

Agenda: December 1, 2005

To: Regional Transportation Commission
From: Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner
Re: City of Santa Cruz TDA Article 8 Claim

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) approving the City of Santa Cruz's FY 2005/2006 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 claim totaling \$48,000 (Exhibit 1 to Attachment 1) for Bikeway Striping and Shared Roadway Markings.

BACKGROUND

Each year the Regional Transportation Commission allocates Article 8 Transportation Development Account (TDA) funds to local jurisdictions for bikeway and pedestrian projects. TDA funds allocated to local jurisdictions may be rolled over from one fiscal year to the next. Claims with bicycle facilities must be reviewed by the Bicycle Advisory Committee prior to approval by the Regional Transportation Commission.

DISCUSSION

Exhibit 1 is a letter from City of Santa Cruz Public Works requesting a \$48,000 allocation in TDA Article 8 funds for bicycle improvement projects. The City of Santa Cruz has adequate funds in its TDA balance for this claim. The two projects are: Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements, and Shared Roadway Markings (Sharrows) at \$18,000 and \$30,000, respectively. TDA funds provide the full budget for Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements for the City's 30 miles of bikeways.

The Shared Roadway Markings (Sharrows) Project will provide for stenciling of City streets with the newly approved marking which indicate the travel lane is to be shared with bicyclists (see last page of Attachment 2). Streets to be striped include those where the City's Bike Plan calls for new bike lanes but project constraints prevent implementation of new bike lanes in the near future.

At its November 14, 2005 meeting, the Bicycle Committee recommended that the Commission approve this TDA claim pending clarification by staff of the following two issues regarding the use of Sharrows: 1) 20 year maintenance of bike facilities and 2) consistency with design standards found in the California Highway Design Manual's Bicycle Planning and Design section.

TDA regulations stipulate that bicycle facilities be maintained for 20 years. Because Sharrows will be stenciled on roadways that are slated for future bike lanes, the Sharrows themselves may not be maintained for 20 years. The resolution to this issue is that improved bicycle facilities will be maintained and therefore the 20 year maintenance stipulation will be upheld.

TDA rules stipulate that bicycle facility designs be consistent with guidelines found in the California Highway Design Manual's Bicycle Planning and Design section. The Sharrow is approved as a new marking in the California Manual of Unified Traffic Control Devices on streets with curbside parking (Attachment 2). The City of Santa Cruz proposed to use the Sharrow on streets with and without curbside parking. Therefore, the Cities of San Francisco and Santa Cruz, among others, are appealing the current restrictions on use of the Sharrow. Present indications to the probability of restrictions being lifted are positive. Resolution to this issue can be found in TDA rules: "deviations from this standard may be allowed by the Commission after design review and comment by its Bicycle Committee." The Bicycle Committee has reviewed the Sharrow design and proposed locations and supports the project and the TDA allocation requests.

Therefore, **the Bicycle Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the City of Santa Cruz TDA Article 8 claim.** All projects are consistent with the *2005 Regional Transportation Plan*.

SUMMARY

The City of Santa Cruz submitted a claim of \$48,000 in TDA Article 8 funds for two bicycle improvement projects. The Bicycle Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the City of Santa Cruz's claim.

Attachment 1: Resolution

Exhibit 1: Article 8 TDA Claim Letter from the City of Santa Cruz

Attachment 2: Caltrans' Traffic Operations Directive Policy Regarding "Shared Roadway Bicycle Marking"