

DATE: January 2006

TO: RTC Advisory Committees and Transportation Policy Workshop
FROM: RTC Staff *AK*
RE: Infrastructure Bond Proposals

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the RTC's committees and Commissioners provide input on projects the RTC should actively advocate for inclusion in any Infrastructure Bond measure.

BACKGROUND

At the RTC's January 5, 2006 meeting, the RTC discussed the draft 2006 Legislative Agenda and received an oral update on the potential for a statewide infrastructure bond proposal to be presented to the voters this year including significant funds for transportation. Staff recommends that funds generated through an infrastructure bond be distributed on a formula basis to ensure equitable distribution of funds. The process currently used by all regional transportation planning agencies in the state ensures local input and community participation in the distribution of funds. However, there is a possibility that specific projects may be listed within the bond measure presented to the voters.

DISCUSSION

On the evening of January 5, 2006 the Governor unveiled an Infrastructure Bond proposals as part of his GoCalifornia!/Strategic Growth Plan (Attachment 1). Concurrently, Assembly Speaker Fabian Nuñez introduced his own Infrastructure Bond proposal (Attachment 2). State Senator Perata released a similar Infrastructure Bond proposal several months ago, which is discussed as part of the Draft 2006 Legislative Agenda.

It is likely that some combination of these three proposals will be presented to voters in June or November 2006. The RTC is working with its partners statewide to ensure that amendments are made to these proposals to ensure that the bond measure represents an equitable distribution of funds and that Santa Cruz County's transportation needs are addressed.

The Governor's Infrastructure Bond proposal includes a preliminary working list of transportation projects. The categories of improvements identified by the Governor, under which specific projects are listed, are:

- Major Mobility Improvements: Regional Priority Routes
- Major Mobility Improvements: SR-99 Corridor Enhancements
- Major Mobility Improvements: State Inter-Regional and Focus Routes
- Major Mobility Improvements: Corridor Mobility Management Program (ramp meters +)

Major Mobility Improvements: Inter-City Passenger Rail
Major Mobility Improvements: Park-and-Ride / Pedestrian-Bike Facilities
Major Improvements: Safety and Preservation (SHOPP program)

In November the RTC submitted a list of projects from the *region's Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* and Draft 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for consideration as part of the Governor's GoCalifornia initiative (Attachment 3). The Transit District identified the following list of projects and funding needs in December:

- Bus Diesel/CNG Conversion - \$6.8 million
- Fixed Route Bus Replacements - \$10 million
- ParaCruz Van Expansion/Replacement - \$1.46 million
- Automated Vehicle Location System - \$5 million
- Administrative Facility Acquisition/Renovation - \$5 million
- Pacific Station Construction - \$4 million

Unfortunately, **no projects in Santa Cruz County are currently included in the Governor's preliminary list for the Infrastructure Bond (Attachment 4)** and it appears that the Governor's preliminary proposal does not include any bus transit projects.

In the event that specific projects rather than a simple equitable formula distribution of funds is included in the final bond measure, the **Regional Transportation Commission is seeking input from its committees on what projects (and in what priority order) the Commission should actively advocate for inclusion in the final bond measure.**

Considering the priorities identified in the Governor's preliminary proposal, priorities identified in the *Regional Transportation Plan*, and projects with future funding needs, staff has identified the following preliminary list of projects and funding amounts to possibly request for inclusion:

- Projects identified by the Transit District (above)
- Maintenance and Rehabilitation of Regional Roads - \$23.4 million per year
- Highway 1 Widening/HOV Lanes Project - up to \$380 million
- Highway 1: Bay/Porter to Park Auxiliary Lane - \$15 million (preliminary cost estimate)
- Highway 1/9 Intersection (including bike/pedestrian crossing of Highway 1 near San Lorenzo River) - \$5 million
- Santa Cruz Coastal Trail Network - \$5 million (includes Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST), Coastal Rail Trail, Wilder Ranch Phase 2, East Cliff Drive Bike/Ped Path, etc.)
- Traffic Operation System Improvements on State Route 17 and State Route 1 - \$10 million

The RTC will continue to work with local legislators, Caltrans District 5, the Transit District, local jurisdictions and other partners to advocate that at least some of these funds are designated to Santa Cruz County projects.

SUMMARY

The Governor and various state legislators have developed proposals for a statewide infrastructure bond. In the event that specific projects are identified in the bond measure, the RTC is seeking input from its committees to develop a list of projects to propose for inclusion in a future infrastructure bond measure.

Attachments:

1. Office of the Governor Press Release, 1/5/06
2. Speaker Fabian Nuñez Press Release, 1/6/06
3. RTC Letter to Nathan Smith, Office of State Planning, 11/14/05
4. Governor's Strategic Growth Plan Preliminary List of Transportation Projects

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