

COUNTY OF NEVADA
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS



Heidi Hall
Supervisor, 1st District
Email: heidi.hall@co.nevada.ca.us

NEVADA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
Board Agenda Memo

MEETING DATE: October 24, 2017

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: **Heidi Hall, District I Supervisor**

SUBJECT: Presentations from Caltrans and Save Highway 174 on State Route 174 Safety Improvement Project

RECOMMENDATION: Accept Caltrans update presentation on State Route 174 Safety Improvement Project and Save Highway 174 presentation on the community's concerns over State Route Safety Improvement Project.

FUNDING: N/A

BACKGROUND:

Caltrans has proposed, developed and approved a safety improvement project on State Route (SR) 174 with a cost of \$28.4 million. The project will realign several curves, widen shoulders, add a southbound left-turn pocket at Greenhorn Access Road intersection, and widen the Clear Recovery Zone (CRZ) on SR 174 from Maple Way to You Bet Road, post mile (PM) 2.7 to PM 4.6 in Nevada County. The purpose of the project is to improve safety conditions along the highway. Specifically, the project will bring the section of road up to a design standard that requires 12' wide lanes, 8' wide shoulders, and 20' CRZ beyond the lane line on each side of the highway. Any fixed objects, such as trees or utility poles located within the CRZ will be removed. The project is beginning its Right-of-Way Acquisition Process to purchase resident's existing property along the stretch of impacted highway. The justification for the project arose out of a study that Caltrans did on SR 174 which determined that the fatal accident rate on SR 174 is 5.6 times higher than the statewide average in comparison to similar stretches of road, and the total accident rate is 2.7 times the statewide average. The Caltrans Project Manager has indicated that the project data was across a period of only three (3) years from 2010-2013.

On July 11, 2017, the Board of Supervisors authorized the Chair to submit a letter to Caltrans District 3 Director, Ray Zhang, outlining the community's concerns, including the addition of an 8 foot paved shoulder on the road and the removal of over 100 trees and vegetation that act as natural buffers from the road in the 20' CRZ. These concerns may affect resident's property values, quality of life and leave them feeling vulnerable. A local walking and bicycling trail that is maintained by the Bear Yuba Land Trust may also be jeopardized by the project. Additionally, concerns were raised that the data used to justify this project was from too small a time period of only three years and that additional data should be reviewed from other years to ensure that accident data used to justify the project is accurate. Community members also have formed a coalition called Save Highway 174 to act as a community voice regarding the community's concerns over the project.

In an effort to better understand what Caltrans is doing to address and mitigate the community's concerns, I have requested Caltrans provide a presentation to update the Board of Supervisors and members of the public on the SR 174 Safety Improvement project. Moreover, I have also asked the Save Highway 174 representative Joe Heckel to also provide a presentation outlining the community's concerns. In response, Caltrans offered to have District 3 Deputy Director Project/Program Management Tom Brannon and Project Manager Jonathan Pray provide an update presentation to the Board of Supervisors and members of the public. Additionally, Save Highway 174 representative has offered to provide a presentation on the community's concerns.

As such, I respectfully request that Caltrans and Save Highway 174 provide the Board of Supervisors and members of the public with an update on SR 174 Safety Improvement Project in response to the Board's letter dated June 11, 2017 and outline the community's concerns, respectfully.

Respectfully submitted,



Heidi Hall
Board of Supervisor, District I