

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

1523 PACIFIC AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CALIFORNIA 95060-3911 • 831/ 460-3200 • FAX 831/ 460-3215

SERVICE AUTHORITY
FOR FREEWAY
EMERGENCIES
(SAFE)

Capt. Christina Manriquez
California Highway Patrol
10395 Soquel Dr
Aptos, CA 95003-4937

Sample Letter

December 20, 2005

RAIL/TRAIL
AUTHORITY

Re: Invitation to participate as an Ex-Officio Member of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's Transportation Funding Task Force

COMMUTE
SOLUTIONS

Dear Capt. Manriquez:

TRANSPORTATION
POLICY WORKSHOP

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) has taken formal action to establish the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF). The purpose of this broad-based group is to "develop a comprehensive transportation funding program." Your organization has been included as a member of the Task Force.

BUDGET &
ADMINISTRATION
PERSONNEL
COMMITTEE

The intent of this letter is to introduce you to the Transportation Funding Task Force, and to request that you reply to this letter, indicating who from your organization will be attending the Task Force meetings. Please respond by the end of January 2006.

INTERAGENCY
TECHNICAL
ADVISORY
COMMITTEE

As you are aware, the voters of Santa Cruz County rejected Measure J on the November 2004 countywide ballot. The measure, which would have provided an increase in the local sales tax, would have funded a variety of transportation and transit projects, with the bulk of the funding to be spent on widening of Highway 1. Frankly, the vote was not close (43% Yes, 57% No).

BICYCLE COMMITTEE

There are virtually as many opinions about why the measure failed as there were votes cast. One thing is clear: In order to have our transportation and transit systems serve the needs of our community, we, as a community, will have to do some hard work to identify what we want and how much we are willing to pay.

ELDERLY & DISABLED
TRANSPORTATION
ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The charge of the TFTF is to do that work with the community at-large. The Transportation Funding Task Force is supported by the Transportation Commission staff, a very well qualified consultant, Eileen Goodwin, and convened by Santa Cruz County Treasurer Fred Keeley.

The Task Force will be meeting throughout Santa Cruz County, in working sessions with the public, and will attempt to discern an achievable plan that can be supported by at least a two-thirds vote of the Task Force.

26-5

The work of the Transportation Funding Task Force is likely to begin in February, with community meetings beginning in March or April. It is the hope of the Transportation Commission that the Task Force will be able to complete several community meetings, and provide a status report to the Commission prior to the end of the fiscal year on June 30, 2006. At that time, the Commission will decide whether or not to continue funding the work of the Task Force.

Three documents are attached to help you prepare for the work of the Transportation Funding Task Force. First is the resolution adopted by the Regional Transportation Commission setting forth the purposes of the Task Force, second is background information about the Task Force, third is the Task Force membership list and fourth is a summary of transportation documents and information available on the Regional Transportation Commission and other agency websites. We strongly recommend that you take time to review these documents.

Please forward your response to this letter by January 31, 2006 to Karena Pushnik, staff at the SCCRTC, at the following address:

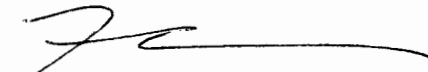
Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95062
Phone: 831/460-3210, Fax: 460-3215
Email: kpushnik@scrtc.org

Thank you for considering participation in the Transportation Funding Task Force. We look forward to your response, and to working with you.

Sincerely,



ELLEN PIRIE
SCCRTC Chair



FRED KEELEY
Convener

cc: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Attachments:

1. September 2005 Resolution establishing the Transportation Funding Task Force
2. Background Information
3. Task Force Membership List
4. Internet Resource List

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
on the date of September 1, 2005
on the motion of Commissioner
duly seconded by Commissioner

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A BROADLY BASED
TRANSPORTATION FUNDING TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP A COMPREHENSIVE
TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, as part of its long-standing commitment to transportation planning, recognizes the importance of developing a comprehensive plan to fund local transportation improvements;

