

# **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**

## **2006 Federal Legislative Agenda**

- 1. Maximize Local Area Funding.** Support increased revenues for the Santa Cruz County region for transportation projects. Work with local legislators to obtain funding for highway improvements, rail corridor improvements, transit improvements, and pedestrian/bicycle trails, including the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Trail, and the Pacific Station Project. Oppose any efforts to reduce transportation funding to California or the region
- 2. Maximize Transit Funding.**
  - a) Support annual transit capital and operating fund allocations at the maximum levels allowed in SAFETEA-LU to meet growing paratransit and Americans with Disabilities Act service demands, to help relieve transit service overcrowding, and to encourage increased transit use.
  - b) Oppose any efforts to reduce transit funding to California or the region and support efforts to increase transit funding, particularly in small urbanized areas.
  - c) Support Metro's appropriation request for the Pacific Station Project;
  - d) Support provisions that better integrate state and federal environmental laws;
- 3. Support Improved Elderly and Disabled Transportation.**
  - a) Support increased funding to Title III and VII of the Older Americans Act and Section 5310 program.
  - b) Require that all interstate transportation providers comply with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) provisions, including wheelchair accessibility requirements.
  - c) Advocate for federal rule changes to reimburse non-emergency medical transportation through Medicare as a less costly alternative to ambulances.
- 5. Support the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Scenic Trail** - Support efforts by Congressman Sam Farr to secure federal funds for planning and construction of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary Scenic Trail.
- 6. Support Intercity Passenger Rail Services.** Support the reintroduction and passage of measures that will provide ongoing funding for AMTRAK and that will facilitate the shared use of tracks by passenger and freight rail.
- 7. Support Legislative and Administrative Proposals to Streamline the Process for Federally Funded Projects.** Support regulations to streamline the federal project delivery requirements (including cooperative agreements, pre-award audits, new disadvantaged business enterprise regulations and duplicative federal environmental review laws) while maintaining the substance of environmental laws, either through regulatory or statutory changes.
- 8. Support Incentive Programs for Bicycle and Pedestrian Commuters and Funding for Improvements.** Support efforts to extend the transportation fringe benefits in the tax code to bicycle and pedestrian commuters as a strategy to decrease single-occupancy vehicle trips,

similar to the transportation fringe benefit placed into law to reduce congestion, pollution, and wear and tear on roads.

**9. Assist the County in Efforts to Secure Federal Emergency Management Agency Funds for the Reconstruction of Amesti Road.**

\\Rtcserv1\shared\LEGISLAT\2006\FedLegAgenda\APPROVED-Fed06Agenda-030206.doc