



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission September 4, 2008 Meeting Highlights

Service and art recognized:

Commissioner Beautz presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Robert Pesce for 19 years of service on the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee representing the First Supervisorial District. Bob championed accessible sidewalks and helped the county public works department develop new standards prior to the Americans with Disabilities Act.

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) also acknowledged and appreciated the artwork of Sally Matheson who painted 150 watercolors chronicling the challenging, and sometime dangerous, circumstances endured by workers during the three year construction of the Highway 1/17 Interchange Merge Lanes. Ms. Matheson's watercolors will be on exhibit September 5-30, 2008 at the Dead Cow Gallery, 1040 River Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Highway 1 projects progress report delivered:

Consultants reviewed the status of both the Highway 1 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project and the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project. The environmental document for the Auxiliary Lanes project is due to be released in October 2008 for a 30-day public review period, during which an open house/public hearing will be held at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers. The environmental document for the HOV Lanes project is scheduled to be released for public review in early 2009.

State budget and state/federal legislation status report presented:

Commissioners were informed that thus far the state budget proposals being discussed would not divert Proposition 42 funds from transportation. However, impacts to transportation, which could be significant, will not be known until a budget is approved. In addition, the RTC was informed that Senate Bill 375 was approved by the legislature along with other transportation bills. SB375 requires that regional transportation plans adopt sustainable community strategies to achieve greenhouse gas emission reduction goals. By September 30, 2008 the governor must sign or veto bills that were approved by the legislature.

Rail Line acquisition consultants approved:

The Regional Transportation Commission agreed to retain two consultants to assist with the following: analysis of the freight operation on the Branch Line, establishment of a shortline freight service, Union Pacific negotiations connected with the freight service, and production of a comprehensive business and management plan.

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

Commission Meetings

Thursday, October 2, 9:00 am
Santa Cruz County Board Chambers – **NOTE LOCATION**
701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz

Thursday, November 6, 9:00 am
Watsonville City Council Chambers – **NOTE LOCATION**
275 Main Street, Watsonville

Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) - Commission meetings

~~Thursday, September 18, 9:00 am~~ **CANCELLED**

Thursday, October 16, 9:00 am
SCCRTC Offices
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee

Thursday, September 11, 3:30 pm
November 11, 3:30 pm
CAO Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Bicycle Committee

Monday, September 8, 7:00 pm
Monday, October 20, 7:00 pm (note irregular date)
SCCRTC Offices
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, October 14, 1:30 pm
Tuesday, December 9, 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Rail Acquisition Committee

Monday, October 6, 3:00 pm
County Redevelopment Agency Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, September 18, 1:30 pm
Thursday, October 16, 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Safe on 17/Traffic Operations System Joint Meeting

Wednesday, September 24, 10:00 am
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 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.