

AGENDA: April 5, 2007

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
FROM: Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner
RE: Transportation Funding Task Force Attendance, Membership, and Final Vote

RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation Funding Task Force, TFTF Convener, and RTC staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Receive a status report regarding the Transportation Funding Task Force membership and attendance (Attachment 1 with an update provided at the RTC meeting to include the April 4 TFTF meeting attendance);

The Transportation Funding Task Force further recommends that the RTC approve one of the following three recommendations listed in the Task Force's priority order:

2. Revise Resolution number 03-06 to clarify that the final Task Force recommendations for a Transportation Funding Plan must be approved by a two-thirds vote of members present and voting; or
 3. Revise Resolution number 03-06 to clarify that the final Task Force recommendations for a Transportation Funding Plan must be approved by two-thirds of members present; or
 4. Remove members from the roster that have attended less than two of the first six negotiation meetings held between February 6 and March 26.
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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.

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 underway to facilitate the development of a final plan.

DISCUSSION

The Regional Transportation Commission received status reports about the membership of the TF Task Force at its last two meetings. At the March 15 Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW), staff provided the Commission with an updated roster showing the status of 17 entities that have had low attendance to the Phase 3 series of negotiation meetings. At the TPW meeting it was reported that many of the seats were newly filled with the assistance of Commissioners. It was also reported that if the appointments are successful, the total number of entities participating in the Task Force will be 77.

Prior to each negotiation meeting, TF Task Force members receive email notification 72 hours or more in advance of the meeting along with a reminder message by phone. If Task Force representatives are unable to attend the meetings, they are encouraged to send their alternate.

At the time of the April RTC meeting, there will have been two additional Task Force meetings (March 26 and April 4) held since the March TPW. An updated roster with attendance is attached ([Attachment 1](#)) and staff will bring a roster including the April 4 TTF meeting attendance to the April RTC meeting for the Commission's consideration. Depending on the attendance at these meetings, there may still be representatives/entities that are not participating in the Task Force's deliberations. As stated in the original resolution establishing the TF Task Force, a 2/3 affirmative vote is required on the final transportation funding plan ([Attachment 2](#)). The effect of this requirement is that potential non-participant's lack of involvement constitutes a 'no' vote on the plan, thereby jeopardizing the work of the active Task Force members who have participated in many negotiation meetings in good faith. Task Force members have requested that those voting on the final plan have participated in the negotiation meetings, are invested/feel ownership of the process and have participated in the progression of compromise necessary to develop a list of projects which could have broad-based community support. For these reasons, Task Force members have requested that the Commission rectify the current situation whereby Task Force members who do not participate in the development process of the Transportation Funding Plan would be able to vote at the final meeting or count as 'no' votes simply by not participating at all.

At the March 26 Task Force meeting, the Transportation Funding Task Force approved recommending that the Regional Transportation Commission make one of the three following actions, which are listed in priority order:

- 1. Require that the final plan be approved by 2/3 of the Task Force members present and voting at the final meeting;**
- 2. Require that the final plan be approved by 2/3 of the Task Force members present at the final meeting; or**
- 3. Revise the Task Force roster to omit those entities that have attended less than two of the last six negotiation meetings that have been held between February 6 and March 26.**

The final vote meeting would, per the Brown Act, require a quorum to conduct business. Convener Fred Keeley will attend the April RTC meeting to provide additional information to the Regional Transportation Commission about the status of the negotiation meetings and an indication of how many additional meetings are potentially needed to finalize the Transportation Funding Plan.

SUMMARY

The Regional Transportation Commission formed a Transportation Funding Task Force with the goal of developing a plan to address deficiencies in funding available for transportation in Santa Cruz County. At the time of the April RTC meeting, seven Task Force negotiation meetings will have been held. Task Force members actively participating in these negotiation meetings have requested that their work be supported by ensuring that those voting on the final Transportation Funding Plan be those who have participated in the process.

Attachments:

1. TF Task Force Roster with attendance
2. September 2005 Resolution establishing the TF Task Force

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