



CONNECTING COMMUNITIES
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SAN LUIS OBISPO | SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY

January 18, 2024.

California Transportation Commission
Division of Right of Way and Land Surveys
1120 N Street, MS 37
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Resolution of Necessity for the Wellsona Rd / US 101 Safety Improvement Project

Dear Members of the California Transportation Commission,

I am writing to express the full support of the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) for the Resolution of Necessity proposed by Caltrans District 5 for the Wellsona Rd / US 101 Safety Improvement Project. I would like to bring to your attention key points that underline our endorsement of this crucial safety initiative.

1. Consistency with SHOPP Program:

SLOCOG's Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) consistently characterizes the improvement in alignment with the Department's State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), which serves as the funding source for the project. This alignment reflects our commitment to securing the necessary funding for safety improvements.

2. Financially Constrained Improvement:

While our long-range plan (2023 RTP) uses the term "interchange" and "financially constrains" safety improvements at this at-grade intersection on US 101, the constrained amount has always aligned with the SHOPP funding for the grade-separated underpass. When SLOCOG uses the term "interchange," the term signifies a commitment to implementing access and safety improvements, a context well understood by our Board. It does not imply an overpass.

3. Potential Amendment to 2023 RTP:

In the spirit of transparency and full alignment with our programming documents, SLOCOG is willing to amend our 2023 RTP in April of this year if needed. This amendment would reflect the financially constrained improvement as an "undercrossing", demonstrating our commitment to cost-effective and immediate solutions. Our short-term financial programming refers to "road safety improvements; improve safety by constructing an undercrossing."

4. Participation in Sustainable Freight Corridor Study:

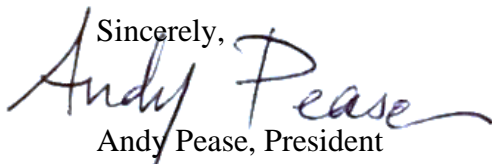
SLOCOG is actively participating with Central Coast partners in developing a Sustainable Freight Corridor Study. The study examines safe parking for semi-trucks and considers needs along the US 101 corridor, including potential safe-parking opportunities to the north along Wild Horse Rd, south of King City, and north of the San Paso Truck Stop by 43 miles.

5. Non Self-Help County and Cost-Effective Solutions:

As a non-self-help county, SLOCOG strives to collaborate with Caltrans District 5 on SHOPP projects by leveraging our discretionary funds when mutual improvements are possible. Given our limited regional financial resources, we strongly advocate for cost-effective solutions that address the safety deficiencies at Wellsona Rd. and US 101 while respecting the rural character of north San Luis Obispo County by constructing an underpass at this location, while balancing the needs of small business owners in the region.

In conclusion, SLOCOG wholeheartedly supports the Caltrans Resolution of Necessity as proposed for the Wellsona Rd / US 101 Safety Improvement Project. We appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to the successful implementation of this vital safety improvement project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Andy Pease". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the left of the typed name.

Andy Pease, President
San Luis Obispo Council of Governments