January 9, 2018

Marin County Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive
San Rafael, CA 94903

SUBJECT: Ordinance Prohibiting Motor Vehicles in Excess of 30 Feet From Certain Specified Narrow and Windy Roads Where the Length of the Vehicles Pose a Traffic Hazard

Dear Board Members:

RECOMMENDATION: 1) Conduct merit hearing; and 2) adopt the ordinance.

SUMMARY: Vehicles in excess of 36 feet are currently prohibited on Muir Woods Road. Members of the public have expressed concern with buses crossing the centerline of the road along several curves on Muir Woods Road between the Muir Woods National Monument entrance and Panoramic Highway. This section of roadway is very steep with several sharp curves.

Marin Transit conducted an operation review of 30-and 32-foot buses along Muir Woods Road which included video cameras mounted on the buses to assess how well the buses of varying lengths traveled within the travel lanes. It was observed that the 32-foot-long buses crossed the centerline at several curves, while the 30-foot buses negotiated the curves within the travel lanes.

On December 16, 2014, your Board adopted an ordinance that provides for restrictions on oversized vehicles by length on certain narrow and winding County roads where the length of the vehicle poses a traffic hazard. That ordinance includes a prohibition for vehicles in excess of 36 feet, but does not include the option of prohibiting vehicles in excess of 30 feet. It is recommended that your Board adopt the proposed revisions to the ordinance to include an option to prohibit vehicles in excess of 30 feet. A first reading of the proposed ordinance was conducted on December 12, 2017.

Provided the proposed ordinance passes, a companion resolution will be brought to the Board of Supervisors on January 23, 2018, that specifies that vehicles in excess of 30 feet are prohibited on Muir Woods Road from the entrance to Muir Woods National Monument easterly to Panoramic Highway.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no impact to the General Fund by this action.
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REVIEWED BY:

[ X ] County Administrator  [ ] N/A
[ ] Department of Finance  [ X ] N/A
[ X ] County Counsel  [ ] N/A
[ ] Human Resources  [ X ] N/A

Respectfully submitted,

Bob Goralka
Principal Civil Engineer, P.E, T.E.

Attachment: Ordinance

c: Robert Mota, Captain, CHP
     Mike Ridgway, Undersheriff
     Nina Snyder, Lieutenant, Marin County Sheriff’s Office