

State Route 299

Transportation Concept Report

Executive Summary

The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has prepared this Transportation Concept Report (TCR) for SR 299 from US 101 near Arcata in Humboldt County to the California/Nevada State border in Modoc County. The TCR is a 20-year consensus-based vision intended to assist Caltrans, Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPAs), cities, counties, and Tribal Governments to manage the route. The report includes an assessment of both current and future operating conditions, and improvements that will be needed to meet identified operational goals on the route.

This route can be viewed in three broad sections consisting of **SR 299 West of Redding**, **SR 299 Redding** and **SR 299 East of Redding**. These areas generally differ in terrain, traffic volumes and overall function as a state highway.

SR 299 West of Redding

This section extends from US 101 across the counties of Humboldt, Trinity and part of Shasta, to the western city limits of the City of Redding. This portion of the route is identified as a Focus Route in the 1998 Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan. This portion of the route is primarily rural 2-lane conventional highway, passing through several small communities where the highway serves as a “Main Street”.

Some of the issues in this section include: Road alignment and terrain constraints that prevent Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck access, limited shoulder widths, few passing opportunities, winter weather conditions, and seasonal congestion in Weaverville.

SR 299 Redding

This portion of the route is within the city limits of Redding which is the largest urban area on the route. The “Greater Redding Area” has the most rapid growth and exhibits the highest traffic volumes along the Route. Traffic volumes within Redding range from 2-10 times higher than locations outside of Redding. This portion is primarily 4-lane conventional highway with signalized intersections. After the I-5 separation, SR 299 transitions into a 4-lane freeway for 3 miles.

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Some of the issues in Redding include high traffic volumes created by interregional traffic combined with heavy local traffic, congestion and traffic queuing at intersections during peak periods, lack of opportunity to add capacity (increase the number of travel lanes) within Redding.

SR 299 East of Redding

This section extends from the eastern city limits of Redding, through Shasta County, the north-west corner of Lassen County and through Modoc County to the Nevada State line. This section is rural 2-lane conventional highway with intermittent passing lanes to the Nevada State line.

Roadway constraints in this section include: narrow shoulder widths, rugged terrain, environmental sensitivity, and limited availability of traveler information.

Future Management Strategies

West of Redding

Future management options will include: improvement of the Buckhorn Grade, shoulder widening, additional passing and climbing lanes, improving locations to meet Surface Transportation Assistance Act Standards, and adding Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) elements such as Changeable Message Signs (CMS), Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) and Remote Weather information Systems (RWIS).

Redding

Methods to manage future operating conditions in Redding will include signalization and the addition of ITS elements.

East of Redding

Strategies to manage the route east of Redding in the future will include: shoulder widening, construction of turn outs, additional truck climbing lanes/passing lanes, and adding ITS elements such as CMS, CCTV and RWIS.