



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
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## **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) May 1, 2014 Meeting Highlights**

### ***Appreciation of Les White, General Manager of Santa Cruz METRO:***

The RTC presented a certificate of appreciation to Les White, the retiring general manager of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District. He was recognized for his unwavering commitment to improve transportation in Santa Cruz County; outstanding leadership to modernize Santa Cruz METRO; strong advocacy at the state and national levels for transportation funding of small communities; and tireless efforts to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of local and regional transit service.

### ***Passenger Rail Study Project Update:***

In accordance with the intent of purchasing the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line to expand transportation options for the region, the RTC authorized its Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with Fehr & Peers for consultant services to develop a passenger rail study for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The analysis, funded from a Caltrans Transit Planning grant, will evaluate the feasibility of short and long term scenarios for passenger rail service, including estimates of capital and operating costs, varying train technologies, and connectivity to other bus and rail services. The consultant team was selected based on their extensive experience with ridership forecasting, rail service scenarios, operations and funding/finance opportunities. Public participation in the Passenger Rail Study will be encouraged on development of goals and objectives for rail service, identification of service scenarios, and on recommendations from the consultant. To get involved, please [sign up](#) for the [RTC's Rail Study eNews](#).

### ***Recommendations for the Final 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP):***

The RTC approved recommendations for changes to the draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), based on comments received from members of the public, commissioners, RTC Committees, resource agencies, public interest groups, and partner agencies. Changes include updates to text and minor updates to the project list and financial estimates based on more recent financial information. The RTP describes the existing transportation system, forecasts the amount of funding anticipated for transportation projects over the next 22 years, identifies transportation programs and projects to address the region's needs, and includes a performance analysis for how well the plan advances RTP goals. The Final 2014 RTP is scheduled for adoption at the RTC's June 26, 2014 meeting.

### **Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding for local transportation programs:**

The RTC approved \$7,228,775 in TDA funding for local transportation programs and services, including the Santa Cruz METRO transit and Paracruz operations, the Volunteer Center and Community Bridges transportation services for our community's elderly and disabled population, and bicycle and pedestrian safety programs of the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, Ride 'n Stride, and Ecology Action's Bike to Work. Each year, the RTC allocates TDA funds from the region's share of the ¼ cent sales tax according to established eligibility criteria pertaining to special transportation assistance claims. The RTC also approved \$2,689,917 in State Transit Assistance (STA) funding for Santa Cruz METRO's transit operations.

### **Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings:**

*Please check the RTC website [[www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org)] or call 831-460-3200 to confirm. Most agendas are posted to the website 4 business days before the meeting.*

#### Commission Meeting

Thursday, June 5, 2014, 9:00 am

Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Suite 400, Watsonville

#### Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 9:00 am

RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

#### Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee

Thursday, June 12, 2014, 3:00 pm

RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

#### Bicycle Committee

Monday, June 9, 2014, 6:00 pm

RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

#### Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 10, 2014, 1:30 pm

RTC Watsonville Offices, 275 Main Street, Suite 450, Watsonville

#### Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 15, 2014, 1:30 pm

RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

*Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC website at [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org) or call 460-3200. Some Regional Transportation Commission meetings are televised countywide by Community TV of Santa Cruz. Consult [www.communitytv.org](http://www.communitytv.org) or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.*