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## **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) December 4, 2014 Meeting Highlights**

### **Appreciation of Departing Commissioners for Their Service:**

Departing Commissioners Neal Coonerty, Daniel Dodge, Eduardo Montesino, and Lynn Robinson were thanked for their years of service to the Commission, *including leadership through the completion of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line acquisition; completing the Highway 1 Soquel to Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project; adoption of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Master Plan; and funding for street, bicycle, pedestrian and transit projects.*

### **Appointment of 2015 RTC Chair and Vice Chair**

The new RTC Chair for 2015 will be Commissioner John Leopold. The Vice Chair will be Commissioner Don Lane. Congratulations to both.

### **Wet Weather Driving Tips**

Caltrans shared Rainy Day Driving tips which outline common sense reminders about driving slower, maintaining longer distances between vehicles, braking before turns, driving through water, and how to handle skids. For the full list of tips visit <http://bit.ly/1rWOT8t>

### **Report on RTC-Funded County of Santa Cruz Public Works Projects**

County Public Works Assistant Director Steve Wiesner provided updates on 21 projects for which the RTC has provided over \$12 million. Completed projects include shoulder widening and drainage improvement on Graham Hill Road and new sidewalks and bicycle lanes near Calabasas Elementary School. RTC-funded projects under development include multimodal improvements in Aptos Village and Seacliff Village; new pathways, bicycle lanes, and parking along Twin Lakes beach front near the Santa Cruz Harbor; and pavement projects countywide. While nearly 15 miles of roadway repairs have been funded, the County has over 600 miles of roadways that need maintenance. Since fuel taxes have not been raised since 1993, it is impossible for the County to keep up with all of the needs. County Public Works is working with the RTC and the community to investigate options for raising local funds.

### **Mural for Railroad Bridge Abutment in Capitola**

The RTC approved a request from The City of Capitola to paint a mural on the western abutment wall of the railroad bridge over Wharf Road depicting beach

goers traveling to Capitola Village surrounded by begonia flowers. The mural is an extension of an existing mural on Wharf Road. (*see webpage 44 of the [RTC meeting agenda packet](#)*)

### **Unified Corridors Plan**

Using grant funds, the RTC approved partnering with the County of Santa Cruz and Caltrans to implement Phase I of the Unified Corridors Plan. The Unified Corridors Plan will identify transportation investments that optimize usage of the three primary north/south corridors -- Highway 1, Soquel Ave/Drive and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line -- while advancing sustainable transportation targets included in the region's long range transportation plan. Phase I will allow development of local transportation modeling tools followed by a second phase designed to identify transportation and prioritize investments that move the most people in the corridors and advance sustainable transportation targets by using the modeling tools developed in the initial phase. Another benefit of the project is providing the performance data increasingly required by state and federal funding sources.

### **Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Bridge Rehabilitation Project**

Construction continues on three bridges of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The RTC Chair will appoint Commissioners to serve on an ad-hoc contract change order committee for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Rehabilitation project. The RTC approved short term temporary borrowing from the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Fund to pay large invoices for construction work to rehabilitate four rail line bridges: the La Selva Beach trestle, the Hidden Beach trestle, the Wilder Creek bridge, and a bridge near Harkins Slough. As monthly reimbursement is received from the State, the borrowed funds will be repaid.

### **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, January 15, 2015, 9:00 am \*Note Special Date  
Santa Cruz City Council Chambers,

#### Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) –Cancelled

~~Thursday, December 18, 2014, 9:00 am  
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz~~

#### Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee \* Note Special Date

*Thursday, December 4, 2014, immediately following Commission Meeting  
CAO Conference Room, 701 Ocean Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Santa Cruz)*

[Bicycle Advisory Committee](#)

Monday, December 8, 2014, 6:00 pm  
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

[Interagency Technical Advisory Committee](#) - Cancelled

~~Thursday, December 18, 2014, 1:30 pm  
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz~~

[Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee](#) \*Note Special Date

Tuesday, January 6, 2015, 1:30 pm  
SCCRTC 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.*