

---Public Hearing Scheduled for 10:00 a.m.---

AGENDA: December 1, 2011

TO: Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
FROM: Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner
RE: Adoption of the *2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed *2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)* and consider written comments received;
2. Consider staff and Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) recommendations, Bicycle Committee recommendations, and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC) recommendations for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds (Attachment 2);
3. Adopt a resolution (Attachment 1) to program \$8,939,000 in projected State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds in the *2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*, as recommended by staff and the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) (Attachment 2);
4. Program \$1,435,000 in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds, as shown in Attachment 3 and recommended by staff, the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee and Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee;
5. Make changes to previously programmed projects to reflect current project costs and schedules (Attachment 4); and
6. Request that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) incorporate these funding actions into the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), respectively.

BACKGROUND

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), as the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) for Santa Cruz County, is responsible for selecting projects to receive a variety of state and federal funds. These include State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds which are available for a wide range of transportation projects, with the exception of ongoing maintenance. The RTC programs funds and monitors approved projects through its Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). The RTIP is typically adopted every two years. Interim amendments are made as needed.

The RTIP serves two primary purposes: 1) a tool to assist in monitoring the delivery of state and federally-funded projects; and 2) the RTC's proposal to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for the region's share of funds from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). After considering proposals submitted by RTPAs statewide, the CTC makes the final determination on which projects are programmed to receive STIP funds, in which year they are programmed, and when to release (allocate) funds to individual projects.

DISCUSSION

Staff recommends, upon completion of the scheduled public hearing, that the RTC adopt a resolution ([Attachment 1](#)) programming State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds ([Attachments 2 & 3](#)), and amending previously programmed projects ([Attachment 4](#)).

The Bicycle Committee, Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E/DTAC), and Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) reviewed projects proposed for STIP and RSTP funds at their November 2011 meetings. Committee recommendations are reflected in [Attachments 2 and 3](#).

Available STIP Funds

The STIP program is made up primarily of revenues from the excise tax on gasoline and some federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds. For the 2012 STIP, up to \$8,939,000 in new STIP is available for projects in Santa Cruz County through Fiscal Year 2016/17, though the California Transportation Commission (CTC) is only required to program \$4.8 million of the region's share in the 2012 STIP.

On September 15, 2011 the RTC issued a call for projects for the region's targeted share of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. The RTC also indicated its intent to program \$4 million of these STIP funds to the design and right-of-way phases of the Highway 1 41st Avenue to Soquel Drive Auxiliary Lanes project, which is a Tier 2 project of the HOV Lanes project environmental document. Applications for STIP funds were due October 27, 2011.

[Attachment 2](#) reflects the list of projects submitted by project sponsors, as well as staff and RTC committee recommendations. A map of the projects is included as [Attachment 2A](#). Staff recommendations are based on evaluation of the benefits identified by project sponsors, summarized in [Attachment 2B](#). The staff recommendation is consistent with the RTC's Regional Transportation Plan, which calls for a balanced multimodal transportation system. Summary fact sheets for each of the proposed STIP projects is also attached ([Attachment 5](#)).

RSTP Funds

In addition to selecting projects to receive the region's projected STIP funds through FY16/17, the RTC is also considering regional projects to receive approximately \$1.4 million in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds. [Attachment 3](#) reflects existing RTC projects recommended for RSTP funds. These reflect costs of existing projects that cannot be funded with STIP funds. At its October 6, 2011 meeting, the RTC indicated its intent to program RSTP funds to these regional projects and reserve the remainder of FY11/12 RSTP funds (approximately \$1.2 million) for future programming to local projects, following CTC action on the 2012 STIP in March 2012.

Highway 1 41st Avenue to Soquel Drive Auxiliary Lanes

The largest project proposed for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds this cycle is the Highway 1 41st Avenue-Soquel Drive Auxiliary Lanes project. Highway 1 is the most heavily traveled roadway in Santa Cruz County, carrying over 100,000 vehicles per day. Extended hours of daily congestion on Highway 1 result in: by-pass traffic on local roads, compromising the safety and operational efficiency of the local roadway network serving motorized and non-motorized travel; increased travel times and delay; and increased environmental impacts to air quality and noise along Highway 1 and local roadways.

