



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone (831) 460-3200 ~ fax (831) 460-3215
email: info@scrtc.org; website: www.scrtc.org*

*CONTACTS: George Dondero, Executive Director (831) 460-3200
Karena Pushnik, Senior Planner/Public Information Coordinator*

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) December 2, 2010 Meeting Highlights

Status report on local ARRA funded projects provided:

Last year the RTC secured and awarded \$12 million in federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds for local transportation projects, including \$11 million to repair more than 50 roadways in the community. Project sponsors have finished construction on almost all of these projects, which have helped provide and preserve jobs, in addition to addressing a portion of the massive backlog in local transportation maintenance and improvement needs.

Sustainable Transportation Access Rating System (STARS) Pilot Project Application Manual received:

After nearly a year of collaboration between the RTC's STARS Technical Advisory Committee, the Sustainable Transportation Council and RTC staff, the *STARS Pilot Project Application Manual* was received by the RTC. The manual includes twelve credits developed for potential application to the Highway 1 HOV Lanes project.

STARS is a non-traditional approach to planning transportation projects much like the LEED green building rating system. The primary goals are to improve access for all people, maximize cost effectiveness, and cut transportation climate pollution and energy use. The RTC will consider next steps in applying STARS credits to the HOV Lanes project which would allow it to be designated a STARS Certified Pilot Project.

Monterey Bay Area Blueprint Plan presentation:

The RTC received a presentation from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) regarding the draft document titled *2035 Monterey Bay Regional Blueprint: Envisioning the Monterey Bay Area*. This document describes how communities in the Monterey Bay Area might grow in a more sustainable fashion over the next 25 years. The Blueprint document lays the foundation for the Senate Bill 375 mandated Sustainable Communities Strategy for achieving regional greenhouse gas emissions targets. Comments on the draft document (available at <http://www.ambag.org/programs/blueprint/blueprint/index.html>) will be accepted until December 15, 2010.

Draft 2011 State and Federal Legislative Programs adopted:

The RTC received updates on key legislative issues for transportation in 2011, including continued challenges for transportation funding, and a significant level of uncertainty regarding Proposition 26 passed by voters in November. The 2011 Legislative Programs focus on preserving and increasing funding for transportation projects in Santa Cruz County, development of the new federal transportation act, the FY2011 appropriations bills, and climate change legislation.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Please check the RTC website [www.sccrtc.org] or call 831/460-3200 to confirm. Most agendas posted to the website 4 business days before the meeting.

Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)

No TPW meetings in December or January

Commission Meetings

Thursday, January 13, 2011, 9:00 am
City of Santa Cruz Council Chambers
805 Center St, Santa Cruz

Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee

Thursday, December 9, 2010, 3:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Bicycle Committee

Monday, December 13, 2010, 6:30 pm – Note Special Time
SCCRTC Offices
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 14, 2010, 2:30 pm – Note Special Time
SCCRTC Offices
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

No meeting December 16, 2010
Thursday, January 20, 1:00 pm – Note Special Time
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 or call 460-3200. Some Regional Transportation Commission meetings are televised countywide by Community TV of Santa Cruz. Consult www.comunitytv.org or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.