

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner
RE: Transportation Funding Task Force – Status Report

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Receive a report on the status of the Transportation Funding Task Force (TF Task Force) project together with a presentation from convener Fred Keeley on project milestones including Phases II and III of the project ([Attachment 1](#));
 2. Direct staff to forward summarized workbook responses by local jurisdiction or agency to the appropriate entities under a cover letter from the Regional Transportation Commission chair and TF Task Force convener ([Attachment 2](#)) and;
 3. Receive the TF Task Force project expenses for FY 2005-06 and the approved budget for FY 2006-07.
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BACKGROUND

By resolution, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approved the establishment of a Transportation Funding Task Force (TF Task Force) in September 2005 designating Fred Keeley as the convener and Eileen Goodwin as technical consultant. The goal of the TF Task Force, as stated in the resolution, is to develop a comprehensive transportation funding plan for Santa Cruz County in response to deficiencies in federal, state and local funds. In November 2005, the RTC approved a project budget spanning two fiscal years including services/supplies and consultant costs, but without staff costs.

The first phase of the project included community workshops in each of the five Supervisorial districts, two special workshops, presentations at community events and an interactive workbook available at the workshops and via a specially designed interactive website. After the end of the first fiscal year at its August 2006 meeting, the RTC reviewed the Phase I activities and approved the continuation of the Task Force through fiscal year 2006-07.

DISCUSSION

Past and future milestones for the Transportation Funding Task Force are shown on Attachment 1.

Phases II and III

The convener, consultant and staff have been working on Phase II and planning for Phase III of the Transportation Funding Task Force project. In Phase II of the project, staff and the consultant developed and presented a Transportation Funding 101 Seminar. Staff also assisted with editing of a video of the seminar which will air on Community Television. In addition, staff has summarized the community input received in the first phase from the workshops, workbooks and interactive website. Staff and the convener have also been analyzing this input through the development of the draft financial plan. During Phase II, the convener has been meeting with different stakeholder groups to discuss the comments received as the draft plan is being developed.

During Phase II, staff has assigned potential lead agencies to the project ideas collected in Phase I and separated the projects by these entities. Attached is the full list showing all the projects with the potential lead agency or agencies (Attachment 2). Staff has also sorted the list to show only those projects for each agency. **Staff recommends that the project lists be forwarded to the agencies for their review under a cover letter from the Convener and the RTC Chair.**

Agencies would receive their individual list plus the full list. The lists will provide local jurisdictions and agencies additional input as they are determining their priorities.

Planning and preparation has begun for Phase III which will be to review, amend and presumably adopt a transportation funding plan through intensive work with the community and the Task Force. The first draft of the plans will be ready in late January with the goal to bring a TFTF approved plan to the RTC by their June meeting. Convener Fred Keeley will attend the Commission meeting to provide more information about Phases II and III.

Budget

At the August 2006 meeting it was noted that the application for \$135,000 in Caltrans Environmental Justice/Context Sensitive grant funds was not approved and that the budget for the project, including staff costs, would be reviewed as part of the fall budget amendment process. At the November RTC meeting, Commissioners approved the FY 06-07 budget including full funding for the TF Task Force project and requested more detailed expenditure and budget information about the project.

Attached is the approved original project budget that included only supplies/materials, consultant costs and supplemental staff costs (Attachment 3). Full staff costs for this project were included in the overall FY 05-06 RTC budget. Also attached is a list of the expenditures for the first phase of the project in FY 2005-06 and a more detailed budget for the next phases in FY 06-07 (Attachment 4). As noted at the November 06 RTC meeting, the FY 05-06 budget was not fully expended and an end of the year balance of \$45,787 was carried over from consultant Eileen Goodwin's contract alone.

Commissioner Beautz requested that staff assess ways to reach a greater number of the community. One way would be to send a mailer to every household, homeowner and/or voter. Based on information from the County Geographic Information System (GIS) department, mailing house services and the RTC's costs for mailing the Measure J public information piece, the cost for a piece to every resident and property owner is about \$40,000 including printing, postage, mail prep and design. The cost to send a postcard to voters only is approximately \$25,000. These costs are presently not included in the budget. Should the Commission wish to pursue this, additional funding must be identified.

SUMMARY

The Regional Transportation Commission formed a Transportation Funding Task Force with the goal of developing a funding plan to address deficiencies in funding available for transportation in Santa Cruz County. The first phase of the project -- soliciting input from the community and the Task Force -- is complete. The Convener and staff are nearing the end of Phase II for the project and planning for Phase III, the release of Draft Plan 1.0.

Attachments:

1. Project Milestones
2. Workbook comments with local agency designated
3. TFTF Budget approved November 2005
4. FY 05-06 Expenditures and Budget for FY 2006-07

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Transportation Funding Task Force Project Milestones

	<u>2005</u>	
✓	Sep	Transportation Funding Task Force established by RTC Resolution
✓	Nov	RTC approved TFTF budget
Phase I:		
✓	Nov – Apr	Developed workbook, outreach plan and website
	<u>2006</u>	
✓	Apr – Jun	Held community workshops
✓	Jul	Received word that \$135k Caltrans grant not awarded
✓	Jul	End FY 2005-06
✓	Aug	RTC heard end of FY report, approved continuation of project
Phase II:		
✓	Aug – Dec	Convener Keeley meets with cohorts of TFTF members
✓	Sep	Held Transportation Funding 101 Seminar
✓	Sep – Nov	Convener, consultant and staff develop draft plans
✓	Nov	Approved RTC budget amendment including TFTF project
	Nov-Dec	Convener, consultant and staff finalize Draft Plan 1.0
	Dec	Milestones detailed project budget provided to RTC
	Dec	Staff develops outreach plan for Draft Plan release
Phase III:		
	<u>2007</u>	
	Jan – Feb	Release Draft Plans 1.0 for TFTF/Public review, implement outreach plan
	Jan – Feb	Consider a countywide poll
	April	Meet intensively with TFTF
	May	TFTF Adopts Plan 2.0
	June	Plan presented to RTC