$9.4 Million in Funding for Transit, Paratransit and Specialized Transportation Approved

The Regional Transportation Commission approved fiscal year (FY) 2017-18 funding claims for Transportation Development Act (TDA) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds to provide transit, paratransit, and specialized transportation services to the Santa Cruz County community. Over $8.6 million was approved for Santa Cruz METRO. Over $660,000 and about $80,000 were approved for Community Bridges and the Volunteer Center of Santa Cruz County respectively.

Project Updates from City of Capitola Public Works

The Regional Transportation Commission received a status report on the City of Capitola’s transportation projects. Recently complete projects include: overlay on 38th Avenue; sidewalk, crosswalk, and pavement improvements at Stockton Avenue and the Esplanade; widened bike lanes along Park Avenue; asphalt reconstruction on Kennedy Drive and Monterey Avenue; overlay on Rosedal; and rebuilt ramps for Phase 1 American Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements on Rispin/Peery Park. Future projects in Capitola include: the Phase 2 ADA pathway from Rispin to Wharf Road; Highway 1 Interchange Green Bike Lane Project at 41st Avenue; signal coordination on 41st Avenue; pedestrian pathway from the upper parking lot to Monterey Avenue; roundabout at Capitola Avenue and Bay Avenue; traffic calming; and citywide slurry seal projects. The preliminary list of Measure D projects include: the Highway 1 Interchange Green Bike Lane Project at Bay Avenue and Park Avenue; additional citywide slurry projects; pavement management projects near 42nd Avenue and Fanmar neighborhoods; traffic calming on Clares Street; and road, pedestrian, and bike improvements on Brommer Street at 41st Avenue, McGregor Drive, and Capitola Ave. A public hearing to adopt Capitola’s Measure D projects is scheduled to take place at their city council meeting on May 23.

Draft 2017 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs

The Regional Transportation Commission adopted the 2017 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs list. The RTC regularly solicits input to assess and prioritize the transportation needs of seniors, people with disabilities and low income individuals. The unmet paratransit and transit needs serves as a resource for identifying gaps in transit services to be considered when new funding becomes available.
Highway 1 Corridor Tiered Environmental Document – Status Report

The Regional Transportation Commission received an update on the status of the project, including the current milestone schedule for completion of the Highway 1 Final Environmental Document, anticipated in late 2018. RTC Board members stressed the importance of expediting the project approval process so as to deliver the Measure D Highway 1 Corridor Improvement Projects at the earliest possible date now that funding is secured through Measure D. Completion of the environmental document is a prerequisite to beginning the project development and construction activities on the Measure D highway projects. RTC will continue to press Caltrans and FHWA to complete the environmental document. Based on the current schedule, the construction of auxiliary lanes between 41st Avenue and Soquel Drive and the Chanticleer Bike/Pedestrian Overcrossing is anticipated to begin in the Spring of 2021.

Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) – Draft Goals, Criteria, Performance Measures and Projects for Scenario Analysis

The Regional Transportation Commission is developing a Unified Corridor Investment Study for Santa Cruz County's three primary transportation routes – Highway 1, Soquel Avenue/Drive and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line to identify multimodal transportation investments that advance the triple-bottom-line sustainability goals of healthy communities, preservation of the natural environment and economic vitality. The UCS will analyze scenarios to identify a package of projects that provide the greatest benefit to residents and visitors. The RTC approved the goals, Step 1 criteria, and Step 2 performance measures that will be used to evaluate how well the goals are being advanced. The RTC also approved the list of projects to evaluate in the study and authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc for preparing the Unified Corridor Investment Study.

Measure D: Draft Regional Five-Year Programs of Projects

The Regional Transportation Commission reviewed the Five-Year Plans with projected expenditures and deliverables for the regional projects in Measure D including: the Active Transportation Coastal Rail Trail, Highway Corridors, Rail Corridor, and the San Lorenzo Valley/Highway 9 and Highway 17 Wildlife Corridor projects. The draft plans include input from the RTC's Elderly & Disabled Transportation, Bicycle and Interagency Technical Advisory committees. Public review and comment on the draft regional Five-Year Plans is encouraged prior to adoption of the final five-year Plans scheduled to occur at a public hearing at the RTC’s June 1 meeting at the City of Watsonville Council Chambers.

Measure D: Community Bridges/Lift Line Five-Year Plan

The Regional Transportation Commission reviewed the Community Bridges-Lift Line Measure D Five-Year Plan. Four percent of net Measure D revenues are allocated to the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for Santa Cruz County for paratransit service. The Community Bridges proposed Measure D five-year plan supports the addition of paratransit services and investment in capital improvements. Community Bridges-Lift Line is the only agency receiving a direct allocation of Measure D funds that is not a public agency and does not have public meetings subject to the Brown Act. Therefore, approval of the Community Bridges Lift Line Measure D five-year plan will be overseen by the RTC to meet the requirement for a public hearing. The draft plans include input from the RTC’s Elderly & Disabled Transportation Committee. At their May 17, 2017 meeting, the Community Bridges Board will consider approval of the five-year plan for consideration by the RTC.
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.

Budget and Personnel/Administration Committee
(Special Meeting) Thursday, May 11, 2017, 3:00 p.m.
CAO Conference Room, 701 Ocean St, 5th floor, Santa Cruz

Transportation Policy Workshop
Thursday, May 18, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee
Thursday, May 25, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz

Regional Transportation Commission
(Public Hearing) Thursday, June 1, 2017, 9:00 a.m.
Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St, Watsonville

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.