

**Comments Regarding the Governors Infrastructure Bond Proposal
from Michael Molesky, Chair of the Elderly & Disabled Transportation
Advisory Committee**

January 23, 2006

If projects are determined at the state level, rather than the regional level, I support the following:

- All transit and paratransit projects identified by the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
- Maintenance and rehabilitation of the existing transportation network including streets and roads to preserve and protect the community's investment in infrastructure
- Bicycle and pedestrian improvements to the Highway 1/9 Intersection including the San Lorenzo River crossing
- Implementation of the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail Network including universal access for all
- Improvements to the Traffic Operations System

-----Original Message-----

From: B. Jefferson Le Blanc [mailto:whitedog@sasquatch.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 19, 2006 2:34 AM

To: Karena Pushnik

Subject: Re: FW: files

Hi Karena -

Thank you for the heads-up. For what it may be worth, here's my two cents. Please pass my remarks on to the commissioners.

I think struggling to get individual projects into the bond measure will be an exercise in futility. At best it will generate a great deal of acrimony among local constituencies over priorities (if history is any guide); similar ill feelings will result among the various regional agencies if this approach is pursued.

Furthermore, planning forced through such a politically volatile process invariably results in skewed priorities and a great deal of wasted resources.

I agree with SCCRTC staff that formula funding is the most equitable and, especially, the method least subject to the poisonous influence of politics. Therefore, rather than begin to quibble now about which items on the list should receive the highest preference, I suggest the commission focus it's efforts at this time on getting the bond measure structured on a formula basis.

In my opinion, formula funding is the most likely to appeal to voters across the state. As well, it is far less likely to generate the kind of opposition created when people feel their interests and concerns have been disregarded, as a project specific bond would inevitably do.

If you succeed in persuading the powers that be to use formula funding, and if the bond measure is approved by the voters, then, once we know how much money we will be getting and when we will be getting it, we can begin to plan and set priorities on at least a semi-rational basis. No doubt there will still be contention over who gets what, but at least the anxiety of the process will be substantially less than if we start arguing now with no real idea how much money, if any, will be available.

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