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Westport Municipal Advisory Council

P. O. Box 307, Westport, CA 95488
www.westportmac.org

September 22, 2009

Phil Dow, Executive Director
Mendocino Council of Governments
367 North State Street-Suite 206
Ukiah, CA 95482

Re: Highway Safety, Route 01-MEN-1 between Ten Mile Bridge and Rockport (PM 69.5-90.9)

Dear Mr. Dow,

Local citizens and community organizations have repeatedly brought issues related to traffic safety on State Highway 1 to the Westport Municipal Advisory Council. Those concerns focus on the section between Fort Bragg and Rockport, although the WMAC's sphere of influence covers only the portion from Post Miles 69.5 to 90.9. Our County mandate presently allows us to comment only to county agencies. We are therefore contacting MCOG in its capacity as the regional transportation planning agency.

Fort Bragg is the primary commercial center for people living and visiting the Westport area. In recent years traffic volumes have risen, with noticeable increases in recreational vehicle and bicycle traffic. The narrow road has inadequate width for those diverse users and the lack of paved pullouts and passing areas compounds the safety hazards associated with slower traffic. The September 2003 Route Concept Report for this stretch of Highway 1 assumes safety projects will be pursued on an ongoing basis. It also notes the highway is part of the Pacific Coast Bike Route, although no non-motorized facilities strategy was developed.

In the six years since the cited report was issued few improvements have been accomplished and conditions have significantly worsened. We ask that you place this matter on the agenda of the MCOG's regular October meeting for consideration and public input on this matter. Specific issues identified to the WMAC are provided in an attachment for your consideration and that of the MCOG Directors. We would appreciate advance notice of the meeting date and its published agenda so that we can advise concerned local citizens to participate.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Thad M. Van Bueren".

Thad M. Van Bueren, Chairperson

WMAC Attachment—Highway 1 Safety Concerns, Ten Mile Bridge to Rockport

Specific safety concerns identified by the public at WMAC meetings in 2008 and 2009:

- No Northbound passing lane between Fort Bragg and Westport
- No marked pullouts for slower traffic between Fort Bragg and Rockport
- No signage advising slower traffic to pull over between Fort Bragg and Rockport
- Inconsistent and poorly located speed limit signs in the Village of Westport
- No pedestrian walkways and only a single crosswalk in the Village of Westport
- Lack of signage for narrow, sharp, steep sections of roadway
- Lack of guardrails in some locations with negligible shoulder and steep cliffs adjacent
- Increasing numbers of large, slow recreation vehicle with drivers who are unfamiliar with the type of driving conditions they face
- No Daylight Headlight advisory in an area that can have significant daytime fog
- Mix of sightseers, bicycles, RVs, lumber and other commercial trucking on narrow and winding roads
- No signage, bicycle lanes, or other accommodations for bicycles, even though this section of highway is designated part of the Pacific Coast Bicycle Route and is subject to heavy use in dry months of the year
- Generally increasing volumes of all types of traffic