

To: Regional Transportation Commission – Transportation Policy Workshop
From: Linda Wilshusen, Executive Director
RE: Rail Diesel Car Demonstration Program

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

Review the attached materials provided to the RTC in February 2004 and provide direction to staff.

BACKGROUND

In February 2004 the RTC approved a \$5,250 proposal to bring a Budd Rail Car demonstration train to Santa Cruz County, contingent upon the location of the demonstration being in the same corridor as the proposed Recreational Rail service, between Capitola and Aptos with an extension to Seaside. Additional funding would be needed for the demonstration event and sponsorships/contributions would need to be solicited.

As reported at the April 2004 meeting, bringing a demonstration train to Santa Cruz County was not feasible before the Recreational Rail Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) was complete for three reasons: Oregon Department of Transportation's Budd Rail Car was only available in the non-summer months, Union Pacific did not grant rights and access for a demonstration train and additional funds would have been necessary necessitating unavailable staff time to seek sponsors and conduct promotional activities.

At the September 2004 meeting, Commissioners again requested information about this option.

DISCUSSION

Attached are the materials from RailMove outlining the original proposal for the demonstration Budd Rail Diesel Car passenger coach originally submitted in January 2004 ([Attachment 1](#)). The summer service between Portland and Astoria ends September 20.

SUMMARY

The Regional Transportation Commission considered bringing a demonstration Budd Rail Diesel Car to Santa Cruz County earlier this year but could not due to conflicts with the train's summer schedule and other logistics. The Commission requested information about this option.

Attachments:

1. RailMove letters dated January 21 and 27, 2004 including operating cost proposal

Prepared by Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner

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