



County of Santa Cruz

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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November 28, 2011

Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Dear Members of the Commission:

On December 1, 2011, this Commission is receiving a recommendation from our staff for our priorities for the 2012 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Throughout the process of deciding on our priorities, we have heard much about the critical need for an increased level of investment in local streets and roads infrastructure, as well as the need to continue funding Highway 1 improvements. We face increasing infrastructure needs and decreasing funding sources.

At our last meeting, there was a great deal of discussion about our priorities as a Commission. We do not intend the recommendations in this letter to be a vehicle for revisiting that debate. Rather, we are proposing that Commissioners work together to address all the needs, as well as we possibly can, in as cooperative a way as possible.

As traditional revenue streams shrink and the backlog of critical projects continues to grow, it is imperative that we work together strategically and thoughtfully. It is clear we will need to plan for the longer term and recognize that our transportation needs are more likely to be solved through collaboration rather than through argument. There will never be enough money for all the transportation projects that need to be built and there will always have to be compromises.

We have come to a point in the Highway 1 project where we need to reconsider how we move forward. It has become clear that we cannot expect to have the funding to build a \$500 million project. Instead, it seems more likely that we will only be able to do smaller pieces of that project in the future. Exactly when, where, and how we do those projects is something that we need to plan. We would hope that all Commissioners will support these efforts, which would be a compromise between those who support the full Highway 1 HOV project and those who oppose any improvements to Highway 1.

The other piece for us to consider now is the need for additional funding for local road improvements and repairs to storm-damaged roads. The unincorporated county faces many millions in storm-damaged road repairs, and all of the local cities have infrastructure needs that far exceed the available funding.

The first compromise we are asking our fellow Commissioners to consider is to request that the California Transportation Commission allow the majority of the 2012 STIP funds to be used for local road improvements and storm damage repair. We have asked staff to prepare a STIP plan that delays the final design and right-of-way work on the Highway 1–Soquel to 41st Avenue Auxiliary Lane project for two years and, instead, divides those funds among the projects proposed by the Cities and the County. That proposal is attached. The next step will be for the Commission to support an allocation to the Soquel–41st Avenue Auxiliary Lanes right-of-way and design project (which includes the Chanticleer Bike/Pedestrian Bridge), when the next opportunity arises for the RTC to request STIP funding. The proposal outlined above does not change the Commission's commitment to program \$370,000 in RSTP funds to complete both the Tier 1 program level EIR for the Highway 1 corridor and the Tier 2 project level EIR for the Soquel-41st Avenue Auxiliary Lanes project.

We find ourselves in a unique situation that encourages us to step back and consider how this Commission should function in the future. People in all of our jurisdictions are asking for solutions to failing local streets and roads. People are also begging us to make progress on Highway 1 improvements and alleviate the choking congestion so many people face on a daily basis. We need to find ways to meet both needs as well as we possibly can and demonstrate a level of leadership which our constituents rightfully expect of us.

We therefore recommend that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission adopt the attached revised STIP recommendations for 2012, that we all work together to advocate for these allocations now, and that we advocate for Highway 1 improvements in future STIP cycles.

