



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
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## **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) May 6, 2010 Meeting Highlights**

### ***Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line purchase unanimously approved:***

After more than nine years of negotiations and assessments of the property's condition, the RTC unanimously agreed to purchase the 32-mile Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line from Union Pacific for a negotiated price of \$14.2 million with a commitment to invest \$5 million for improvements. In addition, the project was supported by unanimous votes of the Capitola and Watsonville City Councils, as well as extensive support from the public and local business. Next steps for the RTC include finalization of the Purchase and Sale Agreement between the RTC and Union Pacific, completing the agreement with the short line operator Sierra Northern, entering into a funding agreement with the state, establishing an escrow account and filing necessary documents with the Federal Surface Transportation Board. Funding designated for the project is \$10.2 million in Proposition 116 funds approved by the voters solely for rail purposes in 1990 and \$10 million of the region's share of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds which the State has not made available for local road maintenance purposes in recent years.

### ***Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding for bicycle and pedestrian safety programs approved:***

The RTC approved \$43,777 in TDA funds for the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) and \$42,287 in TDA funds for the Ride 'n' Stride Bicycle and Pedestrian School Education Program. The CTSC is a community based coalition that brings various agencies together to address bicycle and pedestrian safety issues. The Ride 'n' Stride Program is an elementary school-based bike and pedestrian education program. In addition, the RTC approved \$34,427 in TDA funds for the Bike to Work Program which has been sponsoring events and providing incentives to increase bicycle use for 23 years.

### ***Preliminary Recommendations for the final 2010 Regional Transportation Plan approved:***

The RTC approved updates to policies and project lists for the final *2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* as well as an expansion of the chapter on greenhouse gas emissions. The *2010 Regional Transportation Plan* is a minor update to the 2005 RTP with a more extensive update planned for 2012. The RTC is scheduled to adopt the final 2010 RTP at its June 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting.

***2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program amended:***

The RTC approved updates to the *2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* as requested by project sponsors. These updates include combining road improvement projects to more effectively use funding, postponing a request for additional funding for the Soquel Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project and shifting previously programmed funding for the rail line acquisition from Right of Way to engineering and construction.

***Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD) approved and annual report received:***

The RTC approved \$4,974,478 in TDA funding to the SCMTD, consistent with RTC Rules and regulations and the FY 10-11 RTC budget. These funds can be used for either operations or capital projects. The SCMTD annual report showed increased ridership but declining sales-tax revenues.

***Joint Request for Proposals for SAFE Call Box Answering Service released:***

The RTC approved the release of a joint Request for Proposals- between the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Transportation Agency for Monterey County and the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments - to procure a call box call answering service for the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) .

***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 posted to the website 4 business days before the meeting.***

Commission Meetings

Thursday, June 3, 2010, 9:00 am  
Watsonville City Council Chambers  
275 Main St, Watsonville

Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)

May 20, 2010 - **CANCELLED**

Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee

Tuesday, May 11, 2010, 3:30 pm  
SCCRTC Offices  
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Bicycle Committee

Monday, May 10, 2010 - CANCELLED  
Monday, June 14, 2010, 6:30 pm  
SCCRTC Offices  
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 8, 2010, 1:30 pm  
SCCRTC Offices  
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz  
1220 41st Avenue Suite C, Capitola

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 13, 2010, 1:00 pm  
SCCRTC Offices  
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

*Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC web site at [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org) or call 460-3200. Some Regional Transportation Commission meetings are televised countywide by Community TV of Santa Cruz. Consult [www.comunitytv.org](http://www.comunitytv.org) or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.*

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