

Summary of Projects and Recommendations

2013 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)

Project applications, with expanded project descriptions, support letters and other information submitted by applicants, are online at: <http://sccrtc.org/funding-planning/project-funding/>

Summary of Staff Recommendations: Staff generally recommends funding a maximum number of projects, by partially funding many projects. In some instances project sponsors may need to reduce the project scope to match reduced funding if construction bids do not come in below engineers' estimates or additional funds are not secured. The staff recommendation takes into consideration project benefits, degree to which projects help achieve regional goals and targets, project sponsor priorities, geographic distribution, and committee recommendations.

Aptos Village Plan Improvements

Project Sponsor: County of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$920,000

Description: Modifications to pedestrian, bike, and auto traffic on Soquel Drive from 350 ft west of Aptos Creek Rd to 150 ft east of Trout Gulch Rd (1230 ft): add pedestrian facilities on south side of Soquel Dr; maintain existing bike lanes; new bus pullout and shelter on north side. Trout Gulch from Soquel Dr to Valencia St (390 ft): replace sidewalks with standard sidewalks on east side, ADA upgrades to west side sidewalks. Install traffic signals at Soquel Dr/Aptos Creek Rd and Soquel Dr/Trout Gulch intersections. Railroad crossing modifications - new crossing arms, concrete panels for vehicle and pedestrian crossings.

Key Benefits: Multimodal safety, circulation, access, facilitate infill development.

Staff Recommendation: **\$690,000 (75% of requested funds) for construction; that the County review the specific plans for pedestrian facilities with Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) members to ensure that the project addresses accessibility needs, and ensure the project maintains space for future train boarding.**

Bicycle Committee Recommendation: **\$0.** Recommends the RTC not fund this project. Individual committee members stated that the project does not add additional bicycle lanes and suggested the project should be funded by the developer.

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC): \$690,000 (staff recommendation). Strongly recommends funding the project and recommends that the County ensure that the new construction includes adequate accessible sidewalks throughout the project area, especially on the south (ocean side) of Soquel Drive and crossing the railroad tracks. The Committee stated the importance of the Aptos Village Project as the area is not currently accessible and there are several businesses and agencies in the area that provide senior and disabled services.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC): \$690,000 (staff recommendation)

17th Ave Cape Seal: Brommer to East Cliff (0.62mi)

Project Sponsor: County of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$321,000

Description: Pavement maintenance, isolated section digout and asphalt replacement and cape seal on entire roadway.

Key Benefits: System preservation.

Staff Recommendation: **\$241,000 for construction (75% of requested funds)**

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$241,000 (staff recommendation)

East Cliff Drive Cape Seal: 12th-17th (0.35mi)

Project Sponsor: County of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$197,000

Description: Pavement maintenance, isolated section digout and asphalt replacement and cape seal on entire roadway.

Key Benefits: System preservation.

Staff Recommendation: **\$147,000 for construction** (75% of requested funds)

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$147,000 (staff recommendation)

Empire Grade Chip Seal: City of SC limits to 130' N of Heller Drive (0.71mi)

Project Sponsor: County of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$290,000

Description: Pavement maintenance, isolated section digout and asphalt replacement and cape seal on entire roadway.

Key Benefits: System preservation.

Staff Recommendation: **\$218,000 for construction** (75% of requested funds)

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$218,000 (staff recommendation)

Green Valley Rd Chip Seal: Devon Ln to Melody Ln (0.58 mi)

Project Sponsor: County of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$230,000

Description: Pavement maintenance, isolated section digout and asphalt replacement and cape seal on entire roadway.

Key Benefits: System preservation.

Staff Recommendation: **\$173,000 for construction** (75% of requested funds)

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$173,000 (staff recommendation)

Mt. Hermon Rd Overlay: Graham Hill to 1000' N of Locatelli Ln (1.34mi)

Project Sponsor: County of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$740,000

Description: Pavement maintenance, isolated section digout and asphalt replacement and cape seal on entire roadway.

Key Benefits: System Preservation

Staff Recommendation: **\$555,000 for construction** (75% of requested funds)

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$555,000 (staff recommendation)

Porter Street Overlay: City of Capitola Limits to 288' N/O Soquel Dr (0.34mi)

Project Sponsor: County of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$302,000

Description: Pavement maintenance, edge grinding, isolated section digout and asphalt replacement and 2" overlay on entire roadway.

