



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
Transportation Policy Workshop**

AGENDA

**Thursday, May 21, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE LOCATION THIS MONTH
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave
Santa Cruz, CA**

NOTE

See the last page for details about access for people with disabilities and meeting broadcasts.

En Español

Para información sobre servicios de traducción al español, diríjase a la última página.

AGENDAS ONLINE

To receive email notification when the TPW meeting agenda packet is posted on our website, please call (831) 460-3200 or email info@sccrtc.org to subscribe.

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Caltrans (ex-officio)	Tim Gubbins
City of Capitola	Dennis Norton
City of Santa Cruz	Don Lane
City of Scotts Valley	Randy Johnson
City of Watsonville	Jimmy Dutra
County of Santa Cruz	Greg Caput
County of Santa Cruz	Ryan Coonerty
County of Santa Cruz	Zach Friend
County of Santa Cruz	John Leopold
County of Santa Cruz	Bruce McPherson
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Karina Cervantez
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Cynthia Chase
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Ed Bottorff

The majority of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

1. Introductions
2. Oral communications

Any member of the public may address the Commission for a period not to exceed three minutes on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not already on the agenda. The Commission will listen to all communication, but in compliance with State law, may 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.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

CONSENT AGENDA

No items this month

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 RTC or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda. Members of the Commission 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 Commissioner objects to the change.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Independent Polling of Voters for a Potential 2016 Ballot Measure (oral report)
5. Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM) presentation
(Luis Mendez, Deputy Director)
 - a. Staff Report
6. Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement with Union Pacific
(Luis Mendez, Deputy Director)
 - a. Staff Report
7. Bike Route Signage Grant
(Kim Shultz, Senior Transportation Planner)
 - a. Staff Report
 - b. Resolution authorizing the Executive Director to apply for funds and execute agreements with Caltrans for implementation of the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage Program
8. Passenger Rail Study Update (oral report)
(Karena Pushnik & Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planners)

9. Next meetings

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Suite 400, Watsonville, CA.

A special meeting of the Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 25, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Santa Cruz Council Chambers, 809 Center St., Santa Cruz CA.

HOW TO REACH US

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone: (831) 460-3200/fax: (831) 460-3215

Watsonville Office
275 Main Street, Suite 450, Watsonville, CA 95076
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email: info@sccrtc.org / website: www.sccrtc.org

HOW TO STAY INFORMED ABOUT RTC MEETINGS, AGENDAS & NEWS

Broadcasts: Many of the meetings are broadcast live. Meetings are cablecast by Community Television of Santa Cruz. Community TV's channels and schedule can be found online (www.communitytv.org) or by calling (831) 425-8848.

Agenda packets: Complete agenda packets are available at the RTC office, on the RTC website (www.sccrtc.org), and at the following public libraries:

- Aptos Library
- Boulder Creek Library
- Branciforte Library
- Capitola Library
- Felton Library
- Garfield Park Library
- La Selva Beach Library
- Live Oak Library
- Santa Cruz Downtown Library
- Scotts Valley Library
- Watsonville Main Library

For information regarding library locations and hours, please check online at www.santacruzpl.org or www.watsonville.lib.ca.us.

On-line viewing: The SCCRTC encourages the reduction of paper waste and therefore makes meeting materials available online. Those receiving paper agendas may sign up to receive email notification when complete agenda packet materials are posted to our website by sending a request to info@sccrtc.org. Agendas are typically posted 5 days prior to each meeting.

Newsletters: To sign up for E-News updates on specific SCCRTC projects, go to <http://sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions/>.

HOW TO REQUEST**❖ ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This meeting location is an accessible facility. If you wish to attend this meeting and require special assistance in order to participate, please contact RTC staff at 460-3200 (CRS 800/735-2929) at least three working days in advance of this meeting to make arrangements. People with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those persons affected, Please attend the meeting smoke and scent-free.

❖ SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN/ TRANSLATION SERVICES

Si gusta estar presente o participar en esta junta de la Comisión Regional de Transporte del Condado de Santa Cruz y necesita información o servicios de traducción al español por favor llame por lo menos con tres días laborables de anticipo al (831) 460-3200 para hacer los arreglos necesarios. (Spanish language translation is available on an as needed basis.) Please make advance arrangements (at least three days in advance) by calling (831) 460-3200.

AGENDA: May 21, 2015

TO: Regional Transportation Commission - Transportation Policy Workshop

FROM: Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director

RE: Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM) Presentation

RECOMMENDATIONS

This item is for information.

BACKGROUND

The Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM) has expressed interest in coming to Santa Cruz County, since before the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) purchased the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. Now that the RTC owns the rail line, GGRM is proposing to lease space in the Santa Cruz wye to display their restored equipment and serve as a base for their operations. There have been questions regarding their operations; therefore, GGRM was invited to present to the RTC to explain their programs and proposals.

DISCUSSION

The Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM) is a non-profit organization that began in 1976 with the restoration of an historic steam locomotive (SP-2472) that had been on display at the San Mateo County Fairgrounds since 1957. GGRM is dedicated to the preservation of mainline passenger railroad equipment, and the interpretation of railroad history and its' effect on the region's economy and culture. GGRM fulfills its educational mission in the following ways:

- Operation of mainline and shortline excursions featuring "living history"
- Interpretive displays of railroad artifacts and other heritage railroading assets to the public
- Ongoing restoration of historic railcars and locomotives
- Promotion of railroad safety to the general public through the "Operation Lifesaver" program

GGRM has entered into an agreement with the Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway to be able to operate occasional excursions, if approved by the RTC, and to share equipment and facilities for more efficient and effective operations for both organizations. GGRM supports their activities through proceeds from rail operations and charitable donations. Representatives from the Golden Gate Railroad Museum

will provide a presentation and answer questions regarding GGRM activities, operations and vision.

SUMMARY

The Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and interpretation of Northern California railroad history. GGRM is interested in coming to Santa Cruz County and has been in discussions with RTC staff, Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway, and City of Santa Cruz staff and representatives. GGRM representatives will make a presentation and answer questions regarding their activities, operations and vision.

AGENDA: May 21, 2015

TO: Regional Transportation Commission - Transportation Policy Workshop

FROM: Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director

RE: Amendment to Purchase and Sale Agreement with Union Pacific

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) authorize the Executive Director to amend the purchase and sale agreement with Union Pacific to extend the date to resolve a rail line contamination issue with Granite Construction for one year to June 1, 2016.

BACKGROUND

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) completed purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line in October of 2012. Part of the due diligence work produced by the RTC in considering purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line included environmental site assessments. The assessments discovered contamination in a drainage ditch on the rail line next to Granite Construction in Watsonville and the contamination seems to have originated from Granite Construction facilities. The purchase and sale agreement with Union Pacific includes language stating that the RTC does not take responsibility for this contamination and requiring Union Pacific to have Granite Construction address the contamination accordingly. The language includes a deadline of June 1, 2015 for Granite Construction to complete remediation.

DISCUSSION

Granite Construction has been working with the Santa Cruz County Environmental Health Services (EHS) to address contamination in the drainage ditch on rail line property next to the Granite Construction property in Watsonville. Granite Construction has performed soil and water analyses and health risk assessments working with the County Environmental Health Services. Granite Construction and EHS are currently in discussions regarding an appropriate means to address the contamination. Since the deadline of June 1, 2015 is approaching there is insufficient time to fully consider the options and obtain all of the necessary information to determine what that means for the RTC's plans for the property. Therefore, **staff recommends that the RTC authorize the Executive Director to amend the purchase and sale agreement with Union Pacific to extend the June 1, 2015 deadline for one year** to provide more time for resolution of this contamination issue.

SUMMARY

The purchase and sale agreement between the RTC and Union Pacific for the rail line includes language to address contamination on the rail line next to the Granite Construction property in Watsonville with a deadline of June 1, 2015. More time is needed to fully consider Granite Construction's options to address the contamination. Staff recommends that the RTC authorize the Executive Director to amend the purchase and sale agreement with Union Pacific to extend the date to resolve the rail line contamination issue with Granite Construction for one year to June 1, 2016.

AGENDA: May 21, 2015

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Kim Shultz, Senior Transportation Planner
RE: Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage Program – 2015 Implementation Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve a resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the submittal of an application to the Active Transportation Program for implementation of the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage Program, authorizing the Executive Director or designee to execute and submit necessary agreements for implementation of the Active Transportation Program project, and authorizing \$50,000 in funds programmed in the FY 14-15 budget as a local match to the grant funding request to increase the competitiveness of the application.