WHEREAS, the Regional Transportation Commission, as the state designated regional transportation planning agency, is charged with determining regional-level transportation priorities;

WHEREAS, the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan identified that there are insufficient local, state and federal transportation funds to implement desired transportation improvements for all modes;

WHEREAS, the failure to reach a 2/3 majority support for Measure J in November 2004 signaled the need to develop a new approach to transportation funding issues; and

WHEREAS, there is general agreement that a wide range of community input is needed to address the gap between transportation revenues and desired transportation projects;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION:

1. A Transportation Funding Task Force is hereby established, consisting of a broad based membership, to develop a comprehensive transportation funding plan for Santa Cruz County;
2. The Task Force recommendations must be approved by a two-thirds vote of its membership in order for it to be forwarded to the Regional Transportation Commission for its consideration; and
3. The duration of the Task Force will be short term, as long as it takes to form recommendations on a transportation funding plan.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS

NOES: COMMISSIONERS

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS

Ellen Pirie, Chair

ATTEST:

Pat Dellin, Secretary

Distribution: Auditor-Controller
SCCRTC Fiscal
Contractor

Background for Establishing a Transportation Funding Program Task Force

- The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is the designated regional transportation planning agency, responsible for planning efforts to meet the community's mobility needs and making local decisions about funding.
- The 2004 Regional Transportation Plan, developed by the RTC in conjunction with the community, identified the amount of funding which would be needed to maintain the existing network of transportation facilities and services for all modes of transportation in Santa Cruz County, and the amount of funding needed to implement desired transportation improvements for all modes.
- The 2004 Regional Transportation Plan concluded that there are insufficient transportation funds expected from local, state and federal sources to maintain the existing transportation network or to improve the network.
- A countywide half-cent transportation sales tax measure (Measure J) was proposed by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and forwarded to the voters on the November 2004 ballot. This measure contained a mix of transportation improvements including: a new carpool lane on the Highway 1 freeway, bicycle and pedestrian crossings over Highway 1, park and ride lot and other alternative transportation improvements, local street and road repairs and maintenance, partial funding for a bicycle/ pedestrian trail along the coast, additional funding for specialized transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, and partial funding for a train station at the Pajaro/Watsonville Junction on the main AMTRAK line. The ballot measure was defeated when it received only 42% support, far short of the 67% required to pass.
- The RTC has recently established a comprehensive Transportation Funding Task Force as an inclusive process to involve a broad range of stakeholders in the discussion about both transportation priorities in Santa Cruz County as well as the complexities of how to pay for them.
- Transportation Funding Task Force meetings will be open to the public.
- Two rounds of community workshops around the county and internet options are planned to solicit input from the community.

For more information about the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, the 2004 Regional Transportation Plan and other transportation projects, please visit www.sccrtc.org.

**MEMBERSHIP OF
TRANSPORTATION FUNDING PROGRAM TASK FORCE**

(Total = 71 plus 10 ex-officio members)

- 4 city council members, 1 from each city, appointed by the city councils
- 1 member of the Board of Supervisors, appointed by the Board
- 1 member of the Transit District, appointed by the District Board
- 1 representative appointed by the Highway 1 Construction Authority (HCA)
- 1 member of the RTC
- 2 representatives of large employers, appointed by the Business Council
- 2 representatives of the Committee for Sensible Transportation, appointed by the CST
- 6 representatives of the business community, one each appointed by the following:
Pajaro Valley, Scotts Valley, Greater Santa Cruz, Aptos, Capitola/Soquel chambers
and the San Lorenzo Valley Business Association
- 2 representatives of the bicycle community, one appointed by People Power and one
by the RTC Bicycle Committee
- 2 representatives of the environmental community, appointed by the Sierra Club
- 2 representative of community programs, appointed by the Human Care Alliance, one
from north county and one from south county
- 2 union representatives, appointed by the Central Labor Council
- 1 representative: UTU Bus Driver Union
- 1 consumer appointed by the Transit District
- 1 representative of the land use development community, appointed by the RTC
- 1 representative from the Sheriff's Department

