



August 30, 2018

Ms. Heidi Hall, District 1 Supervisor
Eric Rood Administration Center
950 Maidu Avenue
Nevada City, CA 95959

SUBJECT: Request from Save Highway 174 Group for September 11, 2018 Meeting

Dear Supervisor Hall;

Our organization, Save Highway 174, is aware that the California Department of Transportation (Cal-Trans) will provide a presentation to the Board of Supervisors on the status of the State Highway 174 project on September 11, 2018. The intent of this letter is to convey our thoughts and suggestions on this presentation and the current design.

It was almost a year ago when the Board last reviewed this project and adopted Resolution #17-552, which requested Caltrans to "re-evaluate" this project and listed specific measures for addressing community concerns. We believe there has been progress, but wish to offer our perspective for how Caltrans is or is not addressing the Board's directive in Resolution #17-552. For your September 11 meeting, we would request the Board to consider the following points:

1. Save Highway 174 wishes to acknowledge the progressive design changes by Caltrans since October 2017, particularly in lessening the right-of-way width, but we can confirm there are still strong concerns from our members as to the magnitude and validity of this project. We would like the opportunity to share with the Board why some of these concerns remain and highlight which ones have the potential of being addressed for the betterment of the County.
2. A Subcommittee of our organization has been periodically meeting with Caltrans representatives and offering suggestions on how the design can better fit the neighborhood and its scenic qualities. The Subcommittee received a set of revised plans in June 2018 and developed a set of preliminary recommendations. These measures are similar to what would be applied to a development and/or road project if completed by a private party in our County. The revised road design and the Subcommittee recommendations were shared with the organization in a public forum on August 22, 2018. The recommendations are as follows.
 - A. Allow flexibility in 40' paved section in safer portions (i.e. specifically narrowing the paved shoulders from 8' to 5' in certain safer sections);
 - B. Survey Heritage Oaks / Groves and indigenous trees greater than 24" dbh in Right-of-Way (ROW) and within 30-feet (min) of ROW;
 - C. Prepare Tree-Protection Plan for important trees identified in the Survey area, particularly in the Temporary Construction Easement (TCE) areas;

- D. Prepare Landscape Plan for graded / denuded ROW & TCE areas;
- E. Install traffic calming measures to slow traffic speeds; and
- F. Construct paved shoulders to bicycle lane standards.

These recommendations are not all-inclusive. Like any complex construction project, we anticipate additional issues will arise as the project progresses. We wish to have Caltrans continue to work with us throughout the entire process. Our organization can assure the Board that there is rationale and support for implementing each of the measures above. It is our understanding that Caltrans has agreed to comply with "F" above and perhaps work toward some level of traffic calming in "E". For the September 11 meeting, our organization would respectfully request the Board to support these measures and provide direction to Caltrans staff to continue to work with us to implement them.

3. We wish to request an opportunity to present our position and perspective about the project, as now revised, to the Board on **October 23, 2018** (or a mutually agreed upon date). This request is being made as our organization has not had sufficient opportunity to collate and summarize the comments from our August 22 forum and a majority of our Executive Committee will be unavailable on September 11. A number of the points raised in this letter can be further clarified and substantiated.


Our organization seeks your assistance with our suggestions listed above. It is also our understanding that the Board would not be taking any action on this project on September 11, hopefully allowing for a broader discussion on October 23 or later.

The Executive Committee of Save Highway 174 can assure you and the Board that we support reasonable safety improvements to the roadway. It has been our goal that all safety solutions for Highway 174 need to be balanced against our local scenic and historic values, while minimally impacting residents through loss of land or increased noise, glare and light. Our organization, as attested by the signatures of our Executive Committee, looks forward to your response to your response.

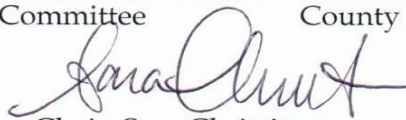
Sincerely,



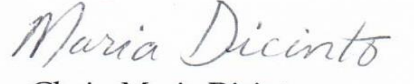

Chair, David L. Magney
 Steering Committee


Chair, David L. Magney
 Environmental Impact Committee


Chair, Sara Christiansen
 Safety Committee


Chair, Sara Christiansen
 Communication Committee


Co-Chairs, Joe Heckel & Jeff Henninger
 County / State Negotiation Committee


Chair, Maria Dicinto
 Scenic Highway Committee

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cc: Members, Save Highway 174
 Dan Landon, Executive Director, NCTC

Members, Nevada County Board of Supervisors
 Jonathan Pray, Project Manager, Caltrans