

**P R E S S   R E L E A S E**  
**KARUK TRIBE**

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**Karuk Tribe Awarded Nearly \$10 Million  
to Improve Happy Camp Streets**

*The project is set to improve the safety, walkability, and economic potential of the area*

Happy Camp, CA – Today, the Karuk Tribe has been awarded the highly competitive Cycle 5 Active Transportation Program grant, totaling nearly \$10 Million, by the [California Transportation Commission](#) to facilitate a road improvement project in partnership with Caltrans. The award will fund the initial phase of the Happy Camp Complete Streets Project, which aims to improve the walkability and general safety of a stretch of Highway 96 that bisects the rural community of Happy Camp.

“This road improvement stems from years of outreach, listening to our community members concerns, and multi-agency collaboration. Our hope is that the sidewalks and bike paths will improve the safety for those already using these routes for travel, and will encourage folks to be more active, which is important for people’s physical and mental well-being.” said Misty Rickwalt, Karuk Tribe Transportation Director.

Highway 96 separates the town park, elementary school, and medical clinic from the majority of residences in the area, and currently accommodates motor vehicles over pedestrian use. Despite the route being a high foot-traffic area, there are currently no sidewalks and little to no shoulders for pedestrians and cyclists to utilize. The improvement, which will span a half-mile stretch of Highway 96 near Davis Road to just beyond 2<sup>nd</sup> Avenue, will include developments such as improved sidewalks, ADA compliant curb ramps, bike lanes, a lighted cross-walk, pedestrian safety lighting, and traffic calming measures which will allow for safer walking and biking routes for local students, workers and community members.

The improvements will still allow for ample parking along the corridor to support local business and community events, an important consideration when developing the plan.

“Improving the walkability of Happy Camp is important for our community on a multitude of levels; it creates a safer and healthier environment for our children and elders. Hopefully this project will serve as an initial step towards the rebuilding of our community.” noted Russell ‘Buster’ Attebery, Karuk Chairman

It is estimated that the environmental process for the project in will begin in 2022, with construction potentially starting as soon as 2024.

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**Additional notes for editors:**

- You can find a map of the improvement site [HERE](#)
- This project is derived from years of community outreach for the Happy Camp Complete Streets Project, and is hopefully an initial step towards a greater improvement of Happy Camp's streets in favor of active mobility.
- Proposed improvements include: sidewalks, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant curb ramps, a two-way left turn lane, Class II bike lanes, improved pedestrian crossings, parking improvements, drainage upgrades, pedestrian lighting, paved wide shoulders, landscaping, parking improvements and transit stop improvements.
- The Happy Camp Complete Streets Project has support from the following organizations: Karuk Tribe, Caltrans District 2, Siskiyou County, Hope for Happy Camp, Klamath National Forest Service, Karuk Tribe Housing Authority, Happy Camp Volunteer Ambulance Service, Siskiyou County Sheriff, and California Highway Patrol.
- The Karuk Tribe was the only Tribe to be awarded the highly competitive grant in the Cycle 5 Active Transportation Program.