BACKGROUND

In June 2009, the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) programmed \$100,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Program funding for development of the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage Program (Bicycle Route Signage Program). In December 2013, staff presented a preliminary Draft Bicycle Route Signage Implementation Plan which documented extensive review of similar implementation plans and discussions with local jurisdictions. Building on this foundation, staff worked with local agencies and RTC's Bicycle Advisory Committee to create an initial Phase 1 Implementation Plan for the Bicycle Route Signage Program which the RTC approved on May 7, 2015.

DISCUSSION

In September 2013, legislation was approved by the Governor creating the Active Transportation Program (ATP) administered by Caltrans. The ATP consolidates existing federal and state transportation funding programs oriented toward pedestrian and bicycle improvements for purposes of efficiency and to incentivize local investment in active transportation projects. In March 2015, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved a call for projects for a 3 year period (FY 2016/2017 through 2017/2018) with funding totaling \$360 million.

A local agency match for state or federal grant programs is typically required or encouraged to leverage the available funding. In the current ATP call for projects, a local agency match is not required; however, points are awarded based on a sliding scale up to a maximum of 5 points out of 100 for the entire application.

While the relative weight of the local agency match to the total points is not great, staff recommends including the current balance of funds programmed in the FY 2014-2015 budget (\$50,000) to optimize the competitiveness in attracting grant funds for implementation of Phase 1 of the Bicycle Route Signage Program.

Accordingly, staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve a resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the submittal of an application to the Active Transportation Program for implementation of the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage Program, authorizing the Executive Director or designee to execute and submit necessary agreements for implementation of the Active Transportation Program project, and authorizing \$50,000 in funds programmed in the FY 14-15 budget as a local match to the grant funding request to increase the competitiveness of the application.

As of this writing, staff has not completed development of the cost estimate data sheet for inclusion in the grant application. The preliminary cost estimate for the Phase 1 Implementation Plan is approximately \$300,000.

SUMMARY

The RTC approved the Phase 1 Implementation Plan of the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage program on May 7, 2015. The state has issued a call for projects for the Active Transportation Program that promotes investment in projects that promote bicycle use and safety. There is a current balance of \$50,000 in the FY 14-15 budget carried over from previous years for development of the plan. Staff recommends approval of the resolution (Attachment 1) authorizes the Executive Director to execute all necessary agreements to carry out the program and use of \$50,000 in RTC funds as a local match to increase the competitiveness of the grant application. The preliminary cost estimate for the Phase 1 Implementation Plan is approximately \$300,000.

Attachment 1: Authorizing resolution to submit an application to the Active Transportation Program and committing \$50,000 in RTC funds as a local match.

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
on the date of May 21, 2015
on the motion of Commissioner
duly seconded by Commissioner

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO APPLY FOR FUNDS AND
EXECUTE AGREEMENTS WITH CALTRANS FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SANTA CRUZ
COUNTY BICYCLE ROUTE SIGNAGE PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the 2015 Implementation Plan for the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage Program was approved on May 7, 2015; and,

WHEREAS, the Active Transportation Program was created by Senate Bill 99 and Assembly Bill 101 of 2013 to encourage increased use of active modes of transportation, such as bicycling and walking; and,

WHEREAS, RTC is eligible to receive federal and state funding for certain transportation projects through the California Transportation Commission and California Department of Transportation (Caltrans); and,

WHEREAS, the Active Transportation Program grant is more competitive if matching funds are committed to the project by the sponsoring agency; and

WHEREAS, the RTC's FY 14-15 Budget includes \$50,000 programmed for implementation of the Bicycle Route Signage Program which is available to leverage in competing for funds through Active Transportation Program to implement Phase 1 of the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage Program;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (RTC):

1. The Executive Director, or their designee, is hereby authorized to execute and file an application with Caltrans for a grant from the Active Transportation Program, to accept such funding and execute the necessary agreements with Caltrans and local jurisdictions if awarded, and to implement the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage Program; and,
2. A contribution \$50,000 in RTC funds is hereby authorized to be used as matching funds to the Active Transportation Program grant.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS

NOES: COMMISSIONERS

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

ABSENT: COMMISSIONERS

John Leopold, Chair

ATTEST:

George Dondero, Secretary