

Replacement Pages for Item 7

Agenda: February 6, 2014

To: Regional Transportation Commission
From: George Dondero, Executive Director
Re: Approval for Out-of-State Travel for FY 2013-14 and 2014-15

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission approve out-of-state travel:

1. for the Executive Director and one transportation planner to attend the National Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities ("Tools of the Trade") in Burlington, Vermont held July 21-23, 2014; and
 2. for the Deputy Director to participate in pre-fabrication inspections in Coolidge, Arizona in late February 2013 for the fabrication of the steel components required for the La Selva Beach trestle.
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BACKGROUND

The "Tools of the Trade" is a national conference providing ready-to-use, and practical techniques for transportation professionals in small (under 50,000) and medium sized (50,000 to 250,000) communities. RTC staff has attended the Tools of Trade conference previously in 2004 and 2008.

Stinger Bridge and Iron in Coolidge, AZ will fabricate the steel components for the La Selva Bridge trestle and the project team determined that the team should inspect the facility prior to fabrication.

DISCUSSION

"Tools of the Trade" Conference

The 2014 "Tools of the Trade" Conference will include 2 ½ days of presentations, interactive sessions, and panel discussions to enhance transportation planning practice in small and medium sized communities. The Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook developed by RTC staff, in coordination with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County and San Benito County Council of Governments, has been selected to be a part of the one of the conference panels. RTC staff has been invited to present the

guidebook at the conference. Other topics to be covered at the Tools of the Trade Conference pertinent to local planning activities include: performance measures and project prioritization, bicycle and pedestrian safety, optimizing traffic circulation, corridor and multimodal studies, transport coordination and transportation data management.

La Selva Beach Trestle Pre-Fabrication Inspection

The project team for the bridge improvements to the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line has been working to ensure that that the selected contractor (Stacy and Witbeck), the bridge fabricator (Stinger Bridge & Iron), the bridge erector (Danny's Construction), the RTC designer (JLPatterson), the RTC construction manager (Hatch Mott MacDonald), the RTC project manager and Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway are all in agreement on the bridge components that must be fabricated to prepare for fabrication. After several rounds of exchanging plans and designs for fabrication and welding, the fabricator is preparing to begin fabrication in late February at their facility in Coolidge, AZ. The project team determined that it is necessary for the project team to inspect the fabrication facility and ensure that the fabricator's quality assurance and quality control plan and procedures will indeed produce components for the La Selva Beach trestle that meet the quality standards required.

Staff estimates the cost of \$2,000 per person for travel expenses to attend the "Tools of the Trade" conference and \$600 to participate in the La Selva Beach Trestle fabrication inspection. **Staff recommends that the RTC approve the Executive Director and one transportation planner to attend this conference and the Deputy Director to participate in the La Selva Beach trestle pre-fabrication inspection.**

SUMMARY

RTC staff has been invited to present the Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook and be part of one of the panels at the National Conference on Transportation Planning for Small and Medium-Sized Communities ("Tools of the Trade") to be held in Burlington, Vermont July 21-23, 2014. A pre-fabrication inspection of the Stinger Bridge & Iron facility is necessary to ensure that the components for the La Selva Beach trestle meet the required quality standards. Staff recommends that the commission approve out-of-state travel for the Executive Director and one transportation planner to attend the conference and present the guidebook, and for the Deputy Director to participate in the La Selva Beach trestle pre-fabrication inspection.

Attachments

Attachment 1: TRB Abstract for Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook