



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission*  
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## ***Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission February 7, 2008 Meeting Highlights***

***Transportation Sales Tax Measure on Hold:*** The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) decided not to proceed with placing a ½ cent sales tax measure on the November 2008 ballot for regional, community and neighborhood transportation projects. Although the RTC understands that future state and federal funding will be insufficient to make improvements to the transportation system, the Commission decided not to pursue the measure at this time based on the following indicators: news about the pending recession and increase in unemployment rates translate into voter uneasiness; strong support and opposition opinions about both the highway and rail projects; voter polls showing that there is greater support for a balanced package of transportation improvements than for single projects; groups poised to launch a campaign in support of the measure were looking for unified support from the RTC; and the RTC expressed concern about the potential negative and further polarizing effects if another sales tax measure was placed on the ballot and it failed or generated strong opposition.

### ***State Legislative Status Reported:***

The RTC's legislative assistants provided the Sacramento perspective on the state budget and other transportation issues. According to the legislative assistants, only the State's sales tax on gasoline is available for potential new projects because the 18-cent gasoline tax is used entirely for maintaining the current system. The Governor's proposed budget includes issuing bonds approved by the voters in 2006 for transportation. The RTC's legislative assistant stated that the bonds will provide funds for the State Local Partnership Program, a program that is available to self help counties -- defined as regions with their own source of local funds (typically sales taxes dedicated to transportation improvements).

### ***Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Approved:***

At a noticed public hearing, the RTC approved the 2008 RTIP, thereby programming \$5.5 million to a variety of transportation projects including the San Lorenzo River Bike/Ped Bridge, Varni Road Rehabilitation, Freedom Boulevard Rehabilitation, 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rehabilitation and Sidewalks, Bean Creek Road Rehabilitation, the Freeway Service Patrol, regional rideshare program, and cost increases for the environmental analysis of the Highway 1/HOV Lanes project, . The approved project list reflects input from the RTC's advisory committees.

### ***Highway 1/HOV Lane Environmental Analysis :***

The Regional Transportation Commission received a report regarding the budget and expenditures for the Project Approval/ Environmental Documentation phase of the Highway 1 HOV Lanes project.

Costs for the project have increased due to delays in the receipt of the Regional Travel Demand Model, an increase in the level of design work required at this phase, and addition of work items that were not included in the original scope of the consultant contract. The cost of the environmental analysis and initial design will total \$11 million for the 8.5 mile long project.

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

***Commission Meetings***

Thursday, March 6, 9:00 am  
Thursday, April 3, 9:00 am  
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Santa Cruz

***Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) - Commission meetings***

Thursday, February 21, 9:00 am  
Thursday, March 20, 9:00 am  
SCCRTC Offices  
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

***Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee***

Thursday, February 14, 3:30 pm  
CAO Conference Room  
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

***Bicycle Committee***

Monday, February 11, 2008 7:00 pm  
SCCRTC Offices  
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

***Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee***

Tuesday, February 12, 2008 1:30 pm, 2008  
SCCRTC Offices  
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

***Interagency Technical Advisory Committee***

Thursday, February 21, 1:30 pm  
Thursday, March 20, 2008 1:30 pm  
SCCRTC Offices  
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

**Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC web site at [www.sccrtc.org](http://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](http://www.comunitytv.org) or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.**

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