

Attachment 2:

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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission 2005 Legislative Agenda: Federal Issues

1. **Maximize Local Area Funding.** Support a six-year reauthorization bill that preserves the basic framework and key principles of TEA 21, and provides increased revenues for the Santa Cruz County region. Work with the delegation to obtain funding for Highway 1 widening and MetroBase Project. Oppose any efforts to reduce transportation funding to California or the region. Oppose efforts to redirect annual appropriations (including the Revenue Aligned Budget Authority) away from established formulas.
2. **Support Federal Funding for Highway Projects.** Continue to seek a \$15 million earmark for the Highway 1 HOV Lane project as the regions number 1 priority project.
3. **Maximize Transit Funding.**
 - a) Support annual transit capital and operating fund allocations at the maximum levels allowed in TEA-21 to meet growing paratransit and Americans with Disabilities Act service demands, to help relieve transit service overcrowding, and to encourage increased transit use.
 - b) Oppose any efforts to reduce transit funding to California or the region and support efforts to increase transit funding, particularly in small urbanized areas.
 - c) Support the inclusion of service and equity factors in the Federal Transit Formula Program as proposed in the High Intensity Transit Tier Program for urbanized areas under 200,000 in population.
 - d) Support Metro's request for METRO's Pacific Station funding.
 - e) Support provisions that better integrate state and federal environmental laws;
 - e) Advocate for the inclusion of a Bus Fleet Modernization Program, funded at \$100 million annually, directed at areas below 1 million in population;
 - f) Advocate increasing funding levels for the Federal Transit Program to at least \$14.2 billion by 2009.
 - g) Oppose the use of bonding to finance the Federal Transit Program or any other programs in the reauthorization bill which could jeopardize reliable, guaranteed funding.
4. **Support Improved Elderly and Disabled Transportation.**
 - a) Support increased Elderly & Disabled Transportation Funding so that more elderly and disabled transportation needs can be met.
 - b) Require that all interstate transportation providers comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions, including wheelchair accessibility requirements.
 - c) Advocate for federal rule changes to reimburse non-emergency medical transportation through Medicare as a less costly alternative to ambulances.
5. **Coordinate with Regional Agencies, the State of California and the Federal Government on the Reauthorization of the Federal Surface Transportation Act.**
 - a) Support a six-year reauthorization bill that preserves the basic framework and key principles of TEA 21, and continues to emphasize funding and tax credits for alternatives modes and alternatives to the internal combustion engine, flexible use of funds across modes, regional control over decision making, streamlined

administrative requirements, and provides a fair share of revenues to California and the Santa Cruz County region.

- b) Support the retention of the 80 percent/20 percent funding split between highway and transit programs as well as maintain the 80 percent federal/20 percent local match requirement for both modes.
 - c) Seek continued Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) program funding eligibility for the Monterey Bay region by retaining fund eligibility for those areas that are current maintenance areas as EPA implements the new 8-hour standard.
 - d) Support increased funding for transportation planning activities.
6. **Support Funding of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Trail.** Support proposals by Congressman Sam Farr to fund planning and construction of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Scenic Trail.
7. **Support Intercity Passenger Rail Services.** Support the reintroduction and passage of measures that will provide ongoing funding for AMTRAK and that will facilitate the shared use of tracks by passenger and freight rail.
8. **Support Legislative and Administrative Proposals to Streamline the Process for Federally Funded Projects.** Support measures to streamline the federal project delivery requirements (including cooperative agreements, pre-award audits, new disadvantaged business enterprise regulations and duplicative federal environmental review laws) while maintaining the substance of environmental laws, either through regulatory or statutory changes.