



## PURPOSE AND NEED

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US 101 is the primary north-south route serving coastal California and is crucial to the commerce of northwestern California. On US 101, trucks and passenger vehicles transport goods and people to and from the many communities throughout the region. In the Willits area, US 101 serves an increasingly heavy commuter, recreational, and commercial traffic demand.

Signalized intersections, on-street parking, frequent driveways and local roads, pedestrians and bicyclists all contribute to low travel speeds. Lack of capacity and congestion on US 101 result in delays and lengthy traffic queues within the project limits. Parking maneuvers, turning moves, and long and infrequent crosswalks added to the heavy traffic make traveling along or crossing US 101 difficult for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized traffic.

Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration are proposing this bypass to reduce delays, improve safety, and provide at least Level of Service C for interregional traffic on US 101.