The RTC and Caltrans evaluated a series of auxiliary lane segments and identified auxiliary lanes from 41st Avenue to Soquel Drive, including a bike/pedestrian crossing at Chanticleer, as the most beneficial change that can be made to Highway 1, in the absence of HOV lanes. This project will reduce congestion during peak travel periods, reduce delay, and improve bicycle and pedestrian access.

Environmental analysis of this project is being done as part of the combined Tier 1/Tier 2 Highway 1 HOV Lanes/41st-Soquel Auxiliary Lanes environmental document. \$370,000 in proposed Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds will be used to transform the HOV lanes document into a tiered document. The \$4 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds proposed this cycle would be used for design and right-of-way. The RTC may pursue funds for construction through new local, state and/or federal opportunities that may arise or as part of the 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) cycle. Estimated costs per component are as follows, however the cost to implement each separately could be higher:

<i>Project component</i>	<i>Design</i>	<i>ROW (including support)</i>	<i>Construction (includes support)</i>	<i>Total</i>
Northbound Auxiliary Lane between 41st Avenue and Soquel Avenue	\$1,285,000	\$55,000	\$11,000,000	\$12,340,000
Southbound Auxiliary Lane between 41st Avenue and Soquel Avenue	\$775,000	\$55,000	\$7,000,000	\$7,830,000
Pedestrian Bridge overcrossing of Highway 1 at Chanticleer Avenue	\$510,000	\$1,320,000	\$5,000,000	\$6,830,000
Estimated Total	\$2,570,000	\$1,430,000	\$23,000,000	\$27,000,000

At their November 2011 meetings, the E&DTAC and Bicycle Committee emphasized their support for the bicycle and pedestrian bridge at Chanticleer.

Other Project Amendments

In addition to programming STIP funds to various projects, **staff and project sponsors recommend that the RTC amend the RTIP to reflect updated schedule, cost and other administrative changes to several previously programmed projects (Attachment 4)**. These amendments include changes to project schedules or matching funds. The RTIP must be amended to reflect these changes in order to ensure federal and state funds are retained and accessible to project sponsors.

Public Hearing

Consistent with RTC Rules and Regulations, **a public hearing has been scheduled for 10:00 a.m.** to receive public input on the proposed program of projects and other amendments. A news release on the hearing was sent to local media and the hearing was advertised in the Santa Cruz Sentinel and Register-Pajaronian. Comments received as of November 22, 2011 are included as Attachment 6. Any additional written comments received by 2:00 p.m. on November 30, 2011 will be distributed at the meeting.

Next Steps

The RTC's 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), proposing projects for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds, is due to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by December 15, 2011. Based on proposals submitted statewide, CTC staff will inform RTC staff whether the CTC is likely to approve the RTCs proposal in January or February 2012. The CTC will hold hearings on STIP proposals in February 2012. CTC staff recommendations will be released by March 8, 2012 and the CTC is scheduled to adopt the 2012 STIP on March 28, 2012. If the CTC does not support the RTC's proposals for STIP funds, staff will return at a future meeting with alternate recommendations.

SUMMARY

Every other year the RTC prepares a Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) which proposes projects to receive various state and federal funds. For the 2012 RTIP, approximately \$9 million in new STIP funds are available for programming to projects in Santa Cruz County through FY16/17. The RTC is also considering regional projects to receive approximately \$1.4 million in new Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds through FY11/12. Staff recommends that, following a public hearing, the RTC adopt a resolution selecting projects to receive STIP and RSTP funds and amending existing projects for the 2012 RTIP.

Attachments:

1. Resolution Adopting the 2012 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)
2. Proposed STIP projects
 - 2A. Map of STIP Proposed Projects
 - 2B. Benefit Summary - STIP Project Nominations
3. Proposed RSTP projects
4. Proposed Amendments to Existing Projects
5. Project Fact Sheets
6. Public comments – *Comments received as of November 21, 2011 are included in the packet.*