

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner
RE: Transportation Funding Task Force – Proposed Changes to Membership

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Remove eight Transportation Funding Task Force (TF Task Force) positions from membership and consider the removal of additional members after receiving information regarding the results of phone calls to TF Task Force members;
 2. Determine that TF Task Force memberships be automatically removed, if written resignations are received from the corresponding member entity; and
 3. Allow Transportation Funding Task Force entities to designate and send alternates to meetings if their main representative is unavailable.
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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.

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. The second phase of the project involved meeting with various groups of task force members, the development of the Draft Transportation Funding Plan and holding a seminar titled ‘Transportation Funding 101.’ Phase Three involves the development of a single plan. A Draft Transportation Funding Plan -- outlining three plan alternatives: a comprehensive and relatively expensive scenario, a moderate scenario and a dual option scenario – was released in January 2007. Meetings are being held to facilitate the development of a final plan.

DISCUSSION

The Transportation Funding Task Force as an advisory committee to the Regional Transportation Commission is subject to the Brown Act. Notification about the meetings must be available 72 hours prior to the meetings and the body must have a quorum to take action. With a committee

this size, the number of people attending meetings is critical to the success and function of the group.

Phase I Meetings vs. Phase III Meetings

In Phase One, Task Force members were requested to attend two of the five meetings held in the Supervisorial districts. Each of these meetings was similar in format with different information shared by attendees about transportation problems, solutions and funding. In this third phase of the project, the meetings are iterative and the Task Force is asked to attend all of the meetings to provide continuity to the discussion and negotiation process of developing a single funding plan. Two meetings have been held in this phase, the first meeting was 6 members short of a quorum and the second had a quorum. Additional meetings are scheduled for March 1, 6, 13 and 26. Attachment 1 is a roster of TF Task Force members with their attendance at TF Task Force meetings.

Task Force Membership

The RTC established ten (10) ex-officio and eighty-three (83) regular voting positions on the TF Task Force. Of the eighty-three regular positions the following eight (8) did not have a Santa Cruz County contact, declined to participate, were unavailable to appoint someone who could participate, or have submitted email notes resigning. This leaves seventy-six (75) regular voting appointed members (Attachment 1).

| TFTF Position | Appointee | |
|--|------------------------|--|
| Latino Business Association | Wallace Matos Ferreira | Submitted email note resigning |
| League of United Latin American Citizens | None | No chapter in Santa Cruz County |
| League of Women Voters of Santa Cruz | Juliana Rousseau | At the beginning stated that there was no one available to participate |
| Rail to Trails Conservancy | Benjamin Gettleman | Submitted email note resigning |
| Salud Para La Gente | Arcadio Viveros | Has not appointed anyone after original appointee left the organization and has never attended a meeting |
| San Andreas Regional Center | Elizabeth Hurt | Only wanted to receive information and stated that she cannot participate |
| Watsonville Brown Berets | None | Declined to participate |
| Human Care Alliance | Tove Beatty | Submitted email note resigning |

At its February 15, 2007 Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) meeting, the RTC discussed the membership of the TF Task Force and directed staff to contact TF Task Force members regarding their participation and informing them that the RTC would consider removal of their membership from the Task Force due to non-participation. The calls to TF Task Force members have not been completed as of the writing of this staff report and staff will provide information regarding the results of those calls at the March 1, 2007 RTC meeting. **Staff recommends that the eight TF Task Force positions listed above be removed from membership and that the RTC consider the removal of additional members after receiving the information regarding the results of phone calls to TF Task Force members. Staff also recommends that TF Task Force**

memberships be automatically removed if written resignations are received from the corresponding member entity.

TF Task Force Alternates

The RTC has not ever taken a formal position on the issue of alternates for the Transportation Funding Task Force. However, the RTC established the entities/agencies/groups that would form the Task Force and requested that those entities select their own representatives. In this phase with meetings almost weekly, it may be unreasonable to expect that members will be able to attend every single meeting. Allowing alternates would make it easier for a group of this size to proceed with work on the development of the transportation funding plan. **Staff recommends that the entities be allowed to designate and send alternates to the TF Task Force meetings.**

The goal of the TF Task Force is to bring a Transportation Funding Task Force-approved plan to the RTC by their June meeting. According to the establishing resolution, "The Task Force recommendations must be approved by a two-thirds vote of its membership in order for it to be forwarded to the Regional Transportation Commission for its consideration." Before the final meeting, staff will report to the RTC with the final roster and the number which would constitute two thirds. Attachment 2 is a Santa Cruz Sentinel guest editorial from TF Task Force Convener Fred Keeley on the work of the TF Task Force at their most recent meeting.

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 and second phases of the project -- soliciting input from the community and the Task Force, and developing a Draft Transportation Funding Plan -- are complete. Phase III is currently underway and entails discussion and negotiation meetings with the Task Force to develop a Final Transportation Funding Plan. Staff recommends the removal of TF Task Force membership due to resignations and inability to participate and to allow TF Task Force members to designate alternates.

Attachments:

1. TF Task Force Attendance Roster (2/16/07)
2. Santa Cruz Sentinel Guest Editorial From TF Task Force Convener Fred Keeley

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