Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
September 6, 2012 Meeting Highlights

2012 Santa Cruz County On-board Transit Ridership Study:
The RTC secured funding to conduct a transit ridership study consisting of an on-board
survey, an assessment of on-time performance, and boarding/alighting counts for the
fixed route bus service in Santa Cruz County. The purpose of the study was to provide
transit data for the regional travel model that is used to evaluate the benefits and
impacts of transportation projects. Data from the study will also be used to support
planning efforts that achieve statewide and regional goals to reduce vehicle miles
traveled (VMT) and achieve greenhouse gas reduction targets. The survey found that the
typical transit customer uses the bus 5 or more times per week, has an annual income of
less than $15,000, and is between 16 and 24 years old. The majority of riders said they
don’t have access to a personal vehicle, get to and from bus stops by walking, and
primarily use transit to travel between home, work and school. The report can be found
online at http://www.sccrtc.org/projects/bus.

Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project Construction Update:
The RTC received an update on construction activities for the Highway 1
Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project. In the past month, the La Fonda Avenue
Overcrossing was demolished and material from the former bridge was recycled. RTC
staff worked closely with neighborhood schools to promote travel demand management
strategies, and introduced a student shuttle service for both the elementary and high
school students impacted by the bridge removal. Other construction activities included
completion of a multi-use path between Park Way and La Fonda Avenue, and sidewalks
along Rooney Street and Morrissey Boulevard. Work on retaining walls in the low lying
areas has proceeded on schedule, as the project nears the 33% completion point.
Finally, the Commission voted to redirect cost savings to fund 2 crossing guards for area
schools and other specified traffic control measures to mitigate impacts due to the
reconstruction of the La Fonda Avenue Overcrossing.

Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition:
To complete acquisition and initiate final tasks to close escrow, the RTC is awaiting a
ruling from the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) in connection with the RTC’s
operating agreement with Iowa Pacific Holdings to operate the Santa Cruz Branch Rail
Line under the name Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay Railway [note: This was received
9/7/2012]. The operator has already received approval of its petitions to the STB, and
could initiate service on the Branch Line as early as the beginning of October. According
to an estimated timeline, the RTC could close escrow on the Branch Line in the next
month. The acquisition deal between the RTC and Union Pacific, approved in 2010,
included an agreement to upgrade some of the structures. The RTC also received a
report by JL Patterson and Associates, Inc about the inspection and cost for rehabilitation
of the structures on the Branch Line. Once bids are received, the RTC may work with the
winning bidder to modify the amount of work as necessary to match available funding.
The RTC also approved FY 2012-13 budget amendments necessary to complete the
purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

**Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings:**
*Please check the RTC website [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, October 4, 2012, 9:00 am
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

**Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)**
Thursday, September 20, 2012, 9:00 am
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

**Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee**
Thursday, September 13, 2012, 3:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

**Bicycle Committee**
Monday, October 15, 2012, 6:30 pm
City of Capitola Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola

**Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee**
Tuesday, October 9, 2012, 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

**Interagency Technical Advisory Committee**
Thursday, September 20, 2012, 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 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.*