

AGENDA: November 3, 2016

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: George Dondero, Executive Director
RE: Director's Report

THIS ITEM FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Statewide Local Streets and Roads Assessment released

The biennial "California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment" was just released and shows Santa Cruz County 51st out of 58 counties in the condition of our local streets and roads. The report underscores the following:

- Funding from state and federal sources is shrinking due mostly to cars becoming more fuel efficient and generating less gas taxes.
- Road maintenance costs much less than road repair, so deferred maintenance results in lower quality roads and higher costs in the long run
- Counties which have become transportation "self help" counties have higher quality roads
- The Pavement Condition Index rates road conditions from 0 (dirt) to 100 (freshly paved). In Santa Cruz County, the road condition for all five of the jurisdictions ranges in the At Risk and Fair rating from 46 to 61, which is well below the preferred 70 PCI.

Consider that since the inaugural report in 2008 the number of counties with an average PCI in "good" condition has dropped from 16 to 6 in just 10-years.

The 2016 Report concludes that without significant new investment in addition to current revenues, close to a *quarter* of local roads will fall into a "failed" condition by 2026 costing tax-payers much more in the future to bring the system into a safe, good condition.

Note that Santa Cruz County has a Pavement Condition Index or PCI of only 50 on a scale of 1 to 100. A PCI of 70 is considered "good" condition, yet very few counties have attained that level. Of the 20 Self-Help counties, only four have a PCI below 60. The average PCI for a Self-Help county is 65. The average for the remaining counties is 56. Notably, the Monterey Bay region – Monterey, Santa Cruz and San Benito counties – has scores of 50, 50 and 46 respectively. A score of 50 – 70 is considered good, while below 50 is defined as "at risk".

Without new funding, our local PCI will surely drop below 50. For Santa Cruz County (including cities) an estimated \$540 M is needed to meet local road needs over the next ten years. The final 2016 report is posted online at www.savecaliforniastreet.org.

Attachment 1 provides a chart showing a ranking of all 58 counties in California. The highest percentage category of Measure D funds (30%) would go directly to local jurisdictions for local streets and roads, including improvements for bicycles, pedestrians and transit.

ATP Grant Recommended for Funding

California Transportation Commission staff is recommending an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant to fund Segments 8 and 9 of the Coastal Rail Trail. This is the only project in Santa Cruz County that got recommended for funding. Here are some details about the project and grant:

- Total project cost: \$32,934,000
- Total grant request and amount recommended for funding: **\$3,169,000**
- Total match: \$1,500,000 (commitment from the Land Trust of SC)
- To be voted for allocation at the December 7-8 CTC meeting
- Project length: 2.18 miles
- Project scope: Design, environmental, and permitting for Segments 8 and 9 between the Wharf roundabout and 17th Avenue, inclusive of the San Lorenzo River trestle and the harbor crossing plus two additional water crossings at Schwann Lagoon. There is no construction money attached to this grant; the grant will bring the project to construction-readiness. The City of Santa Cruz is also working on the San Lorenzo River trestle on a separate timeline due to money being available and having completed the trestle ramp. That project will widen the existing walkway to better accommodate the heavy volume of pedestrians and cyclists.
- Applicants: This is a collaborative grant between the City and the County, with a non-infrastructure component at schools provided by Ecology Action and the Health Services Agency.

Coastal Conservancy meeting in Santa Cruz County

The California Coastal Conservancy will hold its next board meeting in Santa Cruz on December 1, the same day as the next RTC meeting. RTC staff will make a presentation to Conservancy board members and staff on current trail projects underway. The Conservancy is providing \$900,000 in match to fund the \$10M Segment 5 “North Coast” trail project between Wilder Ranch and Yellowbank Beach.