1 representative each appointed by the following groups and agencies:

- Action Pajaro Valley
- American Medical Response (AMR) – ambulance company
(replaced with the Santa Cruz Bicycle Industry Coalition)
- Automobile Advocate/Auto Driver-At-Large (Appointed by the RTC)
- Brown Berets
- Cabrillo College, appointed by the Board of Trustees
- Coastal Commission
- Community Traffic Safety Coalition
- Commuter at large (*Appointed by the RTC*)
- Conference and Visitors Council
- County Emergency Medical Care Commission
- Davenport Resource Service Center
- Ecology Action
- Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
- Farm Bureau

- Latino Business Association
- Latino Lawyers Association
- League of Women Voters
- League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)
- Mission Pedestrian
- Native Americans
- Open Space Alliance
- Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Agency
- Pajaro Valley Unified School District
- Pleasure Point Business Association
- Rails to Trails group
- Rio Del Mar Improvement Association
- Salud Para La Gente
- Santa Cruz Bicycle Industry Coalition (replacing Bike to Work)
- Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center
- Santa Cruz County Board of Realtors
- Santa Cruz Transportation Management Association (TMA)
- Santa Cruz Coalition Against Recreation Rail (SCCARED) anti-rail group
- SAFE on 17 Task Force
- School Districts, appointed by the County Office of Education
- Seacliff Improvement Association
- Seniors Anti-Tax group
- Seniors Council
- Surfriders Foundation
- UCSC, appointed by the Chancellor
- Valley Women's Club *
- Wetlands Watch

Ex-Officio members

- California Highway Patrol (CHP) (1)
- Caltrans (1)
- Local Jurisdiction Public Works Staff (5)
- Transit District Staff (1)
- Consolidated Transportation Services Agency Staff (1)
- Local representative of the California State Auto Association (AAA) (1)

Transportation Information for Santa Cruz County On the Internet

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission: www.sccrtc.org

OVERVIEW STUDIES:

- 2005 Regional Transportation Plan – State required long range plan that acts as a blueprint to guide transportation development
- Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) – State required 5-year capital improvement program for transportation projects using state or federal funds
- 2004 Transportation Monitoring Report (TMR) – Traffic volumes on local streets, roads and highways
- 1999 Major Transportation Investment Study (MTIS) – Analysis of project alternatives for the Watsonville-Santa Cruz-UCSC corridor
- RTC 2002 Annual Report – Describes agency achievements, structure, revenue/expenditures

COMMISSION MEETINGS:

- Agendas and Highlights for Regional Transportation Commission meetings

HIGHWAY 1 PROJECTS:

- Overview and Map of Hwy 1 Widening Projects in Santa Cruz County
- Hwy 1/17 Merge Lanes Project
- Hwy 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project
- Hwy 1 HOV Lane Widening Project
- Funding

RAIL PROJECTS AND STUDIES:

- Rail Line Purchase
- Revised Draft EIR for Capitola/Aptos Recreational Rail
- Coastal Rail trail
- "Around the Bay" Rail Study

COMMUTE SOLUTIONS

(www.commuterolutions.org):

- Commute Solutions offers instant on-line ridematching
- Information about alternative commutes
- Bicycling: maps, subsidized parking subsidy, electric bike

COMMITTEE MEETINGS AND ACTIVITIES:

- Bicycle Committee
- Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E/D TAC)
- Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee
- Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)
- Paratransit Coordination Task Force Recommendations
- Traffic Operations System Oversight Committee

OTHER WEB SITES (for full list see links page from RTC site: <http://www.sccrtc.org/links.html#caltrans>):

- Caltrans – District 5 (state highways: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/>)
- Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Bus): <http://www.scmtd.com/>
- Santa Cruz County Road Closure Info: <http://www.sccroadclosure.org/>
- Bureau of Transportation Statistics: <http://www.bts.gov/>