

October 11, 2006

Catherine Patterson Valdez, Transportation Program Manager
Community Bridges/Consolidated Transportation Services Agency
236 Santa Cruz Avenue
Aptos, CA 95003

RE: Mobility OutReach and Education (M.O.R.E.) Project

Dear Ms. Patterson Valdez:

The Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee advises the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and specialized transportation service providers on transportation needs for people with disabilities, seniors and persons with limited means.

At its October 10, 2006 meeting, the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee unanimously approved a motion to support the grant application from Community Bridges, who is also the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency, for funding from the Caltrans Environmental Justice grant for their Mobility OutReach and Education (M.O.R.E) project.

The M.O.R.E. project will greatly assist in identifying critical unmet transportation needs for the region, specifically for those who depend on mobility options to be active members of the community. According to the 2000 census, approximately 16% of the Santa Cruz County population is categorized as disabled; however a recently completed outreach effort to solicit extensive community input through workshops, an interactive website and community group promotion generated only a few responses about specialized transportation.

The lack of input from not only people with disabilities, but also seniors (persons 62 years old and older comprise 11.7% of the County population) and people with limited means is a persistent public participation issue.

Funding in the amount of \$75,000 over two years will enable Community Bridges as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency to reach out into areas of the community that are currently under represented, to attend gatherings of these populations in their own neighborhoods and to document the key issues now and for the future.

The Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee supports this funding to assist in designing opportunities for public input that will strategically develop solutions to meet the gaps of specialized and unmet transportation needs for seniors, people with disabilities and people with limited means.

Sincerely,

A. John Daugherty, Chair
Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Cc: Sam Storey, Executive Director, Community Bridges
Ellen Prire, Chair, SCCRTC