

# Proposed Mobility Plan ~ Project Descriptions

(Originally included in the January 2007 Draft Transportation Funding Improvement Plan)

## Regional Package

### Congestion Relief

#### *Highway 1 HOV Lane Project*

**Project Description:** The Highway 1 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lane project would add one lane in each direction between Morrissey Boulevard in Santa Cruz and San Andreas/Larkin Valley Road (near Aptos) for use by buses, carpools, vanpools, and emergency vehicles. On-ramps would be expanded along the entire corridor to include ramp meters and HOV by-pass lanes. In addition, auxiliary lanes would be constructed where necessary connecting the on and off ramps to extend the weaving and merging area between ramps to improve traffic flow and safety. For a map of the Highway 1 HOV Lane project, see the RTC website ([www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org)).

To improve bicycle and pedestrian movement over the highway and to reduce conflicts with motorists at freeway interchanges, three new bicycle/pedestrian bridges would be constructed as part of this project. Additionally, the sidewalks and bike lanes on all interchanges and over crossings requiring reconstruction will be expanded to improve safety and provide further protection to bicyclists and pedestrians through these areas.

Bus stops may also be installed at select locations within the freeway right-of-way to improve express bus service. The project also includes construction of soundwalls where appropriate, new park and ride lots, and a traffic operation systems (such as changeable message signs, closed circuit television, and vehicle detection systems) to quickly identify and respond to recurring and non-recurring traffic incidents.

**Lead Agencies:** Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, Caltrans

#### *Transportation Demand Management*

**Project Description:** Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is a general term for strategies that result in more efficient use of transportation resources. Funds would be used to implement programs aimed at increasing availability and use of alternatives to the single-occupant vehicle. These programs, implemented by a variety of public and non-profit entities, facilitate and promote carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, telecommuting and using transit. Programs include helping commuters find carpool and vanpool partners, educational events, incentive programs that increase alternative transportation use, bicycle safety training, bicycle buddy matching programs, and transit training programs.

**Lead Agency:** Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission to distribute funds to a variety of public and non-profit entities that implement TDM programs.

## Future Connections

### ***Watsonville/Pajaro Rail Station***

**Project Description:** Contribute to the joint development (with TAMC) of a multi-modal station at the existing Watsonville /Pajaro rail junction to provide Santa Cruz County residents with access to the planned Caltrain extension from the San Francisco Bay Area to Salinas. It is projected that 80% of the users of this station will be Santa Cruz County residents.<sup>1</sup> The station would also be used by the planned new Amtrak service between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Initial stages of the station development include constructing a passenger platform, parking area, and bus transit/carpool drop off facilities. In addition, the freight tracks would be moved to bypass the passenger area. The extended Caltrain service and rail station at Watsonville Junction will help residents get to jobs, health care, shopping, and other travel opportunities in San Jose, Silicon Valley and the San Francisco Bay Area conveniently and safely while avoiding traffic jams.

**Lead Agencies:** Transportation Agency for Monterey County and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

### ***Freight Service Rail Line Upgrade***

**Project Description:** Upgrade the branch rail line to FRA Class 2 to bring the rail line into a condition where it can be reasonably maintained over the foreseeable future and ensure continued freight rail operations. The project includes upgrading all of the rail crossings to current safety standards, replacing current jointed rail with continuously welded rail, upgrading the structures as recommended by the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Structures Assessments<sup>2</sup>, and establishing a fund for unforeseeable damage repairs.

**Lead Agency:**  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

### ***Starter Passenger Rail***

**Project Description:** Identify and implement initial starter segments of passenger rail, including excursion service, or other transit service that meets the needs of the community, coordinates with bus transit and the existing freight rail service, and connects to planned rail service in Monterey and Santa Clara Counties at the Watsonville Junction in Pajaro. The project would prioritize segments and service which would be self supporting or minimize any required operating subsidy. The project would construct minimal platforms, install next-train information systems, purchase train equipment and provide seismic retrofit of structures as needed. Also included are four passing sidings to help ensure good coordination with the existing freight service and prevent the need for freight service during the night. This project requires improvements to the rail line as specified in the rail line upgrade project (see previous project).

