

Steve Heminger, Executive Director  
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)  
101 Eighth Street  
Oakland, CA 94607-4700

October 25, 2005

RE: Continued Funding for "Safe on 17" Project

Dear Mr. Heminger:

As you know, Highway 17 through the Santa Cruz Mountains in Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties can be a dangerous road. The challenge of the highway's geometrics is compounded by speeding motorists and weather conditions. Over the last 6 years, the "Safe on 17" Project has achieved and sustained dramatic reductions in automobile collisions on this corridor through a combination of extra enforcement by the California Highway Patrol (CHP), roadway improvements by Caltrans Districts 4 and 5, and public information campaigns.

During the last 3 years, the "Safe on 17" Project was made possible by a funding partnership between the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE). The funding partnership has provided \$50,000 per year from each agency for extra CHP enforcement from the San Jose and Santa Cruz Area CHP offices. As a result of the available funding for extra CHP enforcement, the Safe on 17 Task Force continues to meet regularly to discuss the continued extra enforcement and discuss other potential improvements to the safety of motorist traveling on Highway 17.

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is very pleased with the improved safety on Highway 17 and wants the extra CHP enforcement to continue. Based on the continued success of the "Safe on 17" Project in achieving a reduced collision rate on Highway 17, in October 2005 the SCCRTC approved continuing funding for extra CHP enforcement on Highway 17 from SAFE funds and extending the funding partnership with MTC. The SCCRTC proposes that MTC extend the funding agreement for the existing "Safe on 17" Project and continue to match SCCRTC's funding of \$50,000/year and allocate it to the San Jose CHP office to continue their extra enforcement on Highway 17.

Thank you very much for considering this proposal, and for our continued partnership toward improving highway safety in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Please contact Grace Blakeslee of my staff if you have questions (831) 460-3219.

Sincerely,

Pat Dellin  
Acting Executive Director

cc: Danielle Stanislaus – MTC  
Wes Wells – MTC  
Captain Christiana Manriquez - Santa Cruz Area CHP  
Captain Mike Marlett - San Jose Area CHP  
John Thomas - Caltrans District 4  
Deb Larson - Caltrans District 5  
SCCRTC

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