Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
February 7, 2013 Meeting Highlights

Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project Construction Update:
Construction of the northbound retaining wall is now complete and work has begun on back filling the slope behind the wall and preparing the lane pavement sections on both sides of the highway so that traffic can be shifted to the shoulders to create space in the median for the removal and reconstruction of the center column for the new La Fonda Avenue Overcrossing. Once the center column is replaced, work can begin on the horizontal section of the new bridge. Work on both the bridge section and soundwalls is expected to be completed in early summer with completion of the entire project, including landscaping, by late summer. The required wetlands mitigation work for the Auxiliary Lanes Project was completed late last year as part of the Watsonville Slough Restoration Project, Phase 2. The RTC was the beneficiary of early mitigation planning completed by the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County and the City of Watsonville, which allowed the restoration of critical natural habitat and prevented delay to the start of the Auxiliary Lanes Project.

Project Alternatives for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Draft Environmental Impact Report:
The RTC approved a proposed list of project alternatives to be studied as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (Trail Network). In accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, the DEIR for the Trail Network is required to consider a range of reasonable alternatives to the project. In addition to the proposed project, the DEIR will consider the following alternatives: (1) no project – this alternative scenario assumes that no Trail Network would be constructed; (2) on-road alternative – this alternative would eliminate use of the rail right-of-way and would instead construct on-street bicycle improvements and pedestrian (sidewalk) improvements; and (3) a reduced project – this alternative would include a concentrated trail system that would serve the more urbanized and densely populated areas of the county. A DEIR is anticipated to be released in the spring for public review.

Adoption of 2013 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP):
The RTC approved the programming of approximately $5.3 million in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for local transportation projects. Out of 19 applications received totaling over $8 million, 16 projects were chosen for funding, including pavement improvements throughout the county, intersection improvements,
Aptos Village plan improvements, a Branciforte Creek Bridge near Soquel Ave and Dakota, traveler aid programs, Open Streets events, and the Boltage bike/walk to school program. Projects proposed for funds this cycle will be implemented over the next two years. In most instances, project sponsors will use matching funds to initiate capital projects, with the RSTP funds used for the construction phase of the project.

Construction Management Services for Railroad Bridge Rehabilitation:
After considering six qualified proposals and interviewing four firms, the RTC authorized its Executive Director to negotiate and execute a consultant agreement with Hatch Mott MacDonald for construction management services for structures rehabilitation and other improvements to the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. Structures will be rehabilitated to better maintain existing freight service and to facilitate recreational rail service.

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, March 7, 2013, 9:00 am
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)
Thursday, February 21, 2013, 9:00 am
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee
Thursday, February 14, 2013, 3:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Bicycle Committee
Monday, March 11, 2013, 6:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
Tuesday, February 12, 2013, 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, February 21, 2013, 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.