



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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To: Mendocino County News Media

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Polls: Streets & Roads Need Repair

A recently completed preliminary report by a public opinion research firm indicates that voters in unincorporated Mendocino County and voters in Ukiah share a common issue. Both groups consider the condition of local streets and roads a serious concern.

Telephone interview surveys conducted between January 6 and January 19 by William Berry Campaigns show strong support for fixing potholes, repaving and repairing county roads and city streets. In the countywide survey of 400 voters, nearly 80% of survey respondents considered the state of repair of the County road system as a serious problem. The 300 voters interviewed in Ukiah showed that over 88% of respondents believe the condition of Ukiah city streets is a serious problem.

Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) commissioned the survey work on behalf of County of Mendocino and the City of Ukiah through its annual Transportation Planning Work Program. Both governmental agencies have become increasingly concerned over declining pavement conditions in recent years.

Regarding funding for fixing potholes, repaving, and repairing streets and roads, survey respondents revealed strong support for a one-half cent local sales tax dedicated toward this purpose. In Ukiah, over 63% showed support for a measure to repave, repair and improve Ukiah's street to fix potholes and improve bicycle, pedestrian, and vehicle safety. A similar question posed in this survey to unincorporated voters indicated a 66% favorable response to fixing County roads with a one-half cent sales tax.

The final report, to be released within the next few days, will be reviewed by the Ukiah City Council and Mendocino County Board of Supervisors. These elected bodies will determine whether they intend to pursue measures on the November 2016 ballot to implement sales taxes for street/road repair in their respective jurisdictions.

MCOG formed as a joint powers agreement in 1972, as mandated by state law, to disburse state and federal funds for transportation, to provide regional planning, and to serve as a regional forum. MCOG is overseen by a board consisting of two county supervisors, a countywide public appointee, and one council member from each of the four incorporated cities. For more information, call the MCOG office at 463-1859 or consult the agency's web site at www.mendocinocog.org.

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