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Regional Transportation
Commission

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March 7, 2005

Ellen Pirie
Chairperson
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Chairperson Pirie,

The Santa Cruz Area TMA is requesting the RTC's sponsorship for a Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District AB2677 grant proposal. To increase Metro bus ridership and bicycle transportation we are proposing the Folding Bikes on Buses program with a grant request of \$67,350.00. The Folding Bikes on Buses program would provide price discounts for Santa Cruz County area residents purchasing a folding bike and further discounts for those who also purchased monthly bus passes. The structure of the program would be similar to the Santa Cruz County Electric Bicycle Commuter Incentive program which, the Santa Cruz Area TMA helps staff.

Folding bikes are ideal for multi-modal travel in conjunction with Metro buses as they provide commuters with door-to-door transportation convenience of a bike and the long distance travel of a bus. A folding bike can easily and quickly be folded into a carrying package for storage on the bus and at work. Currently many of the popular Metro bus routes regularly exceed the two bike rack carrying capacity therefore forcing bus passengers to leave their bikes behind or stop taking the bus. Folding bikes would increase the buses' bike carrying capacity without any expense to the Metro Transit District.

The Metro Advisory Committee has reviewed the possibility of allowing folding bikes on buses and was receptive of the idea with some conditions. Currently, Santa Cruz Area TMA staff is working with Metro staff to develop rules allowing folding bikes on buses under the category of large parcels and packages. This proposal would only move forward if the Metro Advisory Committee and Board approved this rule change.

To meet demand for bikes on buses, increase Metro ridership, and help ease traffic congestion we request the RTC's sponsorship of our AB2766 grant proposal.

Sincerely,

Piet Canin
Deputy Director
Santa Cruz Area TMA

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