

## Project Summaries

Projects Considered for 2008 STIP funds-*To be considered by RTC 1/10/08 and 2/7/08*  
(Total funds requested is only shown when it differs from the staff recommendation)

### Regionally Significant Projects

#### **Highway 1/HOV Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED)**

**Staff Recommendation: \$1,375,000**

Funds needed to complete the Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) phase of this project. This project includes HOV lanes between Morrissey Boulevard and San Andreas/Larkin Valley Road, auxiliary lanes, ramp meters, park and ride lots, bicycle/pedestrian bridges, and soundwalls. This roadway carries over 100,000 vehicles daily. These funds supplement the \$9.8 million in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds previously programmed to this phase of the project. Additional funds are needed for extensive public outreach, hiring a right-of-way consultant, increased RTC staff oversight, greater engineering detail required by Caltrans, and establishing a contingency. Total cost for this phase: \$10.9 million. *See separate staff report for more information on cost increases.*

#### **Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes –Soquel Ave to Morrissey Blvd.**

**Staff Recommendation: \$273,000 STIP.**

The purpose of this project is to improve traffic conditions for merging on and off Highway 1 between the Soquel Avenue and Morrissey Boulevard interchanges, the busiest section of State Route 1 in Santa Cruz County (over 115,000 vehicles daily). Additional funds are needed for right-of-way support. The initial ROW Support cost estimated by Nolte was based on a percentage of the anticipated right-of-way capital cost, rather than the realistic level of labor required for negotiating and implementing right-of-way. Caltrans and RTC staff will be meeting on January 15, 2008 to reevaluate this estimate. *If Caltrans determines by February 1 that any of these funds are not needed, staff will recommend additional funds be distributed by formula to local jurisdictions.*

#### **Freeway Service Patrol (FSP)**

**Staff Recommendation: \$500,000-\$100,000/year for five years**

The Freeway Service Patrol is made up of roving tow-trucks which remove vehicles and debris from Highways 1 and 17 during peak travel periods and assist stranded motorists free of charge. FSP is one of the most cost-effective projects for reduce congestion on State Highways. The program also improves safety, including the likelihood of secondary collisions. The funding requested provides a match to Caltrans FSP funds and is expected to continue current levels of service. If this project is not funded, service will be cut significantly. Total annual program cost: \$300,000.

#### **Rideshare Program**

**Staff Recommendation: \$300,000 STIP - \$150,000/year for two years (\$700,000 requested)**

The RTC's Rideshare Program, Commute Solutions. Will provide ridematching services for carpool and vanpool formation through 429-POOL, online ridematch database, and outreach; provide information, support, and outreach on transit, biking, walking, and telecommuting.

Promote use of park and ride lots, provide resource materials, maps and online information. Plan to focus on reducing demand on current infrastructure by promoting alternative work schedules, trip linking, travel in off-peak periods and use of alternative transportation for non-work trips.

***Other Options Considered:*** This program is currently funded through FY08/09. If additional funds are not designated to the program it will end in July 2009. Staff considered the following funding options for this program: Increase annual funding to \$175,000/year for four years (\$700,000) to expand program; fund at current budgeted rate of \$150,000/year for four years (\$600,000); reduce annual funding; or fund two years at current rate (\$150,000/year) with clearly established goals and tasks for the program. Goals may include: double number of people forming carpools/vanpools through the ridematching service; offer Emergency Ride Home program; and focused transit marketing. Funding for subsequent years to be evaluated as part of a future funding cycle.

### **Local Projects**

#### **City of Capitola: 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue Rehabilitation**

**Staff Recommendation: \$120,000**

**(\$295,000 requested)**

Road rehabilitation on 38<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Brommer Street and Capitola Road, plus construction of curb, gutter, and sidewalk immediately south of Capitola Road. Project can be phased to match available funding. Total project cost: \$590,000. This is a new RTIP project.

#### **City of Santa Cruz: San Lorenzo River Bike/Pedestrian Bridge**

**Staff Recommendation: \$310,000**

Construction of a bicycle and pedestrian bridge over the river adjacent to Highway 1 and connecting to the San Lorenzo River Levee Bike Path. These funds are in addition to the \$2.2 million previously programmed by the RTC to the project. Total project cost: \$4.5 million.

#### **City of Scotts Valley: Bean Creek Road Rehabilitation**

**Staff Recommendation: \$120,000**

Road Rehabilitation on Bean Creek between Scotts Valley Drive and the entrance to Scotts Valley Middle School. (ADT: approx. 4,000 in 1997). Total project cost: \$130,000. This is a new RTIP project.

