



Updated: June 8, 2004

Local Transportation Sales Tax Measure Expenditure Plan Fact Sheet

Highway 1 Widening Ballot Measure

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) 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 Approved

While we expect to use a variety of existing funding sources, a 30-year, half-cent local sales tax has been proposed as a way to fund building 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 and reverse page for more information.)

In June 2004, the RTC approved the Expenditure Plan and voted to request the County Board of Supervisors to place the local transportation improvement measure on the November 2004 ballot.

More details about the Expenditure Plan can be found on our website:

[www.sccrtc.org/
expendplan.html](http://www.sccrtc.org/expendplan.html)



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 2/3 of Santa Cruz County voters
- Would generate \$577 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

Project List for the Local Transportation Sales Tax Ballot Measure

	\$ Millions	% of total
Carpool/Bus Lanes on Highway 1	\$363	63%
New Bike/ Pedestrian Bridges over Highway 1	\$6	1%
Hwy 1 Express Buses	\$6	1%
Park and Ride Lots and Alternative Transportation Programs	\$9	1.5%
Local street repairs, bike lanes, walkways, and more	\$112	19.5%
Coastal Pedestrian/ Bike Trail adjacent to rail line	\$23	4%
Senior and Disabled Transportation	\$23	4%
Highway 17 Safety Programs	\$6	1%
Watsonville-Pajaro Train Station	\$6	1%
Reserve for Potential Cost Increase	\$17	3%
Administration	\$6	1%
Total	\$577 Million	100%

Based on the Expenditure Plan approved by RTC on 6/3/04. 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.

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 of California, determines transportation priorities
- Provides a stable source of funds for neighborhood streets

Expenditure Plan Project List for the Local Transportation Sales Tax Ballot Measure

The Expenditure Plan, as approved by the RTC in June 2004, would fund the following high priority projects. The plan will be forwarded to the County Board of Supervisors for placement on the November 2004 ballot:

- **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.
- 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 19% 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.
- \$23 million will be used to build the **Coastal Bike/Pedestrian Trail**, a bikeway/walkway adjacent to the existing Watsonville to Davenport rail line.
- 4% 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, \$6 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 more quickly. Oversight for the sales tax program will be conducted by an Independent Audit Committee.

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.

Stay Informed About the Tax Measure Expenditure Plan

For more information, visit us on the web at:

www.sccrtc.org/expendplan.html

Subscribe to Email Updates at:

www.sccrtc.org/enews/

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