

# CALTRANS SAFETY PROJECT

One result of the confluence between increased truck traffic and destructive (sometimes fatal) collisions with automobiles, is a significant investment by Caltrans in a safety project for US 395 between Hallelujah Junction and the town of Doyle.



## Safety and Commerce Threatened

In recent years, US 395 north of Reno has seen a **25% INCREASE** in traffic. Most of this increase is the result of a significant increase in commercial truck traffic along the corridor.

The California High Patrol reports that over the last three years, there has been an increase in traffic stops and citations along US 395 as well as an **INCREASE IN NON-FATAL AND FATAL ACCIDENTS**. Most of these accidents are due to big-rig/automobile encounters.

Reno based fulfillment centers, including Walmart and Amazon, report a **LOSS IN BUSINESS PRODUCTIVITY** when Interstate 80 was closed due to weather. CHP reported that at one time Walmart claimed an \$8 million dollar loss in productivity when I-80 was closed for four days with snow.

In recent years Interstate 5 in California has been closed in the summer for fire related incidents as many times as it was for inclement weather. The road closures **IMPACTED INTERSTATE COMMERCE** for truckers who go north/south to haul goods to Southern California and Oregon. In addition, the Siera Army Depot in Herlong, CA, is one of the largest destinations for FedEx in the western US.



# US 395 COALITION

The US 395 Coalition is comprised of impacted and engaged stakeholders interested in developing a strategies to make traveling US 395 safer for motorists and

more efficient for commerce. It is driven by **LOCAL NEEDS AND LEADERS** and based on concepts that help support the economic resiliency and public safety of the region.

Lassen County and Washoe County bookend the US 395 Coalition with communities and leaders on each ends of the proposed project. The Coalition includes transportation agencies from **BOTH NEVADA AND CALIFORNIA**, private industry, tribes, and the public.

## Results - A Safety Project in California

Since its founding, the Coalition has evaluated and supported a variety of transportation investments in the corridor. Perhaps the most significant is a **\$50 MILLION DOLLAR SAFETY PROJECT** that will provide:

- Center line barrier separating north and southbound traffic from the Lassen County line to Doyle
- 10 additional extra-long truck turnouts
- Improved right and left turn pockets at major crossroads

In addition, the California Wildlife Conservation Board is funding a \$5.5 million study to locate and design a wildlife overcrossing, as well as other wildlife barriers, to help reduce the growing number of **ANIMAL/VEHICLE COLLISIONS** in the corridor.

## Future Investments

The US 395 Coalition continues to look to finding resources to improve mobility and safety throughout the 395 corridor. On the California side, we are looking to harden access to the Sierra Army Depot in Herlong. The Sierra Army Depot, vital to our country's national defense, is accessed by two Lassen County maintained roads, **A25 and A26**. Both need a thorough evaluation with **special attention to two bridges** on Long Valley Creek that have been compromised recently by high water events associated with climate change.

In addition, investments in the town of Herlong to support the army depot and the tribal lands of the **Susanville Indian Rancheria** are needed. These could include investment in road, water and sewer, internet, and school resources. Additionally, investments in **EV charging infrastructure** along the US 395 corridor as well as Herlong would go a long way to encouraging travel in the region.