**Lead Agency:** Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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<sup>1</sup> Transportation Agency for Monterey County, *Project Study Report: Caltrain Extension to Monterey County, 2006.*

<sup>2</sup> Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Structural Assessment, July 2005, by Briggs Cardosa Associates, Inc. Santa Cruz Industrial Lead Supplemental Structural Assessment Report, June 2006, HNTB Corporation.

## Community Package


### Access Options

#### ***Bus Service Maintenance and Expansion***

**Project Description:** Implement an express/limited-stop or a Bus Rapid Transit<sup>3</sup> type of service from Watsonville and mid-county to Santa Cruz and UCSC. The service would utilize the new lanes and park-and-ride lots to be constructed as part of the HOV Lane project and connect to existing Highway 17 Express Bus and other transit service. These funds would also be used to double local service hours within the Watsonville area and provide one-third of the funding needed to replace fixed route and Americans with Disabilities Act-mandated paratransit<sup>4</sup> vehicles as needed.

**Lead Agency:** Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

#### ***Specialized Transportation for Seniors and People Living With Disabilities***

**Project Description:** Funding will provide specialized transportation services to accommodate people living with disabilities and the increasing senior population, provide same-day transportation to medically fragile individuals, expand Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-mandated ParaCruz service without reducing the amount of regular bus service, expand “safety net” services for people ineligible to use ADA Paratransit (people that don’t live within ¾ mile of a bus route, who can’t afford the \$3 fare, etc.), build a permanent maintenance center for Lift Line, replace paratransit vehicles as needed, expand transit mobility training programs and provide better accessibility at bus stops. Also, a Mobility Management Center would ensure that people are directed to the most proficient and cost effective service provider and that rides are provided in a coordinated, efficient manner. 

**Lead Agency:** Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

## Neighborhood Package

### Quality of Life

#### ***Road Maintenance and Repair Fund***

**Project Description:** This fund would increase maintenance and repair of existing roadways. Though some cities have recently approved new taxes to address some of the funding needs within their jurisdictions, the backlog is so great that those funds are insufficient to address all of the needs. Local jurisdictions will be required to demonstrate “maintenance of effort” – funds cannot be used to supplant funds that otherwise would have been used for local road maintenance and repairs.

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<sup>3</sup> Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) is a bus system that, through infrastructural and scheduling improvements, provides higher quality service and vehicles than an ordinary bus line.

<sup>4</sup> Paratransit describes specialized transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities. The Americans with Disabilities Act mandates that complementary transportation services be available for people unable to use fixed route transit (bus).

**Lead Agencies:** Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, and County of Santa Cruz

### ***Safe School Routes***

**Project Description:** Programs include identifying and implementing safe school route improvements, walking school buses, SchoolPool (carpool) programs, educational events, incentive programs, bicycle safety training, bicycle buddy group formation and transit training programs.

**Lead Agency:** Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, and County of Santa Cruz

### ***Bicycle Network/Pedestrian Safety Projects***

**Project Description:** Construct bicycle paths, lanes, and bicycle parking facilities as identified in local jurisdiction (cities and County) and other local agency master bicycle/trail plans. Emphasize safety improvements and regional connections that enhance both commuter and recreational bicycle use. Implement high priority pedestrian improvements, accessibility measures, and gap closures identified by local jurisdictions, community members, pedestrian advocacy groups, seniors, and people living with disabilities. Improvements could include construction of new sidewalks, removal of obstacles, widening walkways, improvement of sight distances, addition of lighting, addition of curb cuts and crossing devices

**Lead Agencies:** City of Capitola, City of Scotts Valley, City of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville, County of Santa Cruz

### ***Local Enforcement***

**Project Description:** Increase local traffic enforcement on local streets and roads by providing additional California Highway Patrol (CHP), police and sheriff patrols in residential areas.

**Lead Agency:** Local police and sheriff departments of the Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, and County of Santa Cruz along with the CHP

### ***Neighborhood Safety Projects***

**Project Description:** Allocate funds for priority hazard elimination and safety projects in the county; and neighborhood calming and safety projects in each city and the county. Items requested include street lighting and traffic calming devices to discourage cut through traffic and decrease speeds in residential areas.

**Lead Agency:** Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, and County of Santa Cruz

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