

**Attachment 3:**  
**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**  
**2004 Legislative Agenda: State Issues**  
**FINAL**

1. **Preserve Existing Transportation Funding Formulas.** Retain and enhance California's funding formulas based on the increased needs on freight movement, agricultural production and growing population. Specifically:
  - a) Support the current SB 45 state formulas and the regional decision-making process for distribution of existing and new transportation funds.
  - b) Oppose efforts to reduce the percentage of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds programmed by Regional Transportation Planning Agencies below 75%.
  - c) Support measures that preserve existing transportation funds for transportation uses.
  - d) Oppose shifting transportation funds to non-transportation purposes, including loans from transportation accounts and Proposition. 42
  
2. **Support New Transportation Funding.** Support countywide and statewide efforts to raise needed funds for transportation improvements, including:
  - a) Support the development of a steady stream of new transportation funds dedicated to local road rehabilitation and maintenance, such as indexing of the gas tax;
  - b) Support legislative efforts to increase the gas tax and dedicate revenues to transportation projects and programs;
  - c) Support lowering the voter threshold from 2/3 to a majority vote (or 55%) for countywide transportation sales or gas taxes;
  - d) Oversee development of an expenditure plan in anticipation of potential approval of a countywide transportation sales tax.
  
3. **Maximize Local Area Funding.** Work to assure that state transportation programs provide the maximum amount of revenues for the Santa Cruz County region, emphasizing funding for implementation of the program of projects in the Watsonville to Santa Cruz to UCSC corridor. If state general funds are devoted to a specific list of projects, support funding of projects in the Watsonville to Santa Cruz to UCSC corridor program, with the widening of Highway 1 as the first priority.
  
4. **Track Statewide Distribution of Competitive Funds.** Support legislation that would require Caltrans and the CTC to track and analyze statewide disbursement of competitive transportation funds (such as SHOPP, ITIP, HBRR, BTA, Safe Routes to Schools, etc.) in order provide information on their geographic distribution.
  
5. Work with our state legislators to include authority to use design-build or design-sequencing construction methods for the Highway 1 Widening/HOV project in proposed legislation, as appropriate.

## Alternative Modes

6. **Support Alternative Modes.** Encourage the development of state policies and measures that support and promote bicycling, walking, transit, van/carpooling and other alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle. Specifically:

a) **Transit:**

- Support legislation to provide commuter choice tax incentives for carpool, vanpool and transit use, including those incentives provided in federal law;
- Support measures to allow the use of gas taxes for transit capital purposes, including purchases of rolling stock;
- Seek to maintain current levels and support increased funding for elderly and disabled transportation, such as state matching for the federal Section 5310 program, and state overmatching to Titles III & VII of the Older Americans Act;
- Support Medicaid funding for transit and oppose reductions in Medi-Cal reimbursement rates for transportation;
- Support introduction and passage of legislation designed to enact additional sources of transit operating and capital assistance.
- Support legislative efforts by the California Transit Association to extend the “Yield to Bus” program to the rest of the state;
- Monitor negotiations between the State and the FHWA regarding the implementation of AB 2582, which allows paratransit vehicles to use high occupancy vehicle lanes.
- Support the *Safe, Reliable High-Speed Train Bond Act for the 21st Century*, a ballot initiative to issue a \$9.95 billion bond in order to plan and construct a high-speed rail transportation system that will connect Southern California to the Central Valley, Sacramento and the Bay Area.

b) **Bicycling & Walking**

- Support legislative initiatives to improve conditions for cycling and walking at the local level;
- Work with statewide agencies to develop legislation to treat bicycles the same as motor vehicles when they fail to trigger traffic signals;
- Support legislative initiatives to require that new traffic actuated signals detect lawful bicycle traffic on the roadway.
- Encourage county schools to take advantage of funding opportunities through the Safe Routes to School Program, renewed by SB 10.

c) **Carpooling:**

- Oppose measures to remove existing or restrict future High Occupancy Vehicle lanes.
- Support measures to establish car sharing/station car programs.

## Safety

7. **Support Measures to Improve Safety for Bicyclists and Pedestrians.** Support measures that would require bicycle and pedestrian facilities as a part of newly constructed roads and streets.
8. **Continue to Gather Data and Educate the Public on the Hazards of Cell Phone Use While Driving.**

## Project Delivery

9. **Work with Partners to Improve Timely Delivery of Projects.** Support measures and work with partner agencies to improve the timely delivery of state and federally funded transportation projects. Work with Caltrans and federal agencies to remove barriers to delivery of federal projects. Request reasonable time extensions to delivery deadlines when outside agency reviews run late. Support legislative efforts to enable Caltrans to take advantage of design sequencing to accelerate project completion.

## Freeway Service Patrol and Callbox Program

10. **Support Increased Funding for Freeway Service Patrols.** Support proposals to increase state funding of Freeway Service Patrol programs.
11. **Support Statewide Callbox Program.** Support development of a statewide callbox network that is well coordinated with the existing Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) callbox programs.

## Welfare to Work

12. **Support Funding for Welfare to Work Activities.** Continue to monitor state and federal actions regarding the transportation aspects of welfare-to-work activities and support additional funds to pay for these services.

## Smart Growth Issues

13. **Support Incentives that Improve the Transportation-Land use Connection in Policy and Project Decision-Making.** Encourage smart growth proposals to include incentives for more compact, transit-oriented development or improved jobs/housing balance to help reduce travel demand and more efficiently use the existing transportation system.