

## Gualala Downtown Streetscape Enhancement FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

### **Does this project propose to build a 4-lane highway through downtown Gualala?**

No, this project has always proposed only two vehicle travel lanes on State Route 1 (SR 1) through downtown Gualala, one lane in each direction. There has been consideration of a continuous two-way left-turn lane or left-turn pockets. There has also been community discussion whether to retain any on-street parking.

### **Who are the project sponsors, and do they listen to my comments?**

This is a community-driven improvement project. The Mendocino Council of Governments (MCOG) is the funding agency and Caltrans is the implementing agency. The success of this project depends on public comment and feedback about project alternatives, and ultimately the project outcome will rely on a majority of public support.

### **What is the status of the project and where are we in the process?**

Although the draft environmental document for the project has been circulated, community consensus on a final alternative has not been reached, and it may become necessary to recirculate the environmental document once a preferred alternative has been identified.

### **How will parking on State Route 1 be impacted by the project?**

State Route 1 currently has uncontrolled on-street parking through the extent of the project area. The degree to which any on-street parking may be retained is dependent on width constraints, community input, and approval by Mendocino County and the Coastal Commission of an amendment to the Gualala Town Plan, if needed. Project alternatives that retain on-street parking will be designed and built in a way that will allow for the future elimination of on-street parking through roadway restriping rather than reconstruction.

### **What types of facilities will the project include for pedestrians and cyclists?**

The project proposes 5-foot Class II bike lanes on each side of highway, pedestrian walkways, and a minimum of three mainline crosswalks and two side-street crosswalks.

### **What type of landscaping does the project include?**

Caltrans proposes to incorporate native landscaping into the project, where feasible. Future landscape maintenance needs will require a maintenance agreement with Mendocino County, who would assume joint responsibility for all ongoing landscape maintenance with a non-profit organization, i.e., Redwood Coast Land Conservancy, California Native Plant Society, etc.

### **Does the project include a continuous two-way left-turn lane and turn pockets?**

Although the Gualala Town Plan recommends a continuous two-way left turn lane on State Route 1 from Old State Highway to Bakertown, a continuous left-turn lane through the entire

length of the project would impact the overall width of the project. A segment of the community has expressed concerns with a center turn lane running through town. Caltrans is considering options that would add left-turn lanes or turn pockets at the locations where the heaviest congestion and delays are experienced at the south end of town near the entrances to the Sundstrom Mall and Surf Center.

**Will retaining walls need to be built in Gualala for the project width?**

Following the October 2019 public meeting where community members voted on a preferred project layout, the Caltrans design team determined that, due to the slope across SR 1, retaining walls would be needed in order to construct curbs, gutters, and sidewalks. The design team is exploring options that would minimize the need for these retaining walls.

**The Gualala Town Plan streetscape design for the highway has a width of 80 feet. What does that look like through the project area?**

It would include 12-foot wide landscaping strips, 5-foot wide sidewalks, 5-foot wide bike lanes, 12-foot wide travel lanes and a 12-foot wide continuous two-way left-turn lane.

**When is the next opportunity for the public to review alternatives and comment on the Gualala Downtown project?**

Due to COVID-19 concerns, Caltrans will host an online Virtual Public Meeting on January 14, 2021 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. A preview of the new project alternative will be available in mid-December, 2020 on the [Caltrans District 1 YouTube channel](#). The new alternatives will be based on public comments and feedback received. An online survey will be available to provide input and comments about the new project alternatives. Comments on this project can also be left at the project email address or phone number below. For more information about the Virtual Public Meeting, please visit the project website: [dot.ca.gov/gualaladowntown](http://dot.ca.gov/gualaladowntown).

**Can only Gualala residents provide comments on the project?**

All public input is welcome and will be considered.

**Project Information and Comments**

Website: [dot.ca.gov/gualaladowntown](http://dot.ca.gov/gualaladowntown)

Email: [gualaladowntown@dot.ca.gov](mailto:gualaladowntown@dot.ca.gov)

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