Key Benefits: System preservation.

Staff Recommendation: \$227,000 for construction (75% of requested funds)

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$227,000 (staff recommendation)

Laurel St Pavement Rehabilitation: Front St to Mission St (.94mi)

Project Sponsor: City of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$900,000

Description: Rehab roadway, possibly with cold-in-place recycling method, new access ramps and sidewalk repairs. (Excludes recent improvement between Felix and Blakburn.)

Key Benefits: System preservation.

Staff Recommendation: \$585,000 for construction (75% of requested funds; reduced from preliminary recommendation in order to ensure Soquel/Frederick moves forward)

Bicycle Committee: \$0. Recommends the RTC not fund this project.

E&DTAC: 75% of requested funds, in order to also fund Soquel/Frederick Street; unless the City commits to fund that project with other funds, then recommend 90%.

ITAC: \$810,000 - 90% based on preliminary staff and project sponsor recommendation

Branciforte Bike and Pedestrian Bridge (near Soquel Ave and Dakota St)

Project Sponsor: City of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$400,000

Description: Construct bridge over Branciforte Creek and connect to existing San Lorenzo River multi-use trail.

Key Benefits: Fill gap in San Lorenzo River and Branciforte Creek path network. Improve bike/pedestrian safety by providing alternative access to Soquel Drive than through parking lot.

Staff Recommendation: \$300,000 for design (75% of requested funds; reduced from preliminary recommendation in order to ensure Soquel/Frederick moves forward)

Bicycle Committee: Support funding

E&DTAC: 75% of requested funds, in order to also fund Soquel/Frederick Street, unless the City commits to fund that project with other funds, then recommend 90%.

ITAC: \$360,000 - 90% based on preliminary staff and project sponsor recommendation

Soquel at Frederick St Improvements

Project Sponsor: City of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$250,000

Description: Minor widening at intersection to improve through-lane transition on Soquel Ave and lengthen right-turn pocket on Frederick St. Upgrade access ramps as necessary.

Key Benefits: Safety, traffic flow.

Staff Recommendation: \$188,000 for construction (75% of requested funds since project was identified as a priority by both the Bicycle Committee and E&DTAC). **Meet with E&DTAC to ensure addresses accessibility issues previously identified by the committee.**

Bicycle Committee: Support some funding.

E&DTAC: 75% of requested funds unless the City commits to fund the project with other funds. The E&DTAC identified project as a high priority.

ITAC: \$0; fund City's top two projects at higher levels instead, as initially requested by project sponsor. (Project sponsor since indicated concurrence for funding top 3 at 75%.)

West Cliff Multi-use Path Minor Widening: Lighthouse to Swanton Blvd (2.5mi)

Project Sponsor: City of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$400,000

Description: Widen along edges from 1-4 feet into unimproved adjacent areas; install header board and/or concrete curbs at new asphalt path edge. New access ramps; bike parking.

Key Benefits: System preservation, safety, expand capacity.

Staff Recommendation: \$0. Project is priority 4 of 4 projects submitted by sponsor. While system preservation is very important, project not recommended for funding this cycle. Primarily serves recreational use.

Bicycle Committee: Support funding, but with City to meet with Bicycle Committee to discuss proposal for curbs.

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$0 (staff recommendation)

Scotts Valley Dr Slurry Seal and Restriping: Bean Ck Rd to Victor Square (1.4mi)

Project Sponsor: Scotts Valley

Requested Funds: \$300,000

Description: Slurry seal resurfacing and restriping

Key Benefits: System preservation.

Staff Recommendation: \$225,000 for construction (75% of requested funds)

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$225,000 (staff recommendation)

Mt. Hermon Rd/SV Dr/Whispering Pines Intersection Modifications

Project Sponsor: County of Santa Cruz

Requested Funds: \$400,000

Description: Add turn lanes, modify signal timing, install bike loop detectors, ped signal countdowns, re-synch to other signals.

Key Benefits: Safety, traffic flow.

Staff Recommendation: \$0. Second priority for sponsor. Due to limited funds, not recommended for funds this cycle.

