



Transportation Improvement Measure

Fact Sheet

May 2004

Highway 1 Ballot Measure

The Regional Transportation Commission has made widening Highway 1 with carpool and bus lanes their top priority. Highway 1 was built over 50 years ago, when Santa Cruz County residents totaled only one fourth of today's population. Unless we improve our infrastructure to meet our needs in the future, we can be certain that gridlock on Highway 1 and in our residential streets will worsen. This traffic, in turn, will continue to deteriorate the condition of all roads in the County.

Funding Plan

While we expect to use a variety of existing funding sources, our community will need to approve a 1/2 cent local sales tax measure for 30 years in order to build this project. If approved by at least two thirds of voters, these funds will pay for the widening of Highway 1 with carpool and bus lanes, pedestrian and bike bridges, and several other projects (*see side bar*).

Additional details on the Expenditure Plan can be found on the next page.



Traffic frequently backs up on Highway 1.

Facts About Highway 1

- Highway 1 was built in the 1950s when Santa Cruz County residents totaled one fourth of today's population.
- On average, 110,000 vehicles travel on Highway 1 daily

The 1/2-cent Tax Measure

- Requires approval by 2/3rds of Santa Cruz County voters
- Would generate \$530 million over 30 years
- Voters decide which projects to fund
- Sales tax dollars stay in Santa Cruz County and cannot be diverted to other parts of State

For more information please contact the Regional Transportation Commission at 460-3200 or your local elected representative.

Why is a New Sales Tax Needed?

- Widening Highway 1 is the largest public works project in over 50 years
- Existing funding sources are insufficient
- Gain local control over construction and design features
- Santa Cruz County, not the State, determines transportation priorities
- Provides a stable source of funds for neighborhood streets

Proposed Project List for the Local Transportation Sales Tax Ballot Measure

	\$ Millions	% of total
Carpool/Bus Lanes on Highway 1	\$335	63%
New Bike/ Pedestrian Bridges over Highway 1	\$5	1%
Hwy 1 Express Buses	\$5	1%
Park and Ride Lots and Alternative Transportation Programs	\$8	1.5%
Local street repairs, bike lanes, walkways, and more	\$109	20.5%
Coastal Pedestrian/ Bike Trail adjacent to rail line	\$21	4%
Senior and Disabled Transportation	\$16	3%
Highway 17 Safety Programs	\$5	1%
Watsonville-Pajaro Train Station	\$5	1%
Reserve for Potential Cost Increase	\$16	3%
Administration	\$5	1%
Total	\$530 Million	100%

Based on the Draft Expenditure Plan. Funds are shown in 2003/04 dollars and reflect the portion of project cost to be funded by sales tax revenues. See reverse more information.

Proposed Expenditure Plan Project List for a Local Transportation Sales Tax Ballot Measure

The Expenditure Plan, currently in draft form for public review, would fund the following high priority projects:

- **Adding carpool and bus lanes on Highway 1** between Santa Cruz and Aptos.
 - **Includes three new bicycle and pedestrian bridges over Highway 1**
 - The new carpool lanes will be open to carpools with 2 or more occupants, vanpools, express buses and emergency vehicles during commute hours.
 - Project is slated to receive 64% of the sales tax measure funds.
 - Project will be overseen by the newly formed Highway Construction Authority.
 - Construction of the carpool/bus lanes will likely occur in stages, starting with the section of the freeway between Morrissey Boulevard and State Park Drive.
- To maximize use of the carpool lanes, **new express buses, park and ride lots and alternative transportation programs** will be provided, funded by 2.5% of the sales tax money.
- **Local City & County road maintenance and transportation improvements** will be implemented. Over 20% of the sales tax dollars will be distributed annually to local cities and the County (based on population) to fill pot-holes and to improve streets, bikeways, walkways, and transit. Based on input from their residents, each City Council and the County Board of Supervisors will decide which specific projects to fund.
- \$21 million will be used to build the **Coastal Bike/Pedestrian Trail**, a bikeway/walkway adjacent to the existing Watsonville to Davenport rail line.
- 3% of the annual sales tax dollars will be allocated to improve **transportation for seniors and disabled persons**.
- Approximately 1% will be spent each year to **improve safety on Highway 17**.
- To connect with train service to San Jose, the San Francisco Bay Area, and Monterey County, \$5 million will be spent on a **train station at Watsonville-Pajaro Junction**.

Consistent with other local transportation sales tax measures, administrative costs will not exceed 1%. A reserve of 3% is proposed for project cost increases.

The sales tax measure funds will be distributed to each project annually. The entities responsible for each category of projects will determine how to expedite implementation of the projects. For instance, the Highway 1 Construction Authority plans to use bonds in order to construct the Highway 1 Carpool Lanes project sooner.

What is the SCCRTC and HCA?

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) is the transportation planning, programming and financing agency for Santa Cruz County.

The Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA) is a new agency solely focused on expediting construction of the Highway 1 Carpool Lanes project.

Let us know your thoughts!

The SCCRTC would like to hear your input on the proposed Expenditure Plan for the local transportation sales tax measure. Submit your comments to SCCRTC by June 2, 2004. A public hearing is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., June 3, 2004 in the County Board of Supervisors Chamber, 701 Ocean St, Santa Cruz.

To submit comments and/or to be notified of future public meetings on the Expenditure Plan contact the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission at 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, 95060, (831) 460-3200, or e-mail: info@sccrtc.org.

For more information visit us on the web at www.sccrtc.org/expendplan.html