



County of Del Norte Board of Supervisors

Board Report

AGENDA DATE: August 26, 2025

TO: Del Norte County Board of Supervisors

FROM: Darrin Short, Supervisor, District 1
Community Development
981 H Street, Suite 200
Crescent City, CA 95531

SUBJECT: Public Hearing and Resolution to extend the temporary closure of portions of Union Street, Broad Street, National Boulevard and Madison Avenue.

RECOMMENDATION FOR BOARD ACTION:

10:30 A.M. Conduct a public hearing and adopt a resolution authorizing Community Development Department staff to proceed with extending the temporary closure of portions of Union Street, Broad Street, National Boulevard and Madison Avenue using a combination of gates and K rail as shown on Attachment A in the resolution in accordance with California Vehicle Code Sections 21101.4 and 21101.6 as requested by Supervisor Short, District 1.**

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

On February 27, 2024, the Board approved a resolution authorizing the temporary closure of portions of Union Street, Broad Street, National Boulevard, and Madison Avenue to address ongoing illegal dumping and serious, continual criminal activity in the area. This authorization was for eighteen (18) months and will expire on August 27, 2025.

These issues persist, requiring immediate Board action to extend the closures for an additional 18 months to deter further illegal activity. During this period, the County's emergency shelter is expected to be completed, providing housing for individuals currently residing illegally in the area. All closures have been implemented except for the gate on Union Street near Iowa Street, which will be installed once the shelter is operational.

The California Vehicle Code (CVC) authorizes local jurisdictions to temporarily close highways under their control when certain conditions are met and a public hearing is held (Sections 21101.4 and 21101.6, included in Attachment A). State law requires the following findings:

1. Serious and continual criminal activity exists on the portion of the highway recommended for closure, based on recommendations from law enforcement (Sheriff's Office and California Highway Patrol in unincorporated areas).

2. The highway is not designated as a through highway or arterial street.
3. Vehicular or pedestrian traffic on the highway contributes to the criminal activity.
4. The closure will not substantially adversely affect traffic flow, safety on the adjacent streets or in the surrounding neighborhoods, the operation of emergency vehicles, the performance of municipal or public utility services, or the delivery of freight by commercial vehicles in the area of the highway proposed to be temporarily closed.

Temporary closures may last up to 18 months and can be extended if the above conditions still exist and a public hearing is held. Written notice for any public hearing must be mailed to all residents and owners, as shown on the last equalized assessment roll, of property adjacent to the portion of highway where a temporary closure or extension of temporary closure is proposed.

Findings in Support of Extension

1. Joint Recommendation from Local Sheriff and Department of Highway Patrol

Updated letters from the California Highway Patrol and the Del Norte County Sheriff's Office (Attachments B and C) confirm the continued need for temporary closures due to ongoing criminal activity. Both agencies support the extension, noting the ability to remove barriers at any time during the 18-month period if they determine the closures are no longer necessary.

2. Road Segments not designated as Highways or Arterial Streets

The road segments are identified as collector streets in the County's General Plan, making them eligible for temporary closure under state law.

3. Vehicular or Pedestrian Traffic that Contributes to the Criminal Activity

The area is undeveloped, with no permitted structures or uses. Most vehicular and pedestrian traffic in the area is associated with illegal dumping, theft, drug activity, violent crimes, and squatting.

4. Impact of Temporary Road Closure for Emergency Responders and Others

First responders and Pacific Power will maintain access via gates at Union Street near Iowa Street (west) and Elk Valley Road (east). Pedestrian access will remain open; only vehicular access will be restricted.

Written public hearing notices were sent to all property owners and residents located near or affected by the extended temporary closures per the requirements of state law informing them of the time and date of the public hearing and what roads are proposed to be temporarily closed (Attachment E). Affected areas are shown in Attachment D. If the Board approves the extension, Code Enforcement will post notices at key locations at least 10 days before installing closures, giving time for removal of vehicles, RVs, or other large items.

Funding

In November 2022, the Board allocated \$50,000 in Measure R funds to the Code Enforcement Division Budget (101-416-91075) for abating the South Bend Avenue area in conjunction with the County's emergency shelter project. As of this report, \$14,524 remains to fund the final

gate installation and abatement of illegal dumping in the closure areas.

ALTERNATIVES:

Not approve the resolution which would result in the removal of the gate and K-rail from the roads.

FINANCING:

Measure R (gates and K-rail) and General Fund (County staff time)

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None.

STRATEGIC PLAN ALIGNMENT:

This Board of Supervisors' adopted Strategic Plan contains the following Focus Areas and Goals.

Focus Area 1: County Staffing and Capacity (CSC)

Focus Area 2: Infrastructure and Economic Development (IED)

Focus Area 3: Law, Justice, and Homelessness (LJH)

Focus Area 4: General Governance and Budget (GGB)

This item addresses the following Goals:

IED-1: Maintain or Improve County Facilities and Infrastructure

IED-3: Improve Aesthetics of County Owned Property and Facilities

ATTACHMENTS:

1. Resolution to Extend Temporary Road Closures August 2025
2. Attachments A-E

APPROVALS:

Heidi Kunstal, Director

Kylie Goughnour , Deputy Clerk of the Board

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