Sincerely,



ELLEN PIRIE, Supervisor
Second District



MARK W. STONE, Supervisor
Fifth District

EP/MWS:ted
Attachment

1489A2

Agency	Project Name	Description	Total Cost	STIP Funds Requested	Staff & ITAC Recommendations	Safety?	Storm Damage	Alternative if only minimum allocated (\$4.775M)	Alternative if target is allocated (\$8.939M)
SCCRTC	Hwy 1 Soquel-41st Auxiliary Lanes and Chanicleer Bike/Ped Bridge: ROW/Design	Add aux lanes and bike/ped bridge - Design/ROW only	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	\$4,000,000	Yes- merging	No	\$0	
SCCRTC	Planning, Programming & Monitoring (PPM)	RTC tasks required to meet state and federally mandated planning and programming requirements, monitoring of programmed projects.	\$300,000	\$300,000	\$150,000	No	No	\$100,000	\$300,000
City of Capitola	Bay Ave/Capitola Ave Roundabout	Construct roundabout.	\$510,000	\$200,000	\$0	es-ped/vehicle conflict	No	\$0	\$200,000
City of Capitola	Park Ave Sidewalks	Add sidewalks from Cliffwood Heights neighborhood to Capitola Village, add crosswalks at Cabrillo and Washburn.	\$430,000	\$200,000	\$200,000	Yes - Ped	No	\$200,000	\$200,000
City of Santa Cruz	Branciforte Creek Bike/Ped Bridge	Build bridge to connect San Lorenzo Park Multi-use trail and levee trail near Soquel Dr.	\$2,400,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	Yes-bike/ped	No	\$0	
City of Santa Cruz	Soquel/Park Way Intersection Improvements	Install protected left turn lanes and signal	\$900,000	\$500,000	\$450,000	Yes	No	\$450,000	\$500,000
City of Santa Cruz	State Route 1 San Lorenzo River Bridge Widening: Design only	Widen bridge to add travel lanes.	\$1,500,000	\$1,000,000	\$0	Yes	No	\$0	\$0
City of Santa Cruz	State Routes 1/9 Intersection Improvements	Intersection modifications including new turn lanes, bike lanes/shoulders.	\$5,800,000	\$1,000,000	\$850,000	Yes-bike	No	\$850,000	\$1,000,000
City of Scotts Valley	Vine Hill School Road and Tabor Drive Transportation Improvement Project	Add sidewalk, curb/gutter, bike lanes, 6' pavement widening, ADA-Accessible Ramps	\$500,000	\$450,000	\$400,000	children walking in	No	\$375,000	\$450,000
City of Watsonville	Airport Boulevard Improvements	Includes road widening to accommodate extension of bicycle lane and portion of travel lane, installation of bus pull out, and installation of new sidewalk and curb ramps. East of Freedom Boulevard to County line.	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$850,000	access to transit & s	No	\$850,000	\$1,500,000
County of SC	Alba Rd PM 3.48 Storm Damage Repair Project	Repair 50 ft. slipout to reopen roadway to 2-way traffic.	\$485,000	\$485,000	\$0	Yes - reopen road	Yes	\$0	\$485,000
County of SC	Glenwood Drive PM 2.02 Storm Damage Repair	Repair 100 ft. slipout to reopen roadway to 2-way traffic.	\$600,000	\$600,000	\$0	Yes - reopen road	Yes	\$0	\$400,000
County of SC	Green Valley Rd PM 0.69 Storm Damage Repair	Repair 20 ft. section where roadway and shoulder distressed or destroyed around culvert.	\$329,000	\$329,000	\$0			\$0	\$329,000
County of SC	Nelson Rd PM 2.0 Storm Damage Repair	Build permanent bypass road around 350 ft. debris that has closed road.	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,189,000	Yes - reopen road	Yes	\$1,100,000	\$1,500,000
County of SC	North Rodeo Gulch Rd PM 4.75 Storm Damage Repair	Repair 75 ft. slipout to reopen roadway to 2-way traffic.	\$650,000	\$650,000	\$0	Yes - reopen road	Yes	\$0	\$650,000
County of SC	Redwood Lodge Rd PM 1.65 Storm Damage Repair	Repair 80 ft. slipout/slump to reopen roadway to traffic.	\$1,000,000	\$1,000,000	\$850,000	Yes - reopen road	Yes	\$850,000	\$875,000
County of SC	Vienna Dr at Mesa Dr Storm Damage Repair	Repair 60 ft. slipout and sidewalk.	\$550,000	\$550,000	\$0	Yes- Ped	Yes	\$0	\$550,000
TOTAL			\$22,954,000	\$15,264,000	\$8,939,000			\$4,775,000	\$8,939,000