

**---Public Hearing Scheduled for 10:00 a.m.---**

AGENDA: January 14, 2010

**TO:** Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)  
**FROM:** Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner  
**RE:** Adoption of the *2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

The Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC), Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC), Bicycle Committee and staff recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) adopt the *2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)* to:

1. Program \$1.1 million in projected State Transportation Improvement Program Transportation Enhancement (STIP TE) funds to the Broadway-Brommer Multi-Use Path for construction;
2. Program \$925,000 in additional STIP funds for federally mandated planning, programming and monitoring (PPM) activities from FY 10/11 to 14/15; and
3. Make changes to several previously programmed projects, which include shifting funds between projects, updating project schedules, and modifying project scope, as shown on Attachment 2.

The ITAC, E&DTAC and staff further recommend that the RTC adopt the proposed 2010 RTIP to:

4. Program \$1.45 million in additional STIP funds to the Highway 1 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project for the environmental review phase; and
5. Program \$500,000 in additional STIP funds to the Highway 1 Soquel – Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project to help defend a challenge to the final environmental documents, and authorize use of \$326,000 in previously reserved Regional Surface Transportation Exchange Program (RSTPX) funds for these cost increases if the CTC does not approve this supplemental allocation of STIP funds.

Staff additionally recommends that the RTC:

6. Hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed *2010 RTIP* and consider any written comments received (to be distributed at the meeting);
  7. Approve a resolution (Attachment 1) adopting the proposed *2010 RTIP* with the recommendations listed above;
  8. Amend the FY09/10 RTC Budget to reflect changes for Regional Surface Transportation Exchange Program (RSTPX) funded-projects (Attachment 4); and
  9. Request that the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and California Transportation Commission (CTC) incorporate these amendments into the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP - Attachment 3), respectively.
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## BACKGROUND

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), as the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Santa Cruz County, is responsible for selecting projects to receive a variety of state and federal funds. The *Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)* for Santa Cruz County is a list of projects which have been selected by the RTC to receive funds over the next five years. The RTIP is typically adopted every two years. Interim amendments are made as needed.

The RTIP primarily serves two purposes: 1) as a tool to assist in monitoring the delivery of state and federally-funded projects; and 2) the RTC's proposal to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for the region's share of funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The CTC makes the final determination on which projects are programmed to receive STIP funds, what year they are programmed, and when to release (allocate) funds to individual projects.

## DISCUSSION

**Staff recommends, upon completion of the scheduled public hearing, that the RTC adopt a resolution (Attachment 1) programming STIP TE funds, requesting additional STIP for three regional projects, and amending previously programmed projects (Attachments 2 & 3). These staff recommendations were considered by the RTC's advisory committees in December 2009. **Staff recommends that the RTC also amend the FY09/10 RTC Budget to reflect changes to the Regional Surface Transportation Exchange Program (RSTPX) (Attachment 4).****

### Available STIP Funds

Given fiscal challenges plaguing the state, the 2010 STIP Fund Estimate, adopted by the CTC in October 2009, shows that revenues for transportation projects are not keeping pace with prior projections and that there are currently more projects programmed to receive STIP funds statewide than there is funding. As such, the CTC has indicated that statewide most STIP projects will be delayed several years and **only \$1,094,000 in new STIP TE funding is available for programming to projects in Santa Cruz County.**

STIP TE funds are restricted for use on projects such as bicycle and pedestrian facilities, scenic land acquisitions and landscaping above and beyond required project mitigations. **The Bicycle Committee, Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E/DTAC), Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC), and staff recommend that the RTC program the \$1.1 million in new STIP TE funds to the Broadway-Brommer Multiuse Path through Arana Gulch.** This project provides a new bicycle and pedestrian connection between the City of Santa Cruz and the unincorporated area of Live Oak.

