

**Notice of Intent to Adopt a
Mitigated Negative Declaration for the
2020 Del Norte Regional Transportation Plan**

Lead Agency: Del Norte Local Transportation Commission
900 Northcrest Drive, PMB 16
Crescent City, CA 95531

Project Title: 2020 Del Norte Regional Transportation Plan

Project Location: Del Norte County is in the northwestern corner of California, approximately 374 miles northwest of Sacramento and 330 miles southwest of Portland, Oregon (Figure 1). Del Norte County is bound by Siskiyou County in the east, Curry and Josephine Counties (Oregon) to the north, Humboldt County to the south, and the Pacific Ocean to the west. Del Norte County is comprised of approximately 1,006 square miles, making it one of the smaller counties in California. Del Norte County is characterized by varied geography with elevations that range between sea level and over 6,400 feet in the Klamath mountain range and a geography that consists of extensive coastline to the west and mountainous terrain with dense redwood forests to the east. The County contains one incorporated city (Crescent City), six unincorporated communities (Smith River, Gasquet, Klamath, Fort Dick, Bertsch-Oceanview, and Hiouchi), and four federally recognized tribal entities (Yurok Tribe, Resighini Rancheria, Tolowa Dee-ni' Nation and Elk Valley Rancheria). Del Norte County is susceptible to severe weather and natural disasters, including tsunamis and flooding during major rain events.

Project Description: The proposed project is the adoption and implementation of the 2020 Del Norte Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The Del Norte Local Transportation Commission (DNLTC), as the designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency, is required by State law to prepare the RTP and transmit it to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) every four years. The RTP is required to be developed as per State legislation, Government Code §65080 et seq. of Chapter 2.5.

The purpose of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is to provide a vision for the region, supported by transportation goals, for ten-year (2030) and twenty-year (2040) planning horizons. The RTP documents the policy direction, actions, and funding strategies designed to maintain and improve the regional transportation systems. RTPs must include the following three elements: Policy, Action, and Financial.

Findings/Determination: DNLTC has reviewed and considered the proposed project and has determined that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment with the incorporation of mitigations, with substantial supporting evidence provided in the Initial Study. DNLTC hereby prepares and proposes to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for this project.

Public Review Period: A 30-day public review period for the Mitigated Negative Declaration/ Initial Study will commence on January 12, 2021 and will end on February 12, 2021 for interested individuals and public agencies to submit written comments on the document. Any written comments on the Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration should be sent to the attention of Tamera Leighton, Executive Director at 900 Northcrest Drive, PMB 16, Crescent City, CA 95531 by 5:00 PM on February 12, 2021. The Regional Transportation Plan can be accessed through the project website, www.delnortertp.com. Digital comments may be submitted through the website, or emailed to Tamera Leighton at tamera@dnltc.org

Public Hearing: A Public Hearing for the Regional Transportation Plan and Environmental Document is scheduled for March 2nd, during a regular Local Transportation Commission meeting, during which the Regional Transportation Plan is scheduled to be adopted. Meeting information may be accessed through the project website, www.delnortertp.com.