

AGENDA: April 7, 2005

TO: Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Lyle Broschat, Planning Technician
Kim Shultz, Senior Transportation Planner

RE: 2004 Transportation Monitoring Report

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission accept the 2004 Transportation Monitoring Report (enclosed separately).

BACKGROUND

Since 1984, the Regional Transportation Commission's Transportation Monitoring Program has conducted annual traffic counts on major arterial roadways and requested road segments for local jurisdictions, the University of California at Santa Cruz, jurisdictions within Santa Cruz County, and for the Federal Highway Performance Monitoring System. The program also includes conducting annual vehicle occupancy counts and truck counts, and analyzing transportation statistics compiled by Caltrans, the California Highway Patrol, and others. Staff distributes the program's annual report, the *Transportation Monitoring Report*, to agencies and organizations involved in transportation issues and to interested individuals as part of our public participation program.

DISCUSSION

The *2004 Transportation Monitoring Report*, an update of previous reports, provides a summary of traffic volume information, vehicle occupancy counts, accident information, and other types of transportation information related to Santa Cruz County. In addition, the report contains synopses of many programs funded by the Regional Transportation Commission or in which the SCCRTC is involved.

The most current information available is used in preparing this report, but historical information is provided as well for the purposes of observing changes over time. Expanded 2000 census data and a more complete overview of the county's transportation system have been included in this year's report.

Staff advises Commissioners to keep this copy of the report as a reference tool throughout the year. Traffic volume data (Appendices A and B of the document) are distributed and frequently used by public agency staff, consultants, and members of the public. Traffic volumes and vehicle occupancy data are also posted on the Commission's website (www.sccrtc.org).

Due to other staffing priorities, fewer staff hours have been assigned to traffic monitoring. As a

result, the Transportation Monitoring Report will be prepared every two years, instead of annually. In addition, fewer traffic counts will be performed, and a consultant will be utilized to perform high-priority volume counts.

SUMMARY

The *2004 Transportation Monitoring Report* includes information related to traffic monitoring counts, vehicle occupancy counts, as well as related information from various transportation programs conducted by the SCCRTC and other agencies. This report is updated annually. Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission accept the *2004 Transportation Monitoring Report*.

Attachment: *2004 Annual Transportation Monitoring Report*, (enclosed separately)