

April 14, 2004

Jan Beautz, Chair
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

RE: Draft Expenditure Plan of Projects

Dear Chair Beautz:

At their April 13 meeting, the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E/D TAC) reviewed the Draft Expenditure Plan of Projects to be included in the sales tax measure going before voters in November 2004. Because the committee does not meet again until June 8, it was decided that comments on the draft Expenditure Plan be submitted at this time.

The E/D TAC approved (with Daugherty abstaining) the following recommendation:

Increase the amount of funding for Senior and Disabled Transportation to \$65m over 30 years (\$2.1 million per year) and decrease funds for local city/county improvements to \$58m.

This action is recommended for the following reasons:

- The population of senior citizens is expected to rise sharply over the next 15-30 years as baby boomers age.
- Paratransit (ADA and non-ADA) *currently* costs \$6 million per year and will rise with an increased senior population.
- Inflation, estimated at 4% per year, was not taken into account.
- Transportation programs for seniors and people with disabilities poll well.
- Seniors are a large voting block.
- For seniors and people with disabilities, specialized transportation is a necessity. For example, some disabled individuals don't have the choice of driving or riding a bike, they must rely on fixed route and paratransit services.

For the above reasons, 'E/D Transportation' warrants priority and financial support, and should, at a minimum, receive comparable funding to items such as 'bicycle and pedestrian' projects and 'contingency.' The E/D TAC welcomes the opportunity to send a representative to meet in a "round table" format to discuss the draft Expenditure Plan Program of Projects with other community leaders.

Sincerely,

Michael Molesky, Chair
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee