

Agenda: August 5, 2004

To: Regional Transportation Commission
From: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
Re: FY 04/05 Transportation Development Act Claim from the City of Santa Cruz Allocation Request

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Commission adopt the resolution ([Attachment 1](#)) approving the City of Santa Cruz's FY 2003/2004 (\$94,300) and FY 2004/2005 (\$21,000) Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 project allocation requests totaling \$115,000.

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) was established by the State Legislature in 1971. The TDA provides one of the major funding sources for public transportation in California. TDA funds are also used by local jurisdictions for local roads as well as bicycle and pedestrian projects.

Funds are obtained by local jurisdictions via a three-step process: (1) apportionment, (2) allocation, and (3) payment (reimbursement). One step does not always imply or require the next. Apportionment in Santa Cruz County is done by the SCCRTC according to population using an approved formula in the SCCRTC Rules & Regulations. Once funds are apportioned to a given area, they are typically available only for allocation to claimants in that area. Allocation is the discretionary action by the SCCRTC that designates funds for a specific claimant for a specific purpose. TDA funds are apportioned annually and allocated on an on-going, non-competitive basis. Payment (reimbursement) is authorized by instructions issued by the SCCRTC in its Rules and Regulations. Unused TDA funds allocated to any project may be rolled over from one fiscal year to the next.

As stated in the SCCRTC Rules and Regulations, a TDA Article 8 claim shall include the following:

1. Description of the project adequate for review by the Regional Transportation Commission and its advisory committees;
2. Justification for the project including a statement regarding its consistency and relationship with the Regional Transportation Plan and the Congestion Management Program;
3. Estimated cost of the project including other funding sources;
4. A statement agreeing to maintain the funded project in the condition outlined in the submitted plans for a period of 20 years; and

5. Preferred method of disbursement, consistent with Section H, Disbursement.

DISCUSSION

The City of Santa Cruz is requesting an allocation of \$94,300 for FY 2003/2004 TDA funds for four projects: Bicycle Parking Program, Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements, Water Street Pedestrian Improvements Safe Routes to School Match and the San Lorenzo Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge Design Local Share. For FY 2004/2005 the City is requesting \$21,000 in TDA funds for three projects: the Bicycle Parking Program, Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements, and High Street Bikeway.

The City has also requested that prior year balances from four projects, previously approved for allocations, be returned to the City's unallocated balance for future allocation to other projects. These returned funds, totaling \$53,839, come from unused balances from the Bay Avenue Bike Lanes and Rail Crossing Project, prior year unexpended bicycle striping funds, prior years unexpended bicycle parking program funds, and the Soquel/Front Garage Bicycle cage project.

Attachment 2 is a letter from Chris Schneiter, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer for the City of Santa Cruz, requesting the allocation of a total of \$115,300 in TDA Article 8 funds for bicycle improvement projects and a feasibility study.

Staff recommends that the Commission approve the City of Santa Cruz allocation request. All projects are consistent with the *2001 Regional Transportation Plan*.

SUMMARY

The City of Santa Cruz is requested allocation of \$115,300 in TDA Article 8 funds for various bicycle and pedestrian projects. Staff recommends that the Bike Committee recommend that the Commission approve the City's allocation request.

Attachment 1: Resolution

Attachment 2: Article 8 TDA Allocation Claim Letter from the City of Santa Cruz