

AGENDA: June 7, 2007

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner
RE: Update on the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program Augmentation

RECOMMENDATION

This item is for information only.

BACKGROUND

At its April 5, 2007 meeting, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) amended the *2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* (RTIP) to program \$18.4 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) funds to twenty-two local and regionally significant projects. The projects designated to receive STIP funds are subject to approval by the California Transportation Commission.

DISCUSSION

At its June 7, 2007 meeting, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will adopt the *2006 STIP Augmentation*, designating projects to receive projected STIP funds over the next four years. Statewide proposals for highway and road projects exceeded the amount available by \$590 million. As such, the CTC will only be able to accommodate approximately 75% of the highway and road projects that were proposed by regional agencies and Caltrans.

On May 17, 2007 the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff recommendations were released. CTC staff recommends approval of 80% of the RTC's \$12 million in STIP funding requests ([Attachment 1](#)). Considering the limited amount of funds available for road and highway projects statewide and the nearly \$5 million cost increases on the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project, this is positive news for Santa Cruz County. CTC staff is recommending funds for El Rancho Road Reconstruction, Graham Hill Road Safety Improvements, the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lane project, and Mar Vista Bike/Pedestrian Bridge. CTC staff determined that they can accommodate the Mar Vista Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge because this project is eligible for Transportation Enhancement funds.

It is unlikely that the CTC will include the remaining projects proposed by the RTC in the 2006 STIP Augmentation. RTC staff has sent a letter to the CTC ([Attachment 2](#)) requesting that they consider programming two additional years of funding for the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP)

program. The FSP program reduces congestion and increases safety by clearly collisions, removing debris from roadways and quickly assisting stranded motorist at no charge. Currently, STIP funds are used to supplement State FSP funds, thereby allowing the RTC to provide FSP service on both Highway 1 and 17. STIP funds for FSP are currently only programmed through FY07/08. Securing additional STIP funds at this time is important for ensuring that service can continue to be budgeted at existing levels into FY08/09. Funds for the remaining projects are not needed immediately.

RTC staff will work with the Regional Transportation Commission and California Transportation Commission to reconsider the balance of projects as part of the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), scheduled for approval by the RTC in December 2007 and by the CTC in April 2008.

SUMMARY

The RTC submitted a proposal for Santa Cruz County's share of STIP funds on April 5, 2007. The CTC staff recommendations include 80% of the RTC's funding requests. The CTC will decide which projects to include in the STIP at its June 7, 2007 meeting.

Attachments:

1. Santa Cruz County's STIP Augmentation Proposal Verses CTC Staff Recommendations
2. Letter to CTC regarding the FSP Program

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