

**AGENDA:** February 2, 2006

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission/Rail Trail Authority  
**FROM:** Luis Pavel Mendez, Acting Deputy Director  
**RE:** Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition Project – Status Report

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

This item is for information only.

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## **BACKGROUND**

The Regional Transportation Commission has been working on acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line since 2001. A number of reports and steps must be completed before the RTC can make a final decision on acquisition of the Branch Line and to obtain the necessary approvals from the relevant funding and regulatory agencies.

## **DISCUSSION**

In January 2006, the RTC approved entering into a contract with HNTB Corporation for the additional detailed analyses recommended for some structures on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The RTC also approved language for the required amendments to the right of entry agreement with Union Pacific. In addition, the RTC approved a revised project timeline, which incorporates the delay resulting from the structural assessment work, and a revised financial plan which incorporates current estimates for consultant work yet to be completed. Union Pacific continues to make repairs on the La Selva Beach Trestle. If there are any significant developments before your meeting, staff will report on them orally at the meeting.

## **SUMMARY**

In January, the RTC approved a contract with HNTB for additional structural analyses, a revised project timeline and a revised project financial plan. Repair work on the La Selva Beach Trestle continues.

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