



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone: (831) 460-3200 ~ fax: (831) 460-3215
email: info@scrtc.org; website: www.scrtc.org*

*CONTACTS: George Dondero, Executive Director
Karena Pushnik, Senior Planner/Public Information Coordinator*

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) December 8th 2016 Special Meeting Highlights

Measure D – Transportation Improvement Program

The [Regional Transportation Commission](#) enthusiastically received news that Measure D passed with 83,816 Santa Cruz County voters saying “yes” to the transportation investments in the measure. That is a voting result of nearly 68% (about 1,400 votes over the 2/3 threshold required). The expenditure plan includes neighborhood and local road repair projects, highway corridor improvements, transit and paratransit, the Coastal Rail Trail, and maintenance of the rail line in conjunction with an environmental and economic analysis of transportation options in the 32-mile rail corridor. The local ½ cent sales tax for transportation will begin in April 2017 and the first receipts are expected in the summer of 2017. The first projects to be constructed with Measure D funds will likely be street and road maintenance.

Options for use of the rail corridor

The [Regional Transportation Commission](#) received an informational report on three operational options of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line rail corridor: rail with trail, trail only, and bus rapid transit; and included legal considerations, cost estimates, and an estimated timeline for each option.

Appreciation of departing Commissioners for their service

Departing Commissioners Don Lane, Dennis Norton and Karina Cervantez were presented with certificates of appreciation for their years of dedication while serving on the board of the [Regional Transportation Commission](#), including exceptional guidance to bring groups together, building inclusive coalitions, representing the transportation needs of transit riders, and garnering support to pass Measure D, a 30-year comprehensive Transportation Improvement Package for Santa Cruz County. Thank you Commissioners!

State Transit Assistance Funds for Santa Cruz METRO

The [Regional Transportation Commission](#) approved \$1,875,277 in FY16/17 State Transit Assistance (STA) funds, generated from the state sales tax on diesel, for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO). Santa Cruz METRO anticipates using approximately \$370,000 of the STA funds for capital projects and the balance for operating fixed route bus service and the American’s with Disabilities Act (ADA)-mandated paratransit services for seniors and people with disabilities.

Election of 2017 RTC chair and vice-chair

The new RTC Chair for 2017 will be Commissioner Zach Friend. The Vice Chair will be Commissioner Cynthia Chase. Congratulations to both! RTC Commissioners praised outgoing RTC Chair and Santa Cruz City Councilmember Don Lane for his years of service and dedication to improve transportation in Santa Cruz County.

Unified Corridor Investment Study – Public Participation Plan and Project Update

The [Regional Transportation Commission](#) was informed that work on the [Unified Corridor Investment Study](#) is underway. Transportation investments on Santa Cruz County's three primary transportation routes – Highway 1, Soquel Avenue/Drive and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line will be evaluated for their ability to provide the greatest benefits to the community. Groupings of transportation projects will be analyzed to determine their impact on the performance measures. A [Request for Proposal \(RFP\)](#) was released November 16, 2016 to solicit qualified consultants to conduct the scenario analysis. Public input is encouraged throughout the development of the study and specific activities designed to seek public input include three interactive online surveys. The RTC approved entering into an agreement with the firm MetroQuest in the amount of \$26,000 for services to provide interactive online survey tools.

Release of Request for Proposals for Freeway Service Patrol Towing Service on Highway 1 and Highway 17

At the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) meeting, the [Regional Transportation Commission](#) approved the release of a [Request for Proposals \(RFP\)](#) for Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) towing service on Highway 1 and Highway 17 to encourage potential towing contractors to submit a proposal.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings:

Please check the RTC website [www.sccrtc.org] or call 831-460-3200 to confirm. Agendas are posted to the website at least 3 days before the meeting.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, December 12, 2016, 6:00 p.m.
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 13, 2016, 1:30 p.m.
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, December 15, 2016, 1:30 p.m.
RTC 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.