



**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**

1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911 • [831] 460-3200 FAX [831] 460-3215 EMAIL info@sccrtc.org

Michael Ferry  
City of Santa Cruz  
Planning and Community Development Department  
809 Center Street, Room 206, City Hall Annex  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

July 3, 2007

RE: Initial Study for the Safeway Expansion in the City of Santa Cruz

Dear Mr. Ferry,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Initial Study for the Safeway Expansion Project on Highway 1 in the City of Santa Cruz. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) serves as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Santa Cruz County. The SCCRTC staff would like to offer the following comments for your consideration. The SCCRTC staff recommends that:

1. The developer work with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District to ensure that the site plan include adequate space for a bus pullout on Highway 1 and wide enough sidewalks to accommodate bus passenger lifts, if appropriate.
2. The traffic analysis consider the traffic impacts of maintaining vehicle access to the proposed project site from Almar Street within 100 feet of the Mission Street/Almar Street intersection.
3. The developer provide funding for the proposed traffic calming improvements on Miramar Street referenced on page 25 of the Initial Study.
4. The developer work with Caltrans to ensure that any new signal installed is coordinated with the adjacent Mission Street/Almar Street/Younglove Avenue traffic signal.
5. Staff supports reducing the number of single-occupant vehicle (SOV) trips made by employees to the proposed project site by replacing SOV trips with transportation alternatives including, but not limited to, carpooling, transit, bicycling, walking and telecommuting. Given the proposed project's parking deficiency, transportation alternatives should be encouraged as part of the project. Please work with our Commute Solutions Program to implement transportation demand management strategies that work towards this goal. Staff also encourages Safeway to join the Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association that provides additional transportation demand management strategies to employers for employees. (2005 RTP goals and policies 1.3.1 and 1.3.2)

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6. The development of safe, direct and pleasant pedestrian walkways, provisions for lighting at pedestrian crosswalks, and fully accessible pedestrian facilities, such as curb cuts. Specifically, the site plan should include direct, designated pedestrian access from sidewalks on adjacent roadways to the front entry of the building.
7. Provisions for secure bicycle be installed at the proposed project site, including bicycle lockers for use by employees, and bicycle parking space adequate enough to accommodate use of bicycle trailers.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Grace Blakeslee of my staff at (831) 460-3219.

Sincerely,



George Dondero  
Executive Director

CC: SCCRTC  
Commissioner Reilly  
Commissioner Coonerty  
SCMTD