

Agenda: August 5, 2004

To: Regional Transportation Commission  
From: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director  
RE: Request for Out-of-State Travel Authorization for Presentation at  
Transportation Research Board Conference

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### **Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize out-of-state travel for Transportation Planning Technician Grace Blakeslee to give a presentation on the *Go for Health!* collaborative at the Transportation Research Board Conference in Colorado Springs, Colorado, September 22-24, 2004.

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### **Background**

The mission of the Transportation Research Board (TRB)—one of six divisions of the National Research Council—is to promote innovation and progress in transportation through research. The Transportation Research Board facilitates the sharing of information on transportation practice and policy by researchers and practitioners.

The TRB Technical Activities Division provides a forum for transportation professionals to identify research needs and to share information on research and issues of interest. The TRB Technical Activities Division's Planning and Environmental Group's Committee on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium Sized Communities fosters research about the factors relating to the planning, development, and implementation of multi-modal transportation facilities for small and medium-sized communities. The committee's national conference is held in the fall every other year in a rotating location. The Executive Director has served as Secretary of the committee for the past 6 years.

### **Discussion**

In September of this year, the 9<sup>th</sup> national conference, "Tools of the Trade – Transportation Planning for Small & Medium Sized Communities", will be held in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Transportation Planning Technician Grace Blakeslee has been invited to serve on the panel discussing Transportation and Health and present a paper titled, "*Go for Health!* Partnership – Supporting the Link Between Transportation Choices and Routine Physical Activity" – see abstract, Attachment 1. The paper

highlights Santa Cruz County's *Go for Health!* collaborative and their recently released countywide Childhood Obesity Prevention Plan, which includes action steps that link transportation choices to children's level of physical activity.

Staff recommends that the Commission authorize Transportation Planning Technician Grace Blakeslee to attend this conference to share with TRB member communities Santa Cruz County's cutting-edge work addressing the link between transportation choices, physical activity, and childhood obesity. As a member of the TRB committee sponsoring this conference, the Executive Director will also be attending and moderating a panel (authorization already approved).

### **Summary**

Staff recommends authorization of out-of-state travel for Transportation Planning Technician Grace Blakeslee to present a paper at the September Transportation Research Board Conference on the *Go for Health!* collaborative..

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#### **Attachment 1: Abstract**

Prepared by: Grace Blakeslee

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