

**Agenda:** October 6, 2005

**To:** Regional Transportation Commission  
**From:** Luis Pavel Mendez, Acting Deputy Director  
**Re:** Out-of-State Travel

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve out-of-state travel for the SCCRTC Deputy Director and one transportation planner to travel to Washington D.C. in late January to meet with federal legislative staff and to attend the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board.
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## **BACKGROUND**

Every year, the Executive Director or the Deputy Director makes a trip to Washington, D.C. for two reasons: to meet with the Washington-based staffs of our federal legislators; and to attend the annual meeting of the Transportation Research Board (TRB), a division of the National Research Council. The SCCRTC Washington Assistant, Carolyn Chaney, schedules meetings each year during the TRB conference for the Executive Director/Deputy Director to discuss earmark requests and other federal issues related to transportation funding, planning and legislation. The annual TRB meeting is the foremost conference for transportation professionals, with sessions on the full range of transportation topics.

Occasionally, a Commissioner or second staff person has also made the trip to assist the Executive Director or Deputy Director in lobbying for Santa Cruz County's transportation priorities and/or to present papers at the conference.

## **DISCUSSION**

The upcoming annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) meeting will be held from January 22 to 26, 2006. Staff recommends that the SCCRTC's Deputy Director travel to Washington, D.C. for the dual purpose of attending the meeting and meeting with legislative staff. The Commission will revisit its legislative agenda starting in December, and the Deputy Director and the Washington Assistant will discuss the Commission's positions with legislative staff. They will also update the legislative staffs on the status of the Commission's major projects.

As a cost savings measure in the FY05-06 budget, there are limited funds for travel and conferences. The cost for sending two people to the TRB conference is approximately \$3,000. There are adequate funds in the Commission's travel and training budget for this trip.

## **SUMMARY**

Consistent with prior years, staff recommends that a member of the SCCRTC management team and a transportation planner be sent to Washington D.C. for the annual Transportation Research Board meeting January 22 to 26, 2006, and to meet with federal legislative staff on the RTC's legislative agenda and major projects.

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