

Widening One Won't Work

(A song for our times, to the tune of "The Wreck of the Old 97")

1. Here in Santa Cruz County, not far from our coastline,
Route One: It's our main highway—
There are too many cars that travel that highway
One hundred thousand per day.
**Yes, Too many cars that travel that highway
One hundred thousand per day.**
 2. Now up in Sacramento are the offices of Caltrans,
This is their belief:
They say "Cut down the trees, widen the highway,
And you'll get congestion relief."
**Yes, "Cut down the trees, widen the highway,
And you'll get congestion relief."**
 3. So we cut down the trees, we widened the highway,
Then we heard that traffic roar—
There were two hundred thousand cars on the highway,
And congestion was worse than before.
**Yes, there were two hundred thousand cars on the highway,
And congestion was worse than before.**
 4. That's what happens when you widen a highway,
It's described in the San Jose Merc—
Cars fill up the available road space,
So widening One won't work.
**Yes, cars fill up the available road space,
So widening One won't work.**
 5. Two hundred thousand cars descend on Santa Cruz,
Lookin' for a place to park,
Two hundred thousand up and down the avenues,
Searching from dawn until dark.
**Yes, two hundred thousand up and down the avenues,
Searching from dawn until dark.**
 6. So they built a garage in the center of Santa Cruz,
Seventeen stories high—
It's a landmark structure, defining our culture,
Reaching up to the sky.
**Yes, a landmark structure, defining our culture,
Reaching up to the sky.**
- (Slight interlude here, speaking "no, no, no...")
7. We need passenger trains running on our rail line,
And next to the track, a trail—
Oh, the money is there to buy the corridor,
So let's complete that sale.
**Yes, the money is there to buy the corridor,
So let's complete that sale.**

8. Now our Transit District is the best in the country,
It's the SCMTD—
So leave your car behind, hop on the bus and you will find
That you'll get to where you want to be.
**Yes, leave your car behind, hop on the bus and you will find
that you'll get to where you want to be.**
9. We'll be able to travel by train or by bus,
Or bicycle or walk to work—
So let's add our voices to provide more choices
Widening One won't work.
**Yes, let's add our voices to provide more choices
Widening One won't work.**

The above lyrics were written by Peter and Celia Scott in November, 2010. Here is a score for the tune ("The Wreck of the Old 97"):

The musical score is written in A major (two sharps) and 4/4 time. It features a piano accompaniment with chords and a vocal line with lyrics. The score is divided into three systems. The first system includes the lyrics: "Here in San-ta Cruz Coun - ty, not far from our coast - line, Route One: It's our main high -". The second system includes: "way — There are too man- y cars that tra- vel that high - way one hun - dred thou - sand per". The third system, labeled "Chorus", includes: "day. Yes, there are too man- y cars that tra- vel that high - way one hun - dred thou - sand per day." Chord markings (A, D, E7) are placed above the staff to indicate the harmonic structure.