Legislative Updates from Assemblymember Mark Stone:
State Assemblymember Mark Stone, a former Commissioner of the RTC, reported on state legislative activities with an emphasis on those pertaining to transportation. Assemblymember Stone described the alternative fuels, active transportation, three-foot bicycle buffer and bus on shoulder bills. The latter will allow buses in Santa Cruz and Monterey County to use highway shoulders under specific conditions to bypass congestion. The challenge continues to be how to fund local streets and roads. Assemblymember Stone noted that there is an improved tone in the state assembly, which he attributed to the large number of new Assemblymembers serving in their first session.

Highway 1 Rumble Strips Project:
The RTC took the action to support Caltrans’ proposed alternative rumble strip treatment for the Highway 1 rumble strip project from Shaffer Road in Santa Cruz to Swanton Road past Davenport. Rumble strips are grooved indentations effective in alerting distracted drivers when they are veering off the travel way; however, they can cause cyclists to lose control of their bicycle or limit a cyclist’s ability to maneuver within a shoulder or bike lane. Caltrans worked with the RTC’s Bicycle Committee to develop the alternative rumble strip treatment to balance safety improvements for both auto drivers and bicyclists. The federally-approved alternative treatment imbeds the right shoulder rumble strip on top of the white line, and does not occupy any of the shoulder.

Draft Implementation Plan for Monterey Bay Area 511 Traveler Information Services:
With the support of a Caltrans Partnership Planning Grant, the RTC partnered with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) to complete a draft implementation plan for establishing a 511 traveler information service in the Monterey Bay Area. The plan recommends establishing 511 services as a centralized “go to” place for travel information, including a website that consolidates real-time traffic information from Caltrans’ QuickMap service, online transit trip planning via Google’s multi-modal trip planning tool, and transportation information resources from the RTC and TAMC websites. Public comment is welcome on the Draft Implementation Plan for Monterey Bay Area 511 Traveler Information Services.
Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project Update:
The RTC reported that the final steps are underway to open the new southbound lane at 5:00 am on Wednesday, October 9. Recent work included removal of concrete barriers on the southbound side of the highway, paving using open-graded asphalt concrete resulting in quieter surfaces with better drainage, continued work on the supplemental drainage system on the northbound side, landscaping and removal of fencing around environmentally sensitive areas in the Morrissey Interchange area.

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, November 7, 2013, 9:00 am
County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz

Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)
Thursday, October 17, 2013, 9:00 am
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee
Thursday, November 14, 2013, 3:00 pm
CAO Conference Room, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz

Bicycle Committee
Monday, October 21, 2013, 6:00 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
Tuesday, October 22, 2013, 12:00 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, October 17, 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.