


**AGENDA:** June 29, 2006

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission/Transportation Policy Workshop  
**FROM:** Kim Shultz, Senior Planner   
**RE:** Carolyn C. Chaney & Associates - Contract Renewal and Santa Cruz Briefing

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**RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) amending the contract with Carolyn C. Chaney & Associates, Inc., to provide compensation consistent with the approved FY 06/07 Budget and extend the term of service to June 30, 2007; and,
  2. Attend a briefing by Ms. Chaney on federal transportation planning and funding issues at the September 2006 RTC meeting.
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**BACKGROUND**

Carolyn Chaney began serving the Santa Cruz area as a federal legislative consultant through the National Center for Municipal Development in 1995. In July 1997, the RTC conducted a competitive consultant selection process together with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO). As a result of that process Ms. Chaney, dba Carolyn C. Chaney & Associates, Inc., was awarded a consultant contract and has served as the RTC's Washington D.C. Legislative Assistant ever since. Ms. Chaney also serves as a Federal Legislative Assistant for METRO and the City of Santa Cruz's Redevelopment Agency.

**DISCUSSION**

Ms. Chaney has served as a liaison to the Santa Cruz area congressional delegation, seeking federal funding for the Commission's priority projects, and advocating for RTC positions related to federal transportation funding and policy. In 2005, Ms. Chaney's efforts were instrumental in working with Congressman Sam Farr's Office in Washington D.C. to secure the \$2.9 million federal earmark for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project. Since 1995, Ms. Chaney has helped secure nearly \$20 million in federal transportation funding for the Santa Cruz County area working with Congressman Farr's office and with other members of Congress (Attachment 2).

In serving the RTC, Ms. Chaney assists with all activities that have a bearing on the ability of the Commission to secure and make the best use of federal funding opportunities. Duties include meeting with members of Congress, their staff, other legislative consultants, representatives of

the Executive Branch, and representatives of Federal agencies or departments. Ms. Chaney and her staff have also assisted RTC staff in preparation and review of federal funding and legislative proposals, and in securing detailed information on programs of interest to the RTC.

Looking forward, RTC staff is interested in exploring federal programs and funding opportunities for goods movement to potentially assist in financing rail corridor improvements. Staff is also interested in exploring funding opportunities for multimodal transit facilities currently in conceptual development with METRO in association with the conceptual design/environmental review work on the Highway 1 HOV Lane Project. On an ongoing basis, passage of the new federal transportation authorization bill (SAFETEA-LU) raises issues associated with implementation of the new law, and as revenues to the highway trust fund have not met projections, questions have been raised as to how vital infrastructure improvements will be financed in the future.

To better explore and match local needs to federal programs and funding opportunities **staff, in cooperation with the METRO and the City of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency, have invited Ms. Chaney to attend the September 7<sup>th</sup> RTC meeting to discuss the status of funding programs in Washington D.C.** While here extended meetings are planned with the RTC Chair and Vice-Chair, Commissioners Pirie and Campos, and with staff. The cost of Ms. Chaney's trip will be shared equally between the RTC, the METRO and the City of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency.

The approved FY 2006/07 budget allocated \$40,000 for the RTC's Washington D.C. Assistant. This amount represented an \$8,000 increase over the amount budgeted in FY 05/06, and is more representative of local and industry standards for Washington Assistants. After issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) and reviewing 5 different consultant firms responding to the RFP, METRO recently signed a 3 year agreement with Ms. Chaney with annual compensation of \$60,000, plus \$4,000 in expenses.

In review of past service and future needs, **staff recommends that the RTC approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) amending the contract with Carolyn C. Chaney & Associates, Inc., serving as the RTC's Washington D.C. Assistant, to provide compensation consistent with the approved FY 06/07 Budget and extend the term of service to June 30, 2007.**

## **SUMMARY**

Staff proposes that the RTC amend the service contract with Carolyn C. Chaney & Associates, Inc., serving as the RTC's Washington D.C. Legislative Assistant, to provide compensation consistent with the approved FY 06/07 Budget and extend the term of service to June 30, 2007.

### **Attachments:**

1. Resolution Amending Contract with Carolyn C. Chaney & Associates, Inc.
2. Santa Cruz County - Federal Transportation Funding Secured through Congressman Sam Farr.