

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission  
**FROM:** Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner  
**RE:** Public Agency Sponsorship of Proposed Folding Bikes in Buses Program

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## **RECOMMENDATION**

The Bicycle Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission grant public agency sponsorship to the Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association in their funding solicitation efforts for the proposed Folding Bikes in Buses Program.

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## **DISCUSSION**

The Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association (SCA TMA) has submitted a letter (Attachment 1) requesting the RTC's public agency sponsorship for a grant funding application to the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District's (MBUAPCD) AB 2766 program. The proposed Folding Bikes in Buses Program seeks \$67,350 for a two-year program that would receive \$8,082 in matching funds from the SCA TMA and retailers, for a \$75,432 program total. Attachment 2 outlines the program's budget and schedule including activities scheduled for implementation phases.

The Regional Transportation Commission's Bicycle Committee reviewed this proposal and recommended approval. The Folding Bikes in Buses would provide price discounts to Santa Cruz County residents purchasing folding bikes. Participants would also receive a discounted monthly bus pass to encourage greater bus ridership. The program would be structured in similar fashion to the Electric Bike Incentive Program that is administered and implemented by Ecology Action and the SCA TMA through RTC public agency sponsorship.

The Commission's public agency sponsorship would involve passing the funds through the Commission's budget. No Commission funds would be involved.

Attachment 3 provides logistical information on the proposed Folding Bikes in Buses Program and its aim of increasing Santa Cruz Metro Transit District (SCMTD) bus ridership. By providing price discounts at 30% for Santa Cruz County residents purchasing a folding bicycle and further discounts for those also purchasing monthly bus passes, folding bikes would provide commuters with the door-to-door transportation of a bicycle and the long distance travel of a bus. SCMTD buses frequently reach their bicycle carrying capacity. Incentives for folding bikes would serve multi-modal users wishing to reliably combine bike and bus trips. Folding bikes would serve this need as they can easily be folded and packed like a carrying case thereby increasing SCMTD's bicycle carrying capacity without additional expense to the District.

SCMTD staff supports the proposed Folding Bikes in Buses program and has worked with the Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) and SCATMA staff on revisions to the carry-on policy to allow folding bikes in buses. The SCMTD Board will consider approval of the policy revisions at their meeting of May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission support the Bicycle Committee's recommendation to support the proposed Folding Bikes in Buses Program and grant the SCATMA public agency sponsorship in their efforts to seek \$67,350 from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District's AB2766 grant funding program, pending support by the SCMTD Board. Staff recommends authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with the MBUAPCD should the application be successful and execute a contract with the SCA TMA for program implementation.

Attachment 1: Letter from the Santa Cruz Area TMA

Attachment 2: Draft Folding Bikes in Buses Program Budget and Schedule

Attachment 3: Draft Folding Bikes in Buses Program Description

Attachment 4: Resolution

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