



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone (831) 460-3200 ~ fax (831) 460-3215
email: info@sccrtc.org; website: www.sccrtc.org

NEWS RELEASE

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CONTACT: Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner
PHONE: (831) 460-3200; email: info@sccrtc.org

Draft 25-Year Regional Transportation Plan Available

The *Draft 2005 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan* and the corresponding *Draft Environmental Impact Report* are now available for public review and comment through April 1, 2005. These two documents are available on the Regional Transportation Commission's website (www.sccrtc.org/rtp.html) and at many local libraries. A public hearing on these documents is scheduled for **9:30am March 17th, 2005**. The public hearing will be at the Commission's 9:00am meeting on Thursday, March 17 at the **City of Watsonville Council Chambers** to provide an opportunity for the community to review proposed transportation improvements and potential environmental impacts.

The *Draft 2005 Regional Transportation Plan* establishes a blueprint for transportation projects and funding throughout Santa Cruz County. Listing projects in the plan is an essential first step in securing funding from federal, state and local sources; however, final decisions about which projects will receive funding will still need to be made as the funds become available over the next 25 years.

The purpose of the *Draft 2005 Regional Transportation Plan* is to:

- Update regional transportation priorities through the Goals and Policies

- Update funding projections through the year 2030, including forecasts of federal, state and local transportation funds
- Develop transportation improvement project lists including both projects AWithin Projected Funds@ and projects for which ANew Funds are Needed
- Comply with state and federal funding provisions

Projects recommended for funding include improvements for highways, local roadways, transit service, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, specialized transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities, as well as multimodal projects such as park and ride lots.

A Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the 2005 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is also available. The Draft Environmental Impact Report reviews the program-level impacts of the program of projects identified in the Draft Regional Transportation Plans for Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties, as well as the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' (AMBAG) Monterey Bay Metropolitan Transportation Plan. The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) identifies nineteen potentially significant, unavoidable impacts that might occur with the future implementation of one or more of the projects and programs identified in the three-county AMBAG region, Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties. Environmental review of individual projects will occur as the projects are funded.

The deadline to submit comments on these documents is April 1, 2005.

Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, please call SCCRTC at 460-3200 or visit the web site. The public hearing will be televised live on local cable stations and rebroadcast by Community TV (see www.communitytv.org or call 425-8848 for times and channels).

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