Draft Funding Initiative Submitted

The California Alliance for Jobs, along with Transportation California, another transportation advocacy group, last month asked the state Attorney General to provide the title and summary for a proposed constitutional amendment that would provide a new source of funding to address the looming Transportation Fiscal Cliff.

The California Road Repairs Act would assess an annual California Road Repair Fee on all vehicles equal to 1 percent of each vehicle's value. When the fee is completely implemented in 2018, it could raise about $2.9 billion a year to maintain the state's road, bridge and transit systems, and to rehabilitate and replace transit vehicles.

The Alliance and Transportation California have stressed that no final decision has been made to pursue the measure in 2014. Once the official title and summary are prepared, the transportation community will determine if the time is right to move ahead. It is expected that decision will be made in January.

Civinomicon

On November 16 RTC Senior Planner Karena Pushnik and the Executive Director facilitated a focus group on transportation as part of an event called Civinomicon. The initiative is designed to encourage formation of new ideas and constructive debate and discussion on various issues of high importance to the community. Civinomics is structured as an online framework to support and record the ideas and responses that come forth. Currently there are 15 discussions on transportation. For more, see: https://civinomics.com/searchTags/Transportation/#discussions
Train to Christmastown

The Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway is again providing a holiday experience on the Train to Christmastown. Trains depart from Watsonville at 4:00 PM, 5:45 PM and 7:30 PM Friday, Saturday, Sunday and select weekdays through December 28. Seats are offered as Coach, Premium Coach and Diamond class. Many trains are now sold out, and tickets are available only online at: https://www.traintochristmastown.com/california/index.html

North Coast Call Boxes Off Line

Eight (8) call boxes are currently out of service due to a recent loss in cellular coverage along Highway 1 from Davenport to the north end of the county. The maintenance contractor (CASE Systems) is working directly with the cellular service provider (AT&T) to resolve the connectivity issue. Representatives from all agencies are scheduled to meet in January 2014 to address how changes in AT&T’s wireless network will impact the call box system as AT&T continues to upgrade their wireless network. The affected call boxes have been removed until service can be restored.

Complete Streets Workshop

RTC, jointly with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, San Benito County Council of Governments, and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments hosted a Complete Streets Training Workshop for public works and planning staff on November 13th. This workshop was specifically designed to provide step-by-step guidance on practical tools that can be implemented locally. The workshop addressed comments and questions received during development of
the Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook and provided greater detail about how to use the Guidebook. Fifty people representing agencies from all three counties attended. Informal feedback immediately following the workshop was very positive from the sell-out group of attendees.

In addition to the safety benefits for all transportation modes, complete streets designs also can increase roadway capacity by accommodating more people. Features of complete streets include components that make walking and bicycling more attractive and safe such as:

- shortened and frequent pedestrian crossings
- adequate crossing time,
- wide sidewalks,
- dedicated bicycle facilities, buffered or separated from vehicles on high volume and high speed roadways,
- bicycle detection at intersections,
- roundabouts, and
- traffic calming measures such as medians and curb extensions.

Design components can be tailored depending on the street type, ranging from neighborhood streets to arterials. There is not a one size fits all approach to making streets more complete. More information is available at: http://www.sccrtc.org/projects/multi-modal/santa-cruz-county-complete-streets/

**Holiday Office Hours**

RTC offices will be closed December 23 – 27, and will re-open December 30. We will also be closed New Year’s Day.