

## **Summary of Final Report**

**Organization Name:** Economic Development Division, County of Humboldt

**Project Title:** National Highway Network Access for Humboldt

**Amount of Grant Award:** \$50,000

**Date of Final Report:** September 20, 2010

### **1. What were the project goals and were they achieved?**

- Articulate and support need for STAA truck access into Humboldt County on Highways 299 and 101 to state and federal government.
- Gain state and federal fund allocations for projects to upgrade the access to STAA on Highways 299 and 101.
- Work with and support business community to articulate the impacts to their businesses of STAA restrictions.
- Define economic impacts through impacts to business locally.
- Advocate for projects to upgrade STAA access.
- Work with Caltrans to support projects that will upgrade STAA access.

### **2. What were the activities undertaken and accomplishments through the completion of this grant?**

- Raised funds from business community to advocate for STAA access on Highway 299.
- Hired lobbying firm to secure transportation funds to upgrade Highway 299 (Buckhorn Grade).
- Worked with Caltrans and participated in safety committee to develop project to improve Highway 101 at Confusion Hill and Richardson Grove.
- Published report entitled "Route 101 Safety and Commerce Study".
- Conducted survey of businesses regarding impact of STAA restriction.
- Coordinated with CA State University at Chico on data and access to business owners in Humboldt County for interviews in preparation of a report for Caltrans.
- Produced Business Leader Luncheon on Richardson Grove project with Caltrans and business owners.
- Provided information to business owners, Caltrans and public on Richardson Grove project, business and economic impact.
- Responded to public information requests from the public, telephone calls from business owners and members of the public regarding the Richardson Grove project.
- Provided information to media on business impacts.
- Summarized the 500+ page EIR report from Caltrans and made it available to the public via [www.northcoastprosperity.com](http://www.northcoastprosperity.com).

- Provided summary of project and business need for STAA access on Highway 101 via [www.northcoastprosperity.com](http://www.northcoastprosperity.com).
- Attended a public meeting hosted by Caltrans to hear the specific reasons for opposition to the Richardson Grove project.
- Informed business owners about the timeline for EIR dissemination for the Richardson Grove project.
- Supported business owners' efforts to advocate (through letters and meetings) for Richardson Grove project.
- Informed business owners of public meetings in regard to Caltrans progress and special interest group opposition to the Richardson Grove project.
- Provided information for two consecutive cover stories titled, "Roads and Redwoods" published in the *North Coast Journal*.
- Wrote letter to the editor of the *North Coast Journal* to explain the importance and necessity of export to local businesses and to the stability of the overall local economy.
- Participated in public hearings with Caltrans on Richardson Grove project.
- Arranged public presentations of the project by Caltrans with two Rotary clubs.
- Attended rally of groups opposing Richardson Grove project.
- Facilitated business owner interviews with local media where requested.
- Assisted businesses with research and background on carbon truck emissions.
- Responded to public information requests and media inquiries.
- Provided Final EIR information to interested businesses and economic development partners
- Provided survey information to Caltrans for legislative report
- Provided information to businesses regarding legislative visit

### **3. What are the lasting benefits of the project?**

- Greater community, elected officials and Caltrans are well informed of the business impacts of STAA highway restriction.
- \$3Million in federal transportation funds secured for highway 299 improvements and improvements are under-construction.
- The Richardson Grove project is well-designed, low impact project that when completed will open up STAA truck access on Highway 101, the main corridor for commerce into and out of Humboldt County. Project has a broad base of support. Currently, EPIC has sued Caltrans over the EIR for the Richardson Grove project, which will delay implementation. The project is likely to overcome this challenge and be completed. The permits are being prepared for issuance as of 10/31/10.
- Opening up STAA truck access will allow locally-based businesses to deepen their export market penetration which will lead to increased wages, expanded job opportunities, and new business locations here.

**4. How will you continue work started by this project?**

At every opportunity, we will advocate for STAA truck access and support the business community to speak about the impacts of the restriction until it is lifted.