



Department of Transportation (MCDOT)

Director's Report – November 14, 2016

• **Caltrans Proposed Speed Zone Change State Route Highway 128, Philo:**

The Mendocino County Director of Transportation (the Director) has reviewed an offer by the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to the County of Mendocino to conduct a public hearing for a proposed speed zone change. The proposal is to modify existing zone segments on State Route Highway 128, north and south of Philo, between mile post (MP) 22.10 and MP 23.70. The existing 30 miles per hour (MPH) zone would be raised to 35 MPH and the half mile segments on each end of the 35 mph zone would be lowered from the current 55 MPH to 45 MPH.

Caltrans has conducted the engineering studies required by the California Vehicle Code and the proposed speed limit will be legally enforceable by the California Highway Patrol. Therefore, it is the opinion of the Director, that a public meeting is not necessary. With the consent of the Board of Supervisors, as implied by no comments to this report, I will provide the necessary response to the Caltrans Traffic Safety Office by December 7, 2016.

• **Main Street and Kasten Street, Mendocino – Projects Update:**

The construction of the Americans with Disabilities Act Ramp project is ongoing as weather permits – a completion date of December 15, 2016 is still hoped for.

The *Schlosser, Newberger Architects*, designed stair project received comments from the Mendocino Historical Review Board (MHRB) at their meeting last week. Schlosser, Newberger Architects will make formal application at the December MHRB meeting. Upon approval by MHRB, construction of the stairs will proceed in January or February of 2017.

• **Seasonal Road Closures:** Announcements were sent out to emergency service providers and stakeholders on our notification list. County residents were advised of the October 13, 2016, of seasonal road closures for the following four County maintained road segments:

- Fort Bragg Sherwood Road; County Road (CR) 419, MP 5.08 - MP 27.54
- Ten Mile Road; CR 506, MP 0.18 - MP 1.68
- Usal Road; CR 431, MP 6.26 - MP 24.30
- Navarro Ridge Road; CR 518, MP 8.82 - MP 13.10

Seasonal road closures usually happen from November 15th to December 1st. This earlier-than-normal seasonal road closure was done by the Director pursuant to Streets and Highways Code § 942.5 (b), *for the protection of such county highway from damage during storms*.

The Mendocino County Department of Transportation (MCDOT) does this until the normal closure date when significant rains arrive sooner than anticipated. Since MCDOT started the program in 2002, we have received recognition from resource agencies that the seasonal road closures serve as a means to minimize erosion and sediment delivery to water courses. However, certain "4-wheel drive" clubs have complained this year, so MCDOT will bring clarification regarding the seasonal road closures before the Board of Supervisors soon to clarify the 2002 operational policy.