Appreciation of Departing Commissioners for Their Service:
Departing Commissioners Kirby Nicol, Ellen Pirie, and Mark Stone were thanked for their years of service to the Commission, including steadfast leadership through the completion of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line acquisition, completion of the Highway 1 and 17 Merge Lanes project, and launching the Highway 1 Soquel to Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project.

Election of 2013 RTC Chair and Vice-Chair:
The new RTC Chair for 2013 will be Commissioner Neal Coonerty. The Vice-Chair will be Commissioner Eduardo Montesino.

November 17 Right on Track Rail Corridor Ribbon Cutting Event:
Community excitement to commemorate public ownership of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and new transportation options was extraordinary as evidenced by over 1400 people riding the free train from the Westside of Santa Cruz during the November 17th rail corridor ribbon cutting event. In addition, hundreds of enthusiastic participants attended each of the five ‘whistle stops’ held in Watsonville, Aptos, Capitola, Live Oak, and Santa Cruz, where festivities included live entertainment and presentations of local rail history. The event's success would not have been possible without the participation of thousands of county residents and the generous support of sponsors, co-hosts, organizations, and volunteers. Photos and more information about the event are on the RTC website: http://sccrtc.org/projects/rail/right-on-track/

Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project Construction Update:
Work continues to focus on the completion of the retaining walls on the northbound side of the highway. Work is also progressing on the bridge abutments for the new La Fonda Avenue Overcrossing. On the south side of the highway, work continues on grading the slopes, hauling away excess dirt, and grinding down the existing deteriorated asphalt from the outside lane currently behind the barrier. Preparatory actions are underway to address storm water drainage in the project area. The construction team and support agencies will be closely monitoring conditions with the ability to respond as needed.

Santa Cruz County Unified Corridor Investment Plan Grant Award:
The RTC accepted a Partnership Planning grant of $211,085 from Caltrans to develop a
Santa Cruz County Unified Corridor Investment Plan analyzing three primary transportation routes in Santa Cruz County: Highway 1, Soquel Avenue/Drive and the rail line. The plan will provide Caltrans, the RTC, and other partner agencies the ability to prioritize limited funds to those projects and programs that provide the greatest benefits toward achieving local, state and federal transportation goals.

Amendments to the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget and Work Program and Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Property Management:
The RTC amended the Fiscal Year 2012-13 Budget and Work Program to incorporate completion of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line purchase, modification of the 511 system planning work, the Highway 1 HOV Lanes Environmental Document, and other changes. Additionally, the RTC approved receipt of a fee paid by Caltrans for a temporary construction easement on the rail line to replace existing guardrails on Highway 1 where the rail line crosses the highway. Finally, the RTC authorized its Executive Director to manage the rail line right-of-way property in order to provide law enforcement agencies with permission to implement trespass rules, authorization for entities to do work on the rail line right-of-way, collect rents, and address tenant issues as necessary.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings:
Please check the RTC website [www.sccrtc.org] or call 831-460-3200 to confirm. Most agendas are posted to the website 4 business days before the meeting.

Commission Meeting
Thursday, January 24, 2013, 9:00 am
Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St, Ste 400, Watsonville

Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW)
Thursday, December 20, 2012, 9:00 am
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee
Thursday, February 14, 2013, 3:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Bicycle Committee
Monday, December 10, 2012, 6:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
Tuesday, December 11, 2012, 3:00 pm (note different time)
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, December 20, 2012, 1:30 pm
SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org or call 460-3200. Some Regional Transportation Commission meetings are televised countywide by Community TV of
Santa Cruz. Consult www.communitytv.org or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.