

AGENDA: January 5, 2006

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner
RE: Transportation Funding Task Force – Update and RTC Appointments

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Accept this Update on the Transportation Funding Task Force;
 2. Approve the proposal of Commission Chair Pirie to appoint Commissioner Mardi Wormhoudt as the RTC's representative on the Transportation Funding Task Force; and
 3. Assist staff in identifying appropriate individuals to apply for the other three RTC appointments to the Task Force: representative of the Land Use Development Community; representative of Automobile Advocates/Auto Drivers At Large; and two representatives of Commuters at Large.
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BACKGROUND

In September 2005, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission adopted a resolution establishing the Transportation Funding Task Force consisting of a broad-based membership to develop a comprehensive transportation funding plan for Santa Cruz County.

A list of over eighty entities and interest groups was identified to be appointed to serve on the task force. The Regional Transportation Commission requested that Fred Keeley be the convener of the Task Force and approved that Eileen Goodwin provide consulting services.

At your November Transportation Policy Workshop meeting, the RTC approved a 12-month project budget and work plan for the Transportation Funding Task Force project. The RTC also approved a temporary full time staff position to assist with Transportation Funding Task Force and amended Eileen Goodwin's contract to provide for expenditures into next fiscal year, both contingent upon the RTC's approval of funding for the Transportation Funding Task Force for the second fiscal year.

Staff was directed to return to the RTC by June 30, 2006 with a progress report and, after the initial round of neighborhood meetings has been completed, to return to the RTC with a budget update and recommendation as to whether to continue the project and staffing to the second round of workshop meetings. Staff also promised to provide regular updates to the RTC on this project.

DISCUSSION

On December 19, 2005 a letter providing an overview of the Transportation Funding Task Force was mailed to the agencies and organizations on the membership list. The letter, signed by RTC Chair Ellen Pirie and Convener Fred Keeley, requests that entities respond to the RTC indicating their appointee to the Transportation Funding Task Force by the end of January 2006. Also included with the letter was a copy of the resolution establishing the Transportation Funding Task Force, a list of member entities/interest groups, background information and related web resources. A sample copy of the letter is attached ([Attachment 1](#)).

Please note that the County Board of Supervisors, the City Councils, Santa Cruz Metro and the Highway Construction Authority have all been requested to designate board members to serve on the Task Force. These appointments will likely be made at one of the meetings of these boards/city councils in January.

There are a few groups for which staff has been unable to find contact information. If applicable, an oral report will be provided to the RTC on the status of these efforts.

RTC Appointees

There were four positions on the Task Force to be appointed by the RTC:

- Representative of the RTC
- Representative of the Land Use Development Community
- Representative of Automobile Advocates/Auto Drivers At Large
- Representatives of Commuters at Large

RTC Chair Ellen Pirie proposes that Commissioner Mardi Wormhoudt be designated as the RTC representative on the Transportation Funding Task Force (see [Attachment 2](#)).

Staff will perform outreach for the remaining RTC-designated positions this month. Commissioners are strongly encouraged to identify potential designees and either contact them yourselves or forward their names to staff for us to contact them. Applicants will complete a brief application stating their interest in the appointment and their qualifications to represent the interest group. Staff will bring the applications to the RTC at one of your meeting in February for the RTC to choose the official representative for each position. Applicants who are not appointed by the RTC will be encouraged to participate in the Transportation Funding Task Force process through the workshops and other public input mechanisms.

Timing

The first meeting of the Task Force is likely to be scheduled for late February or March, with the community meetings to begin in April. RTC staff hopes to hire the temporary Transportation Planner who will be assisting with this project by mid-February. Staff will return to the RTC in February with more information on the timeline for the project.

SUMMARY

This is the first of regular updates to the RTC on the status of the Transportation Funding Task Force activities. Initial letters have been mailed to the Transportation Funding Task Force member agencies requesting them to designate an individual to participate in the Transportation Funding Task Force meetings. RTC appointments to the Task Force need to be made, and the Commission Chair proposes that Commissioner Wormhoudt be appointed to be the RTC representative. Commissioners are encouraged to assist staff in identifying individuals for the other RTC appointments.

Attachments:

1. Sample letter to Transportation Funding Task Force Agencies/Groups
2. Letter from Commission Chair Pirie Regarding Representative of the RTC

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