

Agenda: January 10, 2008

To: Regional Transportation Commission
From: Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner
Re: Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Allocation Request from the City of Santa Cruz for Bicycle Improvement Projects

RECOMMENDATION

The Bicycle Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) approving the City of Santa Cruz's FY 2007/2008 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 allocation request for \$20,000 (Exhibits 1 and 2 to Attachment 1) for Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements.

BACKGROUND

The Transportation Development Act (TDA) was established by the State Legislature in 1971. The TDA provides one of the major funding sources for public transportation in California. TDA funds are also used by local jurisdictions for bicycle and pedestrian projects. Each year the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) allocates Article 8 Transportation Development Account (TDA) funds to local jurisdictions for bikeway and pedestrian projects.

Funds are obtained by local jurisdictions via a three-step process: (1) apportionment, (2) allocation, and (3) payment (reimbursement). One step does not always imply or require the next. Apportionment in Santa Cruz County is done by the SCCRTC according to population using an approved formula in the SCCRTC Rules & Regulations. Once funds are apportioned to a given area, they are typically available only for allocation to claimants in that area. Allocation is the discretionary action by the SCCRTC that designates funds for a specific claimant for a specific purpose. TDA funds are apportioned annually by the RTC and allocated on an on-going, non-competitive basis. Payment (reimbursement) is authorized by instructions issued by the SCCRTC in its Rules and Regulations. Unused TDA funds allocated to any project may be rolled over from one fiscal year to the next.

As stated in the SCCRTC Rules and Regulations, a TDA Article 8 claim shall include a description of the project adequate for review by the Regional Transportation Commission and its advisory committees; justification for the project including a statement regarding its consistency and relationship with the Regional Transportation Plan and the Congestion Management Program; estimated cost of the project including

other funding sources; and a statement agreeing to maintain the funded project in the condition outlined in the submitted plans for a period of 20 years.

Allocation requests for bicycle facilities must be reviewed by the Bicycle Advisory Committee and requests with pedestrian components must be reviewed by the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee prior to approval by the Regional Transportation Commission. According to the RTC Rules and Regulations, only Commissioners representing the County and the Cities are eligible to vote on Article 8 allocation requests.

DISCUSSION

Exhibit 1 is a letter from City of Santa Cruz Public Works requesting a **\$20,000** allocation in TDA Article 8 funds for **Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements**. The annual re-striping of the City's 30 miles of bikeways, maintenance of bikeways and minor bikeway improvements will be partially funded through this annual allocation. Since the City's passage of Measure H, some of the bikeway restriping costs will be paid for through this fund with a greater amount going to minor improvements.

The City of Santa Cruz has adequate funds in its TDA balance for this claim.

Bicycle Committee Review

At its December 10, 2007 meeting, the Bicycle Committee reviewed the City of Santa Cruz's \$20,000 allocation request and recommended that the Commission approve the TDA claim. The Bicycle Committee took the opportunity to provide feedback on locations within the City of Santa Cruz needing minor bikeway improvements.

Because the Improvement Project does not contain pedestrian elements, staff did not take the request to the E&D TAC for review.

Claim Form

A new feature of the TDA allocation process is evidenced by the Claim Form for bicycle and pedestrian projects, as completed by the City of Santa Cruz in Exhibit 2. In response to requests from Commissioners for additional information and analysis of TDA projects, in an effort to standardize the information requested from and submitted by TDA claimants, and in order to ensure that TDA claims address the requirements of TDA statutes and/or the RTC's Rules and Regulations, staff developed this claim form. The new form will increase staff's ability to oversee TDA allocation requests and assist Commissioners in understanding each project before approving an allocation.

Staff welcomes Commissioners' feedback on the Claim Form. The form being developed for transit and paratransit providers will include additional information, as required by TDA statutes and the RTC Rules and Regulations for those types of projects.

SUMMARY

The City of Santa Cruz has submitted an allocation request (Exhibit 1) for \$20,000 for TDA Article 8 funds for bicycle improvement projects. The Bicycle Committee and staff recommend that the Commission approve the City of Santa Cruz's allocation request. Staff also encourages Commissioners to provide feedback on the new Claim Form developed for the allocation request process shown as completed by the City of Santa Cruz in Exhibit 2.

Attachment 1: Resolution

Exhibit 1: FY2007/08 TDA Article 8 Allocation Request from the City of Santa Cruz

Exhibit 2: Claim from the City of Santa Cruz

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