Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
March 21, 2013 Special Meeting Highlights

Rail Transit Planning Grant Submittal:
The RTC approved submittal of an application to the Caltrans Transit Planning Grant Program for a rail transit planning study that will analyze opportunities for passenger rail transit service on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The study will assess ridership potential, possible station locations, travel times and costs of various alternatives that could reduce congestion on streets and highways and improve access and mobility to destinations in the Watsonville-Santa Cruz corridor.

Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project Construction Update:
Work is complete on all retaining walls and the focus now is construction of the base of the new auxiliary lanes. After both the northbound and southbound lanes are paved, the barriers will be shifted to divert traffic to the new lanes to create work space around the existing center column. Two traffic lanes will be maintained in both directions through the construction area during peak periods, however the La Fonda Bridge work will require partial closure of the highway on select nights for demolition of the center column and to set up the super structure for the horizontal portion of the new bridge. The community will be alerted about temporary closures and night work via E-news. The majority of the project, including the La Fonda Bridge, is expected to be completed in summer.

Project List for 2014 Transportation Plans:
The RTC is developing the project list or 'Action Element' of the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and related Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP), which includes a list of transportation needs in the region through 2035. The RTC approved a preliminary draft list of projects identified by project sponsors, RTC committees, and members of the public. A public workshop will be held in May to solicit additional public input.

Mobility Needs and Bus Use Survey of Aging and Disabled Adults:
The RTC received a report on the “Mobility Needs and Bus Use Survey of Aging and Disabled Adults Living in Santa Cruz County” prepared by an intern funded by a Caltrans Planning Grant. The report analyzed national trends and local travel patterns to determine how local seniors and disabled adults are currently traveling and what it would take to encourage greater transit use. The full report is available on the RTC website. Key findings will inform the RTC’s update to its Regional Transportation Plan.
**Rail Motorcar Excursion on Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line:**
The RTC approved a request by the North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA) for a rail motorcar excursion on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line on May 4 and 5, 2013. The event will entail one round trip from Davenport to Watsonville each day. NARCOA is a non-profit organization dedicated to the preservation and safe, legal operation of railroad equipment historically used for maintenance of way, and organizes excursions for its members to operate their personal rail motorcars. Approximately 20 to 50 individual motorcars are expected to participate. The motorcars will operate similar to autos, stopping at each roadway until it is safe to cross. Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway will also participate in the excursion and is supportive of the event.

**Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Request for Proposals:**
The RTC approved the release of a Request for Proposals for its FSP program. The FSP program consists of tow trucks patrolling Highway 17 (Beat 1) from Mount Hermon Road to the Santa Clara County Line, and Highway 1 (Beat 2) from Highway 9 to State Park Drive.

**Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings:**
*Please check the RTC website [www.sccrtc.org](http://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, April 4, 2013, 9:00 am
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

**Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)**
Thursday, April 18, 2013, 9:00 am
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

**Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee**
Thursday, April 11, 2013, 3:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

**Bicycle Committee**
Monday, April 8, 2013, 6:00 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

**Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee**
Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

**Interagency Technical Advisory Committee**
Thursday, April 18, 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.*