

Widening One Won't Work

(A song for our times, to the tune of "The MTA Song")

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 was their belief:
They said "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. 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.**
 5. So we 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.**
- (A very short bridge here: "no, no, no, no...")
6. Let's have passenger trains running on our rail line,
And next to the track, a trail—
Support our good METRO, keep our buses on the go,
For widening One it will fail.
**Yes, support our good METRO, keep our buses on the go,
For Widening One it will fail.**
 7. We'll be able to travel by train or by bus,
Or bicycle or walk to work—
So let's add our voices to get more choices
Widening One it won't work.
**Yes, let's add our voices to get more choices
Widening One it won't work.**

Widening One Won't Work

Tune: The "MTA Song"[†]

Lyrics by Peter & Celia Scott

The musical score is written in treble and bass clefs with a key signature of two sharps (F# and C#) and a common time signature (C). It consists of four systems of music. The first system begins with a rest in the treble clef, followed by a series of chords in the bass clef. The lyrics are: "Here in San-ta Cruz Coun - ty, not far from our coast - line, Route". The second system continues the melody and bass line with lyrics: "One: It's our main high - way - There are too man - y cars that". The third system is labeled "Chorus" and includes lyrics: "tra-vel that high - way one hun - dred thou - sand per day. Yes, there are too man - y cars that". The fourth system concludes the piece with lyrics: "tra-vel that high - way one hun - dred thou - sand per day. Now work." Chord symbols (A, D, E7) are placed above the treble clef staff. A bracket above the final two measures of the fourth system is labeled "1 through 6." and "7.", indicating a first ending structure.

[†] Our tune has a long history. The "MTA Song" (or "Charlie on the MTA"), was created in 1948 as a political campaign song for Walter O'Brien, who was a candidate for the mayor of Boston. It uses the melody of its predecessor, "The Wreck of the Old 97", a song first recorded in 1924 about a 1903 train wreck. And this 1924 song also had a predecessor, "The Ship That Never Returned", written in 1865 by Henry Clay Work.

Copies of this song (and an mp3 file) may be grabbed from <http://SustainableTransportationSC.org/songs/pdf/work.pdf>.