

AGENDA: March 2, 2006

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

RECOMMENDATIONS

This item is for information only.

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

A draft Structural Assessment report for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line recommending additional detailed structural analysis of six structures was presented to the RTC in August 2005. In January 2006, the RTC approved entering into a contract with HNTB Corporation for the additional detailed analyses.

Staff and consultants have been working with Union Pacific (UP) to make the necessary amendment to the right of entry agreement for the additional structural analysis. The amendment allows the final report to be public, ensures UP participation in the cost for the additional work, and secures the required UP information. HNTB Corporation and UP Engineering have reached agreement on the available information required to ensure proper structural analysis. The right of entry agreement amendment has been finalized and was fully signed on February 21st.

UP Engineering has been preparing the necessary information for delivery and some of the information has already been provided to HNTB. The UP Bridge and Building Department has completed its repair work on the La Selva Beach Trestle and as soon as the right of entry agreement is fully signed, HNTB will have unrestricted access to the structures to be analyzed.

The additional structural assessment work is beginning about one month later than estimated in the project timeline presented to the RTC in January 2006. This means that the project timeline will be affected. It had been expected that the final report would be presented to the RTC in April 2006. This is now expected in May 2006.

SUMMARY

In January, the RTC approved a contract with HNTB for additional structural analyses. The amendment to the right of entry agreement to produce this work is expected to be signed during the week of February 20th. Union Pacific has completed its work on the La Selva Beach Trestle. It is expected that the additional structural assessment report will be completed in May 2006.

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