executive Director, Humboldt County  
Association of Governments

file

**Report to the  
California Transportation Commission  
Highway & Interregional Mobility Committee**

**for the  
City of Eureka  
Non-Freeway Alternatives Project**

**March 1, 2001**

**1. 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> Streets at "V" Street Project**

**Status**

The project is on schedule and also well within budget.

**Background**

In September of 1999, Caltrans District 1 completed the Project Study Report (PSR) for this project. The City of Eureka determined that a majority of the work would involve city streets. It was also discovered that the City could also deliver the project one year earlier. Therefore, the City of Eureka completed a Supplemental PSR in November, 1999, that made the City the lead agency for this project.

In July 2000, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved the City of Eureka programming Supplemental PSR for this project. The City has since changed the working title of this project to the "V" Street Project since that more accurately reflects the scope and location of work. Completion of the environmental documentation is anticipated in September of this year. The "V" Street Environmental Review Schedule is attached.

The Preliminary Environmental Study (PES) is nearly complete and will be submitted to the Office of Local Assistance. It is anticipated that the Early Coordination Meeting will be held during the week of March 12<sup>th</sup>.

Caltrans invited the City staff to a recent Project Delivery Team (PDT) meeting for the 5<sup>th</sup> and R Streets and Myrtle Avenue Project. This SHOPP project is just four blocks away. Completion of the Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Document (PA&ED) for this project is scheduled for February, 2002. It would appear that the PA&ED for "V" Street is leading by about 5 months. Both projects will incorporate relevant issues of the other project in their independent environmental documents.

We are currently working with Caltrans staff to schedule a kick-off Project Delivery Team meeting for the week of March 12th.

## **2. Waterfront Drive Extension Project**

### **Status**

The project is on schedule and also well within budget

### **Background**

This project has been renamed the "Broadway Traffic Congestion Relief Project." We currently have a complete Administrative Draft of the PSR. This draft is lacking only final right-of-way estimates and a programming schedule. We plan to have these two tasks finished by March 9<sup>th</sup> when we will issue the Draft PSR.

Most recently, we coordinated a meeting with most of the affected resource agencies including Ms. Jan Bulinski, our District 1 Local Assistance Engineer, on February 2, 2000. At this meeting, we presented the purpose and need statement and the preferred project. There were only three issues raised at this meeting, all of them environmentally oriented. Two of these issues involved the Palco Marsh wetland impacts which are adjacent to a portion of this project. We have revised the preferred project to avoid the Marsh and the wetlands.

The third and last issue involved the possible movement of fauna across the new roadway, although there is no evidence such currently exists. Even so, we will provide adequate time and resources during preparation of the environmental document to look at this and the prior two issues.

We have determined that at this time, there are no fatal flaws in the preferred project. The preferred project is deliverable.

On March 20, 2001, the City Council will hold a publicly advertised meeting to present the PSR and obtain approval to submit it to the Humboldt County Association of Governments (HCAOG) for programming approval. I fully intend to provide a report of the City Council's action. I will also present a copy of the Draft PSR at the March 28th meeting.

Our current schedule is as follows:

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Delivery Date</b>
Complete the Draft PSR	February 28, 2001
Meet with affected property owners	March 1-15, 2001
Publicly noticed City Council Meeting	March 20, 2001
Submit PSR for regional programming approval	March 23, 2001
HCAOG TAC meeting	April 17, 2001
HCAOG Board meeting	April 26, 2001
Submit PSR to Caltrans for CTC approval	May 1, 2001
<b>If HCAOG requires changes to PSR programming</b>	
Return to City Council for approval of revised PSR	May 1, 2001
Submit revised PSR for regional programming approval	May 2, 2001
HCAOG TAC meeting	May 15, 2001
HCAOG Board meeting	May 24, 2001
Submit PSR to Caltrans for CTC approval	June 1, 2001

Even in the worst case, we are well within the original schedule for submittal of the PSR programming proposal in June, 2001.

Some concerns have apparently been raised that the City of Eureka has delayed delivery of the Waterfront Drive Extension Project by 6 months. Our original delivery schedule for the Waterfront Drive Extension Project was as follows:

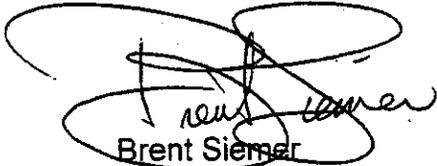
<b>Activity</b>	<b>Delivery Date</b>
Initiate Preparation of PSR	July, 2000
<i>PA&amp;ED Allocation Request</i>	<i>June, 2001</i>
Circulate Draft Environmental Document	August, 2003
Issue Final Environmental Document	December, 2003
<i>PS&amp;E and ROW Allocation Request</i>	<i>December, 2003</i>
Ready to List	October, 2004
<i>Construction Allocation Request</i>	<i>October, 2004</i>
Construction Complete	November, 2005

This schedule was developed in consideration of our wet north coast winters. It does us no good to begin construction in the middle of winter. The Construction Allocation Request was projected for October, 2004. It takes about three months to receive both CTC and Federal authorization. Therefore, we anticipated Federal authorization

sometime in January of 2005. The planned sequence up to construction is still as follows:

Activity	Delivery Date
Submit Construction Allocation Request	October, 2004
Begin Advertising for Bids (3 months after request)	January, 2005
Bid Opening	February, 2005
City Council Awards Contract	April, 2005
Issue Notice to Proceed	May, 2005
Construction Begins (2-4 weeks later)	May, 2005

Respectfully submitted,



Brent Siemer

City Engineer/Public Works Director  
[bsiemer@eurekaweb.com](mailto:bsiemer@eurekaweb.com)

