



November 29, 2023

Abbie Strickland
Transportation Program Analyst
California Coastal Commission

via email: abigail.strickland@coastal.ca.gov

RE: Eureka South Broadway Complete Streets Project (CDP Application No. 1-23-0773)

Ms. Strickland:

Our organizations strongly support the Eureka South Broadway Complete Streets Project (“project”), which seeks to improve safety and comfort for people walking, biking, rolling, and riding the bus in Eureka’s Broadway (US Highway 101) corridor. Broadway is currently the most dangerous street in Humboldt County for pedestrians and bicyclists, with tragically common collisions resulting in serious injuries and deaths. This safety crisis is a direct result of the design of the street. The project will significantly improve the street design, and in doing so will save lives. Because Broadway currently acts as a barrier to safe bike and pedestrian travel between Eureka’s residential neighborhoods and Humboldt Bay, the project will also improve access to the coast, including the California Coastal Trail segment known as the Hikshari’ Trail, the Elk River Estuary, and the Elk River Spit.

This project is in part a result of our organizations’ advocacy for near-term safety improvements to Broadway. In response, Caltrans District 1 has invited input and collaboration from our organizations throughout the project development process. We have provided numerous comments directly to District 1 staff, many of which have resulted in improvements to project design. We are grateful to District 1 staff for their collaboration and responsiveness.

Our organizations also support the proposed conditions of approval for the Coastal Development Permit, particularly Special Condition 1, which calls for a Multimodal Use Monitoring Report to assess the project’s effectiveness. We also request two additional minor conditions.

We agree with your staff's assessment that additional traffic calming beyond what is proposed in the project is both possible and desirable. We also agree that it would be significantly better to use hard barriers such as metal or concrete bollards to protect bicyclists, rather than the proposed flexible bollards. The proposed flexible bollards will have benefits for traffic calming and bicyclist comfort, but will provide no meaningful physical protection from high-speed traffic.

We also have concerns about the design of the improved bus stops. Currently, the project proposes bus pull-outs with passengers loading and unloading directly in the bike lane. We feel this could result in significant conflicts between bicyclists and transit riders, particularly transit riders using wheelchairs and those with hearing and/or vision impairments who may have trouble assessing approaching bike traffic. We request that the bus stops and surrounding streetscapes be redesigned to fix this problem by separating the bus loading/unloading zone from the bike lane while ensuring safety for all street users.

Therefore, we ask that you approve the Coastal Development Permit with staff's recommended conditions, along with the following two additional conditions:

1. Replace flexible bollards with solid bollards which can provide physical protection for bicyclists.
2. Redesign transit stops to separate bus loading/unloading zones from bicycle lanes and provide safe conditions for all street users at and near bus stops.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colin Fiske, Executive Director
Coalition for Responsible Transportation Priorities
145 G St, Suite A
Arcata, CA 95521
colin@transportationpriorities.org

Tom Wheeler, Executive Director and Staff Attorney
Environmental Protection Information Center (EPIC)
145 G St, Suite A
Arcata, CA 95521
tom@wildcalifornia.org

Jennifer Kalt, Director
Humboldt Waterkeeper
Office: 415 I Street in Arcata
Mail: 600 F Street, Suite 3 #810, Arcata, CA 95521
(707) 499-3678
jkalt@humboldtwaterkeeper.org

Caroline Griffith, Executive Director
Northcoast Environmental Center
PO Box 4259
Arcata, CA 95518
director@yournec.org