### Additional Funds for RTC Projects

While the CTC has indicated that there are insufficient funds available statewide to program more than the \$1.1 million in STIP TE funds to the region, the RTC does have an unprogrammed STIP balance of \$3.5 million. Though it is unlikely that the state will allow the RTC to access these funds in the 2010 STIP, staff recommends that the RTC nevertheless request some of its unprogrammed share of STIP funds from the CTC since additional funds are needed for the following projects.

- 1. Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM) - \$925,000 in additional STIP to address state and federally-mandated PPM activities for five years: FY10/11-14/15. The Bicycle Committee, E/DTAC, and ITAC concur with this recommendation.** As the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Santa Cruz County, the RTC 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 and development of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The RTC is eligible to use up to 5% of its STIP county share for these tasks and historically has used between \$150,000-300,000 per year. Currently only \$150,000 is programmed in FY10/11 and no funds in future years. If the RTC does not secure STIP funds to perform these duties, other local funds, such as Transportation Development Act (TDA), would need to be used.
- 2. Highway 1 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project - \$1.45 million. The E/D TAC and ITAC concur with this recommendation.** Additional funds are needed to complete the environmental document. This includes development of a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)-required fundable phased implementation strategy; support and integration, as appropriate, into the draft and final environmental documents of the Sustainable Transportation Access Rating System (STARS) evaluation; and completion of the final EIR/response to comments following circulation of the draft (currently anticipated in the Fall 2010/Spring 2011 timeframe). Staff and the consultant will work diligently to minimize expenses on the project and if all of the funds programmed to the PA/ED phase are not needed, the RTC can shift those funds to other projects once the PA/ED phase is completed.
- 3. Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project - \$500,000. The E/D TAC and ITAC concur with this recommendation.** Additional funds are needed for anticipated expenses resulting from a lawsuit filed on the environmental document and to begin pre-construction administrative activities during the current final design phase. Staff recommends that the RTC seek an additional \$500,000 in STIP funds for this work. The RTC previously reserved \$326,000 in RSTPX funds specifically for the project as bridge funding in the event that the CTC delayed allocation of STIP funds previously programmed to design. While the CTC has since allocated those STIP funds, staff recommends that the RTC also authorize use of the \$326,000 RSTPX for these cost increases if the CTC does not approve this supplemental allocation of STIP funds. Additionally, the RTIP and STIP need to be amended to reflect the current project schedule and implementation plan.

If the CTC does not approve sufficient STIP funds for any of these projects, staff will return at a future meeting to recommend that other funds be designated to these projects.

#### Other Project Amendments

In addition to programming STIP funds to various projects, **staff and the RTC's advisory committees recommend that the RTC amend the RTIP to reflect schedule and other administrative changes to several previously programmed projects (Attachment 2).** These amendments include shifting funds between projects, as well as changes to project scope, schedule, or matching funds. The RTIP must be amended to reflect these changes in order to ensure federal and state funds are retained and accessible to project sponsors. Attachment 3 summarizes the proposed changes to STIP projects, including new funding requests, which are subject to CTC approval. In order for project sponsors to access RSTPX funds that they have requested to shift between projects, **staff also recommends that the RTC amend the FY09/10 RTC budget to reflect the shifts (Attachment 4).** Attachment 5 is the revised listing

of all projects being carried over into the *2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*.

### **Public Hearing on the 2010 RTIP**

Consistent with RTC Rules and Regulations, prior to adoption of the RTIP, **a public hearing has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m.** to receive public input on the proposed program of projects and other amendments. A news release on the hearing was sent to local media and the hearing was advertised in the Santa Cruz Sentinel and Register-Pajaronian.

### **SUMMARY**

The RTC develops and adopts the *Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)* every other year which identifies projects to receive various state and federal funds. Staff recommends that, following a public hearing, the RTC adopt a resolution, proposing projects to receive State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds and amending existing projects.

#### Attachments

1. Resolution Adopting the 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
2. Proposed Amendments to Existing Projects
3. Proposed Changes to STIP Projects
4. Resolution Amending the FY09/10 RTC Budget
5. RTIP Project Listings

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