#### **City of Watsonville: Freedom Boulevard Rehabilitation**

**Staff Recommendation: \$275,000**

**(\$350,000 requested)**

Road Rehabilitation on Freedom Boulevard between High Street and Broadis Street, including the addition of bike lanes and new curb, gutter and sidewalk. Average daily traffic volume: 18,000. Additional funds will be used to address cost increases associated with added concrete work. Total project cost: \$1.7 million.

#### **County of Santa Cruz: Carlton Road Overlay Project**

**Staff Recommendation: \$720,000**

**(\$1.5 million requested)**

Rehabilitation of 2.4 miles of roadway from Highway 129 to Lakeview Road. Area experiences heavy truck traffic, including those using alternate routes between Highway 152, Highway 129, and Highway 1. Project could be phased to match available funding. Average daily traffic volumes on Carlton Road: 2,000 (in 2006). Total project cost: \$1.56 million. This is a new RTIP

project.

**County of Santa Cruz: Projects to Mitigate Amesti Road Closure** (\$1.48 million)

**Corralitos Road Turn Lane Project**

**Staff Recommendation: \$500,000**

Design and construction of 1260 foot left turn lane on Corralitos Road, 0.85 miles north of Freedom Boulevard, for Bradley Elementary School. Average daily traffic volumes on Corralitos Road: 7,000. This project will reduce traffic congestion and improve safety in the area. Total project cost: \$600,000. This is a new RTIP project.

**Varni Road Overlay and Drainage Project**

**Staff Recommendation: \$980,000**

**(\$1.02 million requested)**

Rehabilitation of approximately 0.85 miles of Varni Road from Corralitos Road to Amesti Road. This road experienced increased traffic volumes with the closure of Amesti Road. Total project cost: \$1.08 million. This is a new RTIP project.

**Projects Not Recommended this Cycle**

**Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST)**

**Need: \$785,000**

**Description:** Construction of a continuous network of bicycle/pedestrian facilities on or near the coast through Santa Cruz County. This project will connect to bicycle/pedestrian facilities in Monterey County. Part of the network may be built within the rail right-of-way. The project will be constructed in segments as funding becomes available. The exact segment of pathway to be constructed with these funds will be determined upon completion of the Master Plan for the MBSST and Coastal Trail Network. Total project cost is unknown.

**Issues:** \$785,000 is needed to provide non-federal match to one of the SAFETEA LU earmarks, however since this project is not ready for construction, staff recommends pursuing non-federal funds in the future.

**Highway 1/9 Intersection – Right-of-Way**

**Need: \$500,000 STIP.**

**Description:** This project will modify the existing intersection to include additional turn lanes. The City of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency has taken the lead on the environmental document, Project Report and design using local funds. This proposal would add funds for future phases of the project, which would be matched by traffic impact fees and other City funds.

**Reason not recommended:** The RTC did indicate its intent to reprogram funds to the project in the 2008 STIP, but given the large number of funding needs, staff does not recommend funding this project at this time.

**Pajaro Station**

**Need: \$15 million**

The Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) is working on a \$90 million capital project to extend Caltrain to Salinas in Monterey County. The Caltrain service extension may include a station at the Watsonville/Pajaro rail junction. Based on ridership projections, TAMC

has asked the RTC to consider funding a portion of the project. Under CTC STIP Guidelines, a county may program a portion of its STIP funds to a project in another county.

***Reason not recommended:*** Projects must be fully funded in order to be included in the STIP and sufficient funds are not available to include this project. Reconsider project in future STIP cycles as the Caltrain service extension progresses and/or as part of a future sales tax measure.

### **Project Programming and Monitoring (PPM)**

#### **Need: Up to \$450,000**

The RTC, as the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Santa Cruz County, is required to administer certain funds, monitor projects, and conduct a variety of planning and programming duties. This includes coordination with Caltrans on state highway projects such as the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes and development of the Regional Transportation Plan and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The RTC is eligible to use up to 5% of its STIP county share for PPM (approximately \$300,000/year). Currently the RTC programs \$150,000/year in STIP funds for these duties. However, project monitoring and planning duties regularly exceed the budgeted amount and the RTC uses other state and federal planning funds to cover the difference. Increased planning and monitoring activities are anticipated over the next several years in response to the state's increased emphasis on land use-transportation coordination, blueprint planning and corridor system management. As such, staff considered increasing STIP funds for these duties, as well as programming funds for work in FY2011-2013, however, in order to maximize funds available to local jurisdictions, **staff recommends waiting until the 2010 STIP to program funds for this work.**

### **41<sup>st</sup> Avenue Reconstruction (Capitola)**

#### **Request: \$300,000**

Road rehabilitation on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Capitola Road and Clares Street, including video signal detection at Clares Street and Capitola Road to improve bicycle detection.

***Reason not recommended:*** The ITAC recommends programming funds on a population basis with a reasonable minimum amount to smaller jurisdictions. Funding for this project is beyond the amount designated to this jurisdiction.