



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies**

AGENDA

Thursday, September 4, 2014

Immediately following the completion of the regular RTC meeting

**NOTE LOCATION THIS MONTH
County Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Oral communications

Any member of the public may address the SCCRTC Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) for a period not to exceed three minutes on any item within the jurisdiction of the SCCRTC SAFE that is not already on the agenda. The SCCRTC SAFE will listen to all communication, but in compliance with the State Law, will not take action on items that are not on the agenda.

Speakers are requested to sign the sign-in sheet so that their names can be accurately recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

2. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are considered to be minor or non-controversial and will be acted upon in one motion if no member of the SCCRTC SAFE or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda. Members of the SCCRTC SAFE may raise questions, seek clarification or add directions to Consent Agenda items without removing the item from the Consent Agenda as long as no other SCCRTC SAFE member objects to the change.

No consent items.

REGULAR AGENDA

3. Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Project – 2013 Annual Report
(*Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner*)
 - a. Staff report
 - b. Safe on 17 Highway 17 Safety Corridor Project *2013 Annual Report*
4. Adjourn

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AGENDA: September 4, 2013

TO: Regional Transportation Commission/Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

FROM: Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner

RE: Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Project – 2013 Annual Report

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)/Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) accept the attached 2013 Annual Report for the Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Program ([Attachment 1](#)).

BACKGROUND

In 1998, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) initiated the Safe on 17 Program with the aid of a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). The OTS grant was available from March 1999 to March 2002. During that period, injury and fatal collisions were reduced by 34% on Highway 17 from a pre-program average of 249 to 165 through a combination of CHP enforcement, roadway improvements, and a public information campaign. The Safe on 17 program is still active today due to the interest of multiple agencies to continue to improve safety on Highway 17. RTC SAFE provides \$50,000 per year for extra CHP enforcement on the Santa Cruz County side of Hwy 17 and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission SAFE provides \$50,000 per year for extra CHP enforcement on the Santa Clara County side of Hwy 17. In addition to the extra enforcement, Caltrans has spent tens of millions of dollars on numerous engineering projects to improve safety on the Highway 17 corridor. The CHP compiles collision and citation statistics, and RTC SAFE continues to convene the Safe on 17 Task Force. The goal of the current program is to maintain the reduced collision rate achieved on Highway 17 during the OTS grant period.

DISCUSSION

2013 Safe on 17 Annual Report

The 2013 Safe on 17 Annual Report ([Attachment 1](#)) reviews the work done by the CHP, Caltrans, RTC and other stakeholders to continue to improve safety on Highway 17. The annual report was prepared by RTC SAFE staff, with input from Caltrans and CHP staff. The 2013 Safe on 17 Program includes: extra enforcement, collision and citation rate monitoring, Safe on 17 Task Force Meetings, public information and outreach, and highway safety improvements. Below is a description of the 2013 Safe on 17 accomplishments. More detailed information regarding these activities is

available in the attached *2013 Annual Report*. **Staff recommends that the RTC accept the 2013 Safe on 17 Annual Report.**

Collisions: The total number of collisions for 2013 is 420, which ties with 2009 for the lowest number of collisions on record since 1996. There were 134 injury collisions and 2 fatalities in 2013. The 2013 injury and fatal collisions surpassed the goal of maintaining the reduction in collisions achieved during the OTS grant period (165 injury and fatal collisions). The fatal and injury collisions were 46% lower than the pre-program average of 249. This reduction translates into 115 fewer fatal and injury collisions and 252 fewer property damage only collisions on the Highway 17 Safety Corridor for 2013 compared to the preprogram average. The *2013 Annual Report: Attachment 2* breaks-out annual collisions by type since 1996 and *2013 Annual Report: Attachment 3* includes 2013 monthly collision data for Highway 17 compared to historical monthly averages.

Extra CHP Enforcement: Increased CHP visibility and increases in the number of citations being issued on Highway 17 provides a deterrent to motorists who practice unsafe driving behavior. In 2013, there was a total of 1,152 hours of extra CHP enforcement.

Citations: In 2013, 9,735 citations were issued on Highway 17. Approximately 16% of these citations were issued during Safe on 17 extra CHP enforcement hours. Primary collision factors including, but not limited to, unsafe speed, improper turning and improper lane changes account for approximately 81% of all citations.

Safe on 17 Task Force Meetings: In 2013, the Task Force discussed the outcomes of the CHP's extra enforcement efforts, provided input on current Caltrans' Highway 17 projects and maintenance activities, and provided input on potential Highway 17 traffic operation improvements. Task Force members include CHP, Caltrans Districts 4 and 5, MTC SAFE, RTC SAFE, local legislators, local media and local police.

Public Information: Public information educates motorists about safety on Highway 17. In 2013, CHP included information about safe driving on Highway 17 at CHP sponsored events including new driver education programs held at high schools and motorcycle and community events.

Highway 17 Safety Improvements: Highway improvements are developed, coordinated and implemented by Caltrans, with input from the Safe on 17 Task Force. In 2013, Caltrans advanced or completed several important safety projects on Highway 17 including the Guardrail Improvement Project, the Santa's Village Road Guardrail Project, and the Highway 17 Summit Slide Repair Project. Details about these projects are available in the *2013 Safe on 17 Annual Report*.

Funding for the Safe on 17 Program

The SCCRTC SAFE funds are generated from a \$1 fee per year on all vehicles registered in Santa Cruz County and are used to pay for the extra CHP enforcement on Highway 17 as well as other SAFE Programs. The SCCRTC SAFE has approved funding in the amount of \$50,000 per year for extra CHP enforcement on the Santa

2013 Safe on 17 Annual Report

Cruz County side of Highway 17 through June 30, 2015. Although the cost per hour of CHP service has increased, funding levels for this program have remained constant due to flat SAFE fund revenues, and funding uncertainties associated with other programs, which also rely on SAFE funds, namely the Santa Cruz County Freeway Service Patrol Program.

SUMMARY

During 2013, the Safe on 17 Program surpassed the goal of maintaining the reduced injury and fatal collisions experienced during the initial Office of Traffic Safety grant period. The attached annual report shows the work done by the Safe on 17 Program to continue to improve safety on Highway 17.

Attachment

- 1: Safe on 17 Highway 17 Safety Corridor Project *2013Annual Report*

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