

**DRAFT**

May XX, 2021

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

**RE: Humboldt County Garberville Complete Streets Project (Redwood Drive)**

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 \$6,860,000 in Congressionally Directed Funding for the Garberville Complete Streets Project. Funding for this project would be used to improve, retrofit and reconstruct existing sidewalks and roadway on Redwood Drive to provide safe and convenient travel by all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transit.

Redwood Drive, which runs through Garberville, has the highest average daily traffic load in Southern Humboldt County. Current counts in the reach of road addressed by this project are approximately 9,800 vehicles per day. An average of five accidents occurs annually on this stretch of road, making it one of the higher accident zones on the County road system.

Humboldt County has completed improvements on all other sections of Redwood Drive, including replacing a narrow, functionally obsolete concrete arch bridge over Bear Gulch with a wider bridge that is capable of handling the growth of motorist, pedestrian, and bicyclist usage. The Garberville portion of Redwood Drive is characterized by pedestrian and vehicular congestion, deteriorating roadway surfaces, insufficient pedestrian facilities, higher speeds due to on/off ramps, and a budding business hub for much of the greater southern Humboldt area. A complete streets solution has the opportunity to improve the safety of the business loop corridor that is shared by motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians.

In addition to safety and capacity improvements, this project will yield economic benefits, as it is a gateway project for both Mendocino County on the South-Bound Highway 101 and Humboldt County for North-Bound Highway 101. It should be noted that this 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**

*Garberville Complete Streets: Vehicle, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Improvements in Garberville Between PM 0.00 and PM 0.50.*

**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?)**

*6.0 million*

**Federal Funding Amount Requested:**

*Full Amount*

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

*Redwood Drive from the southerly terminus (Post Mile 0.00) at SH101 to the SH101 on-ramp at the north end of Garberville (Post Mile 0.50).*

**Description of the Project**

*The Garberville Complete Streets Project purpose is to improve, retrofit and reconstruct existing sidewalks and roads to provide safe and convenient travel by all users including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists, and public transit.*

**Project Justification**

*Redwood Drive has the highest average daily traffic load in Southern Humboldt. Current counts in the reach addressed by this project study report are approximately 9,800 vehicles per day.*

*An average of 5 accidents occurs annually on this stretch of road, making it one of the higher accident zones in the County road system.*

*The County has completed improvements on all other sections of Redwood Drive including a bridge project over Bear Gulch which replaced a narrow, functionally obsolete concrete arch bridge with a wider bridge and capable of handling the growth of motorist, pedestrian and bicyclist usage. The Garberville portion of Redwood Drive is characterized by pedestrian and vehicular congestion, deteriorating roadway surface, insufficient pedestrian facilities, higher speeds due to on/off ramps, and a budding business hub for much of the greater southern Humboldt area. A complete streets solution has an opportunity to improve the safety of the business loop corridor that is shared by motorists, bicyclists and pedestrians.*

**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?**

*HCAOG RTIP*

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

*The County's engineering consultant, Mark Thomas and Company performed a stakeholders project walkthrough and has held a Public outreach workshop.*

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

- *Improve non-motorist public safety. Pedestrians and bicyclists safety*
- *Economic – gateway project for both Mendocino County on the South-Bound Highway 101 and Humboldt County for North-Bound Highway 101*
- *Improve local economy by tourist appeal.*

**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?**

- *July 2021 -Construction Funded*
- *January 2022 - Environmental: NEPA CE*
- *December 2022 - Finalized PS&E*
- *February 2023 -Advertise for construction*
- *June 2023 Begin Construction*

**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?**

*Yes – \$226,000 from STIP*

**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)**

*NEPA Categorical Exclusion*

**Status of environmental review**

*June 2019 - CEQA determination*

*July 2021 – NEPA begin with PES and studies*

**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.”**

*Garberville Complete Street Projects*

**Agency:** Humboldt County Department of Public Works  
**Project:** Redwood Drive (6B105) PM 0.00 to PM 0.50 (Downtown Garberville)

**Budget Breakdown:**

<b>Revenue Source</b>	<b>Project Budget</b>	<b>Comments</b>
State	\$50,000	Project Development
State	\$176,000	Preliminary Design
Fed/Local	\$575,000	Design
Fed/Local	\$7,000,000	Construction
Fed/Local	\$1,000,000	Construction Oversight (15%)
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	\$8,801,000	Total
	(\$226,000)	Minus State funds received to date
	\$8,575,000	Total funding needed
	\$1,715,000	County match (20%)
	\$6,860,000	Federal aid (80%)