



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Public hearing on proposal asking voters to help repair local roads and create safe routes to schools**

Recognizing that local streets and roads are in a state of disrepair, that existing state and federal funding sources are both unreliable and insufficient to operate and maintain the local road system, and that it is more economical to maintain rather than fully repair local roads, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) will be conducting a public hearing on August 2, 2012 at the County Board of Supervisor's Chamber, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz to solicit public input on a ballot measure proposed for the November 2012 ballot which asks voters to approve a \$10 vehicle registration fee dedicated to local road repairs, safe pedestrian and bicycle routes to schools for children and accessible pedestrian facilities for seniors and people with disabilities.

Following heightened requests from the public seeking local road repairs, better ways for kids to get to school and safety projects for pedestrians, the Regional Transportation Commission has been working with the community to evaluate options to address at least some of the backlog of transportation needs in Santa Cruz County. A March 2012 poll of likely voters in Santa Cruz County showed that there is support for a \$10 vehicle registration fee to fix potholes, maintain local street and roads, create safe routes to schools for students, and construct accessible pedestrian facilities for all in the community, including seniors and people with disabilities. If placed on the ballot and approved by two-thirds of

voters, the funds will be distributed to local jurisdictions based on population and cannot be redirected to other purposes.

While the \$10 vehicle registration fee will not fully cover the cost for the backlog of road repairs and other transportation needs in the community, the funds will be a stable source of funds to local jurisdictions that can be used to leverage state and federal funds and to prevent further deterioration of the transportation system.

**The text of the proposed ballot measure is available online at: <http://sccrtc.org/funding-planning/local-funds-local-roads/> or by calling the RTC at 831460-3200.**

**The Public Hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisor's Chamber on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of 701 Ocean Street in downtown Santa Cruz. Please call (831.460.3200) or email ([info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org)) for more information or to submit comment on the proposal.**

*The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is responsible for delivering a full range of safe, convenient, reliable, and efficient transportation choices for the community. While promoting long-term sustainability, the RTC provides transportation services, planning, and funding for all travel modes. Information about the Regional Transportation Commission's projects and programs can be found at [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org) or by calling 831-460-3200.*