



SCCRTC

2006 TRANSPORTATION MONITORING REPORT

A STATISTICAL SUMMARY OF TRANSPORTATION
SYSTEM ELEMENTS IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

---JULY, 2007---

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSION



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

**1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
831-460-3200**

**www.sccrtc.org
email: info@sccrtc.org**



**George Dondero, *Executive Director*
Luis Mendez, *Deputy Director***

Report Prepared by: Lisa Powell, *Traffic Monitoring Program Manager*

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC) Transportation Monitoring Report provides detailed information about Santa Cruz County's transportation system. Section I of this report includes updated information on traffic volumes and vehicle occupancy on selected local streets and highways. Section II includes descriptive information on Santa Cruz County's transportation system, including collision, air quality, and census data, as well as transportation alternatives available to county residents. The report contains synopses of many programs funded by the Regional Transportation Commission or in which the RTC is involved.

During 2006, the RTC collected traffic volume data on roadways throughout the county. Traffic volumes are updated throughout the year and are available on the RTC's website (www.sccrtc.org). Data was also collected and analyzed from a variety of public agencies, including the 2000 census. Highlights of data collected and analyzed are listed below.

Key Findings:

- Mission Street, 41st Avenue, Mt. Hermon Road, and Main Street in Watsonville are the four most heavily traveled non-freeway roadways in the county. (Page **Error! Bookmark not defined.**)
- Caltrans reports an Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) for Highway between Soquel and Morrissey of 110,000 vehicles and Highway 17 north of Highway 1 of 69,000 vehicles. (Page 6)
- At UCSC, while traffic in ten years has increased by 18% in Spring and 29% increase in Fall, enrollment has grown at 49%. This is likely due to growth in alternative transportation programs. (Page 6)
- Vehicle occupancy counts show that 85% of vehicles traveling in both directions on Highway 1 during the a.m. peak hours are occupied by just one person; 75% northbound and 80% southbound are single occupant vehicles during the p.m. peak. On Highway 17, counts show that 76% of vehicles traveling southbound and 88% of vehicles traveling northbound during the a.m. peak hours are occupied by just one person; 86% northbound and 82% southbound are single occupant vehicles during the p.m. peak. (Page 10)
- According to observations during vehicle occupancy counts, during morning commute hours truck traffic constitutes over 6.6% of all southbound traffic on Highway 17 and 1.9% of all northbound traffic on Highway 1. (Page 12)

- According to the 2000 census, countywide, 70% of commuters drove alone, 14% carpool, and 16% chose other alternatives to driving alone. Carpooling in Watsonville (25% of commute trips) exceeded the countywide standard of 14% of trips; while the use of alternative modes in the City of Santa Cruz was higher than in the rest of the county (61% of commuters drove alone). Countywide data from the 2005 American Community Survey by the US Census indicates 72% of commuters drove alone, 10% carpool, and 18% chose other alternatives to driving alone. (Page 19)
- The number of injury collisions declined in 2004 and 2005 from 2003 for motor vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians. (Page 20)
- The Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District served over 4.6 million passenger trips in FY 05-06, not including the Highway 17 Express Service. Passenger trips declined 15% from the previous fiscal year. Highway 17 Express bus ridership was at an all time peak in 2004/05 but declined in 2005/06. The decline in ridership in 2005/06 can be attributed to 37-day labor strike which halted all fixed-route service and service cuts that resulted from reduced revenues. (Page 22)