

November 10, 2004

Mr. Gregg Albright, Director
Caltrans District 05
50 Higuera St.
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401

ATTN: David Murray

**RE: Support For The Application By Santa Cruz Metro For FY 2005 Funds
From FTA Transit Professionals Development Program**

Dear Mr. Albright:

I am writing to support the Santa Cruz Metro's grant application for the FTA Transit Professionals Development Program. METRO's proposed project is designed to give needed training and peer exposure to the incumbent Planner and planning staff at METRO through enrollment in a focused regimen of typically available workshops, seminars and conferences in transportation planning.

Like many public agencies, Santa Cruz METRO has suffered through 3 or more years of declining operating revenues from local and state sources. In addition, METRO eliminated two senior planning positions in 2002, leaving a single service planner to perform the undiminished workload. Because training and travel have been all but eliminated from its budget, METRO has been unable to offer training opportunities. A grant from this program, if awarded, would provide the much-needed funds for professional development to give the incumbent Planner a foundation of planning concepts and transportation project programming methods in order to more effectively participate in the regional and metropolitan transportation improvement programs.

I would appreciate your favorable consideration of METRO's application. This project will provide substantial training and development with a modest grant award. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Linda Wilshusen
Executive Director

Cc: SCMTD
SCCRTC