

DRAFT

May XX, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Humboldt County Briceland Road/Shelter Cove Road Rehabilitation and Paving Project

Dear Senator Padilla:

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I'm writing to urge you to support our County's request for \$8,000,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Briceland Road/Shelter Cove Road Rehabilitation and Paving Project.

Humboldt County is seeking to repair 10 miles of roadway that provides access to the King Range National Conservation Area (NCA), which is under the purview of the Bureau of Land Management. These roads provide coastal access and are ingress and egress through a high-fire area and are a primary evacuation route for the population of the Shelter Cove community and surrounding areas. Unfortunately, critical incident response times are slowed due to the deteriorated condition of the roadway.

Humboldt County currently has a deferred maintenance backlog totaling approximately \$250 million and expends road funding as judiciously as possible. A priority for our County's Department of Public Works is addressing the needs at Briceland Road/Shelter Cove Road. Once completed, this project will improve public safety, access to natural resources, and will provide reduced sedimentation to improve water quality.

Notably, this important project is included in the Regional Transportation Plan of the Humboldt County Association of Governments. Furthermore, Humboldt County has committed to financing the 20 percent local match that would be required for this type of Federal-aid highway project.

Again, Humboldt County strongly supports this project and we urge you to seek fiscal year 2022 appropriations to help fund this important work.

Sincerely,

Virginia Bass, Chair
Humboldt County Board of Supervisors

Project Name

Briceland Road/ Shelter Cove Road Rehabilitation and Paving

Is the Project on the National Highway System?

No

Total estimated cost of project and breakdown of funding sources (Detail all local, state and/or private funds. Are these funds secured, expected, or you are still seeking?)

\$10,000,000 in Federal Funds is requested.

Federal Funding Amount Requested:

\$10,000,000

Identify the specific segment for which project funding is being sought, including terminus points

Briceland Road (F5A010) areas between Post Mile 0.00 and Post Mile 11.45, Shelter Cove Road (C4A010) areas between Post Mile 0.00 and Post Mile 9.40.

Description of the Project

Repair 10 miles of road within listed post miles. These roads provide Access to Bureau of Land Management King Range conservation area, these roads provide coastal access, and are ingress and egress through a high fire area. These roads are a Primary evacuation route for the population of the Shelter Cove community and surrounding areas

Project Justification

The County has an estimated deferred maintenance backlog of approximately \$250,000,000 and expends those funds as judiciously as possible. These two roads serve as a critical route connecting Highway 101 to the Kings Range Conservation area, the community of Shelter Cove, and for access to the California coast. This route serves a large expanse of the County but also serves fire response in the area. Responses are slowed due to the bad condition of the road.

Is the project part of the State's long-range plan?

No

Is the project included in the metropolitan and/or State Transportation Improvement Program?

It is included in the Humboldt County Association of Governments Regional Transportation Improvement Program.

A description of the process that has been or will be followed to provide an opportunity for public comment on the project.

A public meeting will be held in the community to discuss the projects and hear community concerns that may be incorporated.

Describe the economic, environmental, congestion mitigation and safety benefits associated with the completion of the project. Describe the public benefit.

Reduced sedimentation to improve water quality, safety improvements to include enhanced striping and signing. Public access to the Kings Range Conservation Area and the California coastline will be improved.

What is the proposed schedule and status of work on the project? What is the current stage of development of the project? (planning, final design, construction). Will the requested funding for the project be obligated within the next six years?

If funded, the proposed project would be in construction within three years.

Has the project already received funding through the State's federal-aid highway or transit formula apportionments or from other Federal, state, local or private funds? If yes, how much and from what source?

No. The road has received significant federal and state funding for storm damage repairs.

Has the project received funding in previous federal legislation? If so, please cite the act(s), and amount(s) authorized.

No.

NEPA category of action (e.g. Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment, Environmental Impact Statement)

Categorical Exclusion.

Status of environmental review

Not yet started.

If the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure chose to fund this project, please provide a very short legal description of the project as you would like it to appear in the bill. For example, "Highway 101 road improvements from Main Street to First Street, Everytown, CA."

Briceland Road/ Shelter Cove Road Rehabilitation and Paving to improve public access to the Kings Range Conservation Area and the California coast.

Agency: Humboldt County Department of Public Works

Project: Briceland Road (F5A010) PM 0.00 to PM 11.45 & Shelter Cove Road (C4A010) PM 0.00 to PM 9.4

Budget Breakdown:

Revenue Source		Project Budget	Comments
Fed/Local	\$1,000,000	Preliminary Engineering	Plans and specifications
Fed/Local	\$7,500,000	Construction	Cost of Construction
Fed/Local	\$1,500,000	Construction Engineering	Construction management and oversight
	\$10,000,000	Total funding needed	
	\$2,000,000	County match (20%)	
	\$8,000,000	Federal aid (80%)	