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$0 (staff recommendation)

Freedom Blvd Reconstruction: Broadis to Alta Vista Ave (0.8mi)

Project Sponsor: Watsonville

Requested Funds: \$1,200,000

Description: Full depth rehab (reuse existing materials), relocate utilities, traffic signal detection upgrades/install traffic cameras, concrete pads at bus stops, signage and striping, including sharrows for bikes, ADA upgrades to curbs and driveways, replacement of existing curb, gutter, sidewalk; modification to retaining wall between Crestview & Alta Vista

Key Benefits: System preservation, access, safety.

Staff Recommendation: \$900,000 for construction (75% of requested funds)

Bicycle Committee: Oppose funding unless expanded to include bicycle lanes.

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$900,000 (staff recommendation)

Freeway Service Patrol

Project Sponsor: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)

Requested Funds: \$405,000

Description: Tow truck patrols on Highways 1 and 17, work with CHP to assist disabled motorists, remove incidents, and clear obstacles impeding traffic flow.

Key Benefits: Traffic flow, safety; reduced fuel use, emissions and GHG.

Staff Recommendation: **\$270,000.** *Funding for two (rather than three) years.*

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$270,000 (staff recommendation)

Rideshare Program

Project Sponsor: Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)

Requested Funds: \$550,000

Description: Transportation Demand Management (TDM) outreach, education and incentives. Includes ridematching for carpools, vanpools, and bicyclists. Provides services and information about availability and benefits of alternatives travel modes.

Key Benefits: Reduce single occupancy vehicle use.

Staff Recommendation: **\$400,000 over two years** *(73% of requested funds)*

Bicycle Committee: No position

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$400,000 (staff recommendation)

Santa Cruz County Open Streets

Lead Agency: Santa Cruz Hub for Sustainable Living (County Health Services Agency sponsor)

Requested Funds: \$154,000

Description: Community events promoting behavior changes whereby citizens choose alternatives to driving alone as part of a sustainable, healthy and active life-style. Temporarily opens roadways to bicycles and pedestrians only, diverting automobiles to other roadways. Includes information booths, bike skills courses, foot races, dance and climbing.

Key Benefits: Public education and outreach aimed at increasing bicycling and walking, safety, and sustainable transportation.

Support Letters: Mayor Hillary Bryant, City of Santa Cruz; Mayor Eduardo Montesino, City of Watsonville; Director Mary Lou Goeke, United Way of Santa Cruz County; Director Jim Murphy, Ecology Action

Staff Recommendation: **\$25,000, partial funding.** Application is for four events countywide. Recommend partial funding for RSTP-eligible components specifically focused on travel demand management and safe travel to schools.

Bicycle Committee: \$50,000

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$25,000 (staff recommendation)

Boltage: Bike/Walk School Incentive and Tracking Program

Project Sponsor: Ecology Action (RTC would act as sponsor if funded)

Requested Funds: \$40,000

Description: Biking and walking incentive and tracking program at Starlight Elementary in Watsonville, Gault and Delaveaga Elementary schools in Santa Cruz. Boltage uses technology (Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) reader) and incentives to encourage daily biking and walking to school and provides ongoing data to show program use.

Key Benefits: Increase bicycle and walking trips to schools, reduce automobile trips.

Support Letters: Mark A. Donnelly Ed. D., Principal, Starlight Elementary; Molly Parks, Principal, Gault Elementary; Angela Meeker, Principal, DeLaveaga Elementary; Rich Puente,

Pajaro Valley Unified School District Healthy Start Program; Gary Bloom, Superintendent, Santa Cruz City Schools; Anne Weidlich, parent

Staff Recommendation: \$25,000, partial funding.

Bicycle Committee: \$40,000

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$25,000 (staff recommendation)

Ride On Folding Bike Program

Project Sponsor: Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SC METRO) and Ecology Action

Requested Funds: \$85,000

Description: Pilot program to distribute discount vouchers for purchase of up to 100 folding bikes for riders of the Hwy 17 Express commuter bus route and other routes; includes one month free bus pass.

Key Benefits: Double the capacity for bicycles on Highway 17 express route; promote alternative transportation.

Support Letters: Senator Bill Monning; James Unites, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA); Jim Murphy, Ecology Action; Assemblyman Luis Alejo; Ameila Cohen, People Power

Staff Recommendation: \$50,000. *Partial funding. Staff updated recommendation once confirmation was received that project could be scaled to match reduced funding.*

Bicycle Committee: \$40,000

E&DTAC and ITAC: \$0 (preliminary staff recommendation)