



MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

Agenda # 13d1

Reports

MCOG Meeting

12/5/2016

STAFF REPORT

TITLE: US 101 Bypass of Willits

DATE PREPARED: 11/22/16

MEETING DATE: 12/05/16

SUBMITTED BY: Phillip J. Dow, Executive Director

BACKGROUND:

Having had its main arterial clogged for decades, the “Heart of Mendocino County” received a bypass on November 3, 2016. An opening ceremony and dedication planned and directed by Caltrans attracted a crowd estimated at 1,000 to the event.

Preceded by several local events on the bypass, emcee Betsy Totten led off a ceremony that included speakers Charlie Fielder (recently retired Caltrans District 1 Director), Caltrans Director Malcom Dougherty, Congressman Mike Thompson, Willits Mayor Bruce Burton, myself, Justin Diston (Operating Engineers, Local 3), and Flat Iron Construction District Manager Mike Costa.

Three long time supporters of the project from the California Transportation Commission were also in attendance: Commissioner Jim Ghielmetti, Commissioner Bob Alvarado, and Commissioner James Earp. Most of the MCOG staff also were present.

Immediately following the opening ceremony, Assemblymember Jim Wood and a contingent of Navy SEALs were on hand for the dedication of the viaduct structure as the *JESSE D PITTMAN SOI NAVY SEAL MEMORIAL BRIDGE*. A Willits native and former fire fighter, Jesse died in a helicopter crash while serving in Afghanistan.

Although construction is complete on the bypass itself, work is continuing on four related projects known as the “Child Projects.” These are:

1. Project No. 125W: Willits Bypass Relinquishment – scheduled for construction in FY 17/18
2. Project No. 125X: Wetland/Riparian Mitigation – ongoing work
3. Project No. 125Y: Ryan Creek Coho Salmon Mitigation – ongoing work
4. Project No. 125Z: Sherwood Road Geometric Upgrade – scheduled for construction in FY 17/18.

ACTION REQUIRED: None.

ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

RECOMMENDATION: This is intended as an information item.

ACTION REQUIRED: None.

ALTERNATIVES: None identified.

RECOMMENDATION: This is intended as an information item.

Willits Bypass northbound: Southern Interchange



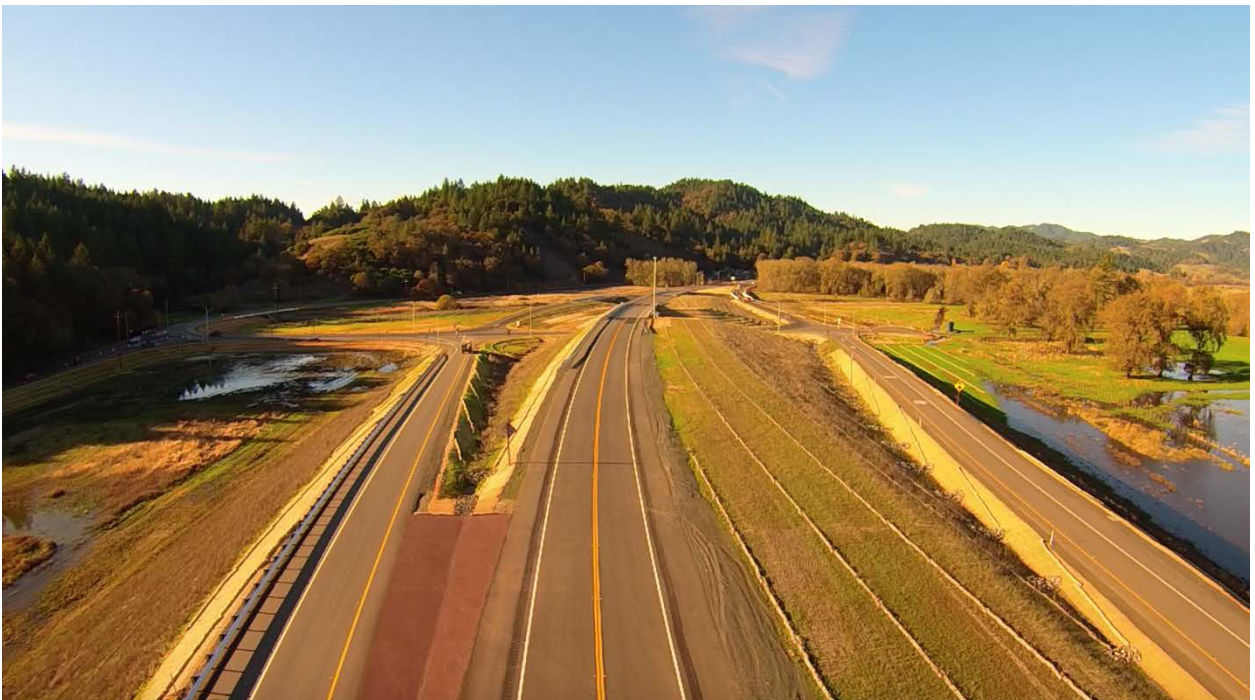
Floodway Viaduct



Floodway Viaduct



Approaching the Northern Interchange



Passing through the Northern Interchange



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CALTRANS CONSTRUCTION

November 2, 2016

MENDOCINO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS