



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission June 1, 2006 Meeting Highlights

Amendments to the 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Adopted:

Due to a lack of funds for highway and road projects and an abundance of funds for transit projects in the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the Regional Transportation Commission programmed \$13.137 million to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's (SCMTD) MetroBase, Bus Replacement and Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Bus Conversion projects. The Commission committed to give street and road projects priority for a roughly equivalent amount as other transportation funding sources become available. The Commission also shifted funding from delayed projects to the Struve Slough Bridge and Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes projects because these projects are ready to proceed.

Federal Funds Exchanged for State Funds:

A request to exchange over \$3 million in federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for state RSTP Exchange funds was approved by the Regional Transportation Commission. Eight projects are currently slated to receive RSTP funds. The state funds are very flexible and have fewer restrictions than the federal dollars allowing the projects to proceed with fewer delays.

State Transportation Improvement Fund Projects Lapsed:

Funding for the Wilder Ranch Bikeway - Phase 2, East Cliff Drive Bike/Pedestrian Path and Amesti Road Reconstruction projects lapsed under the state's "use it or lose it" requirements. It is expected that the funds will return to the region in two years for the 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding cycle; therefore, the Regional Transportation Commission committed to reprogramming the funds to these three projects, or something similar in the same location, when the funds again become available to the region.

Transportation Funding Task Force Update Provided:

County Treasurer and Transportation Funding Task Force Convener Fred Keeley provided an update to the Commission about the first round of workshops including average attendance, outreach mechanisms, workbooks completed and website use (www.tftaskforce.org). A report will be provided to the Commission in August summarizing the results of the first round of Task Force activities. A summer seminar series will take place on topics such as congestion, transit and funding.

Highway 1 Status Report Provided:

Consultants working on the environmental and engineering analysis for the Highway 1 HOV Lane project provided the Regional Transportation Commission with an update including information about cultural and biological resources, traffic analysis, and the development of engineering drawings for four alternatives. Work on the Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project is proposed to begin this summer subject to the availability of funds.

Funding for Specialized Transportation Services Approved:

The Commission approved claims for FY 2006-07 Transportation Development Act funds (1/4 cent of local sales taxes) to the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of the Volunteer Center and Community Bridges to provide specialized transportation services to seniors and people with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.

Reimbursable Grant Agreement for Rail Line Purchase Approved

The Commission approved an agreement for a \$10 million dollar reimbursable grant from the Coastal Conservancy for the purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The reimbursable grant will make it possible to purchase the rail line before State funding is available.

Upcoming SCCRTC and Committee Meetings (please call 831/460-3200 to confirm):

Commission Meetings*

Thursday, August 3, 9:00 am
Scotts Valley Council Chambers
One Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley

Thursday, September 7, 9:00 am
Board of Supervisors Chambers
County Government Center
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Transportation Policy Workshop-Commission meetings

Thursday, June 29, 9:00 am (note different date)
Thursday, August 17, 9:00 am
Commission Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee

Thursday, June 8, 3:00 pm
Thursday, August 10, 3:00 pm
CAO Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Rail Acquisition Committee

Monday, June 5, 2:00 pm
Wednesday, June 21, 2:00 pm
CAO Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Bicycle Committee

Monday, June 12, 7:00 pm
Monday, August 14, 7:00 pm
Commission Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 13, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, August 8, 1:30 pm
Commission Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, June 15, 1:30 pm
Thursday, August 17, 1:30 pm
Commission Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

* No meetings are scheduled for July.

**Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged.
For more information, visit the SCCRTC web site at www.sccrtc.org or call 460-3200.
Some Regional Transportation Commission meetings are televised countywide by
Community TV of Santa Cruz. Consult www.comunitytv.org or call 831-425-8848 for
schedule and station information.**

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