



# NEWS RELEASE

08-004

**Today's Date:** Friday, January 11, 2008  
**District:** 1 - Eureka  
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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### HOPLAND ROUNDABOUT COMPLETION CELEBRATION A SUCCESS

**Eureka** – A ceremony to celebrate the completion of the first roundabout in Mendocino County, the Hopland Roundabout project at the intersection of Route 175 and Old River Road, was held on Thursday, January 10, 2008 at the Brutacao Schoolhouse Plaza in Hopland. The event was well attended. Speakers included: Charles C. Fielder, Caltrans District 1 Director; Alan Escarda, Caltrans Construction Engineer; J. David Colfax, Mendocino County Board of Supervisors; Mark Graves, Superintendent of North Bay Construction; Stan Phernambucq, Chief Financial Officer of Caltrop Corporation. Also in attendance were representatives from United States Congressman Mike Thompson's office, Assemblymember Patty Berg's office, Senator Pat Wiggins' office, Mendocino Council of Governments, Mendocino County Transportation Department, and Fetzer Vineyards.

#### Project background

This intersection had experienced eleven collisions during a five year period, which is higher than the statewide average for similar intersections. Most were the result of motorists failing to negotiate the curve at the intersection of Route 175 and Old River Road. Speeding was the primary factor in over half of the collisions. There are a significant amount of left turns from Route 175 onto Old River Road. There is no left-turn pocket, so vehicles that wanted to proceed eastbound on Route 175 were required to wait for left-turning vehicles.

#### The Roundabout Solution

The traditional solution to enhance the safety at an intersection like this one would have been to add left-turn lanes and potentially, traffic signals. However, Caltrans also constructs roundabouts if they are a better solution than a traffic signal. A roundabout was chosen because it has numerous advantages at this location, which include:

- A smaller footprint than a signalized intersection with left-turn lanes, so less new right-of-way was required.
- Providing traffic calming, resulting in reduced speeds.
- Requiring less maintenance, lower yearly operational costs, and a longer service life.





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- Providing a safe place for large trucks to safely turn around.
- Enhancing the roundabout with landscaping will create an aesthetic gateway to the community.

For more information on the advantages of roundabouts, and how to navigate them, see <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/d1projects/roundabout.htm>

**NOTE TO MEDIA:** Accompanying photos can be obtained by visiting <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist1/d1pubinfo/press.htm> , or by contacting Phil Frisbie, Jr. at (707) 441-4678, or [Phil\\_Frisbie@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Phil_Frisbie@dot.ca.gov). Please use the phrase “Courtesy of the Department of Transportation” if you publish any of these images.

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