



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

June 15, 2012

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### **RTC agrees to ask voters to help fix local roads**

Recognizing that local streets and roads are in a state of disrepair, that existing state and federal funding sources are both unreliable and insufficient to operate and maintain the local road system, and that it is more economical to maintain rather than fully repair local roads, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) took action today to ask voters to approve a \$10 vehicle registration fee on the November 2012 ballot, with the money to be spent entirely in Santa Cruz County.

Following heightened requests from the public seeking local road repairs, better ways for kids to get to school and safety projects for pedestrians, the Regional Transportation Commission spent the last several months investigating options to address at least some of the backlog of transportation needs in Santa Cruz County. A March 2012 poll of likely voters in Santa Cruz County showed that there is support for a \$10 vehicle registration fee to fix potholes, maintain local street and roads, create safe routes to schools for students, and construct accessible pedestrian facilities for all in the community, including seniors and people with disabilities. If approved by voters, the funds will be distributed to local jurisdictions based on population.

While the \$10 vehicle registration fee will not fully cover the cost for the backlog of road repairs and other transportation needs in the community, the funds will be a stable source of funds to local jurisdictions that can be used to leverage

state and federal funds and to prevent further deterioration of the transportation system.

Though state statute allows up to 5% of the revenues to be used for administration of the measure -- which includes state-mandated fiscal audits and accountability reports -- several RTC board members indicated their commitment to minimize the cost to implement the measure in order to maximize the amount of money spent to improve local roads. At the meeting, Watsonville Public Works Director David Koch noted that "investing in our infrastructure protects the reliability of our transportation system, reduces wear and tear on personal vehicles, and improves the safety of our community."

**The RTC will host a community workshop to receive input on the proposed ballot measure on July 12 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. at the RTC's offices at 1523 Pacific Avenue in downtown Santa Cruz. Please call (831.460.3200) or email ([info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org)) for more information.**

*The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is responsible for delivering a full range of safe, convenient, reliable, and efficient transportation choices for the community. While promoting long-term sustainability, the RTC provides transportation services, planning, and funding for all travel modes. Information about the Regional Transportation Commission's projects and programs can be found at [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org) or by calling 831-460-3200.*