

**Date: August 4, 2005**

**To: Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission**

**From: Commissioners Campos, Norton, Stone and Wormhoudt**

**RE: COMPREHENSIVE TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PROGRAM**

As you will remember, at our last meeting the Commission discussed the attached letter proposing the creation of a broadly based committee to develop a comprehensive transportation funding program. We then agreed to establish a subcommittee composed of Commissioners Campos, Norton, Stone and Wormhoudt to refine the proposal, suggest the committee's membership, and report back at the next meeting.

Subsequently, Commissioner Wormhoudt met with our acting Executive Director and Eileen Goodwin and discussed the proposal in detail. The subcommittee then met and developed the following proposal:

1. The Commission should establish a Task Force to develop a comprehensive Transportation Funding Program for its consideration;
2. The Task Force will consider the full range of transportation projects and potential funding sources for this Program;
3. The Task Force will hold at least two rounds of community workshops with one workshop in each supervisorial district each time:
  - a. The first workshops will be to educate the public on the realities of transportation funding and solicit public input on potential projects and funding sources;
  - b. The second workshops will be to obtain public input on the draft program or program options prepared by the Task Force as a result of the first workshops and a thorough review of the options;
4. The first order of business of the Task Force will be to develop a detailed work program and timeline. The goal should be the completion of the work as expeditiously as possible;
5. Eileen Goodwin will provide staffing to the Task Force, serving as the facilitator of its meetings and the community workshops, and providing technical advice. Commission staff would provide logistical support.

6. The Commission will appoint a convener of the Task Force. The convener should be someone with broad community credibility and experience in facilitation of large diverse groups. The subcommittee recommends that Fred Keeley be appointed to this position;
7. The Task Force will function as a Brown Act committee in that its meetings will be open to the public and the public will be allowed to testify on all agenda items and during Oral Communications;
8. The Task Force will send quarterly reports to the Commission on its progress;
9. The final Task Force recommendations for a Transportation Funding Program must be approved by a two thirds vote of its membership in order for it to be forwarded to the Commission for its consideration;
10. The Task Force will be composed of 57 members as outlined in the attached Exhibit A.

Commissioners may be concerned that such a large Task Force will be unwieldy and unable to move forward expediently. The subcommittee's initial intention was to propose a much smaller group. However, Ms. Goodwin recommended that the group be very large and diverse. In her experience, a large committee is important in generating broad community support for any proposal it comes up with. Moreover, this approach has worked well in a number of other counties. The subcommittee defers to her very broad and successful experience in this area.

**Therefore, we recommend that the Commission take the following actions:**

1. Approve the recommendations of the subcommittee as outlined in this letter concerning the establishment and functioning of a Transportation Funding Program Task Force;
2. Direct staff to return at the next Commission meeting with a resolution formally establishing the Transportation Funding Program Task Force and to the October Commission meeting with a proposed budget;
3. Direct staff to negotiate an amendment to the contract with Eileen Goodwin consistent with the recommendations in this letter for consideration at the October Commission meeting;
4. Direct staff to formally invite Fred Keeley to serve as the convener of the Task Force;  
and
5. Direct staff to contact the various groups and agencies recommended for membership on the Task Force and request that they appoint representatives at their earliest convenience with the intention that the Commission would review the membership roster at its October meeting and that the first Task Force meeting would be held in October 2005.

Attachment:

Exhibit A: Proposed Membership of Transportation Funding Program Task Force