



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) March 5, 2015 Meeting Highlights

Welcome New Commissioners appointed by Metro

The [Regional Transportation Commission](#) welcomed new members and alternates representing the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District; Ed Bottorff and Deborah Lane.

La Selva Beach Trestle Completion Ceremony

Executive Director George Dondero showed a video clip and photos of the well-attended [February 26 completion ceremony event](#). A train -- brought in by the Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway (Iowa Pacific) -- signaled that the corridor is again an active rail line open for freight and passenger rail service. At the event, Commission Chair John Leopold and 2nd District Commissioner Zach Friend welcomed the crowd and provided background information about the history and uses of the rail corridor.

Draft Monterey Bay Public Participation Plan

RTC staff provided an overview of the three-county [Draft Public Participation Plan](#) circulated for review by the Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments. The draft plan describes opportunities for the public to provide input on transportation projects and plans, and includes a summary of RTC outreach activities. Input by the Commission and its advisory committees will be forwarded to AMBAG. The public comment period ends on March 27.

FY2015 Cap and Trade Low Carbon Transit Operations Program

The RTC voted to contribute its formula share of revenues generated from the State's sale of carbon emission credits (\$88,497) to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO). METRO will use these "cap and trade" Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds to renovate the Watsonville Transit Center to create a customer service and paratransit eligibility office aimed at increasing bus ridership and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

State Transportation Funding Update

Funding to operate, maintain, and improve local roadways bicycle and pedestrian facilities and highways will drop by approximately \$5 million next year if the State Board of

Equalizations' proposed 6 cent per gallon cut in the state's excise tax on gasoline goes through on July 1. This will translate to approximately 55% less funds for regional transportation projects and 25% less for local street and road projects. Given continued unstable and decreasing state and federal funding, Commissioners reemphasized the need for Santa Cruz County to support secure local funding options through a local ballot measure.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendments

In order to ensure that project sponsors continue to have access to previously approved state and federal revenues, the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) was amended to reflect schedule updates for several projects. The amendments clear the way for projects in Capitola, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Aptos, and Live Oak to move forward in Fiscal Year 2015/2016. For more information about the RTIP and projects that have been approved for funding by the RTC visit www.sccrtc.org/rtip.

For additional information on these items, check out the meeting materials online at:
<http://www.sccrtc.org/meetings/commission/agendas/>

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings:

Meetings are subject to cancelation if there are no action items. Please check the RTC website [www.sccrtc.org] or call 831-460-3200 to confirm. Agendas are posted to the website at least 3 business days before the meeting.

Safe on 17/Traffic Operations Systems

Wednesday, March 11, 2015, 10:00 am
San Jose CHP Office, 2020 Junction Ave, San Jose, CA 95131

Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)

Thursday, March 19, 2015, 9:00 am
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 19, 2015 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 2, 2015, 9:00 am
County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz

Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC website at 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 or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.