



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

SCCRTC 2017 FEDERAL Legislative Program

- **Priority Projects:** Seek and preserve funding for priority transportation projects and programs in Santa Cruz County, including:
 - Projects on Highway 1
 - Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line
 - Transit operations and capital projects
 - Local street and roadway preservation
 - Bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST)
 - 511 implementation
- **Stabilize and Increase Funding.** Current per-gallon gasoline fees are insufficient.
 - **Increase funding levels** for all modes to bring transportation infrastructure up to a good state of repair and meet growing transportation needs in Santa Cruz County. Support increase and index of federal fuel taxes that are available for projects in Santa Cruz County.
 - **Develop new funding mechanisms** that ensure the financial integrity of the Highway Trust Fund and Mass Transportation Account.
 - **Innovative Financing:** Ensure proposals for public-private partnerships and innovative financing are favorable for project implementation in Santa Cruz County.
- **Streamline Project Delivery:** Support regulations to streamline and integrate federal project delivery requirements for project planning, development, review, permitting, and environmental processes in order to reduce project costs and delays.
- **TIGER:** Maintain the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant program at or above current levels.
- Oppose **unfunded mandates** and support legislation that provides funding for past mandates.
- **FAST Act Implementation**
 - Support legislation and administrative strategies to implement the Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act or "FAST Act" federal authorization bill, in a way that ensures the best possible outcome for transportation projects in Santa Cruz County. Ensure that DOT implementation of MAP-21 and FAST Act rules and regulations do not have a negative impact on local projects and programs.
 - **Active Transportation:** Support continued funding for pedestrian and bicycle projects
 - **Transit:** Support increased funding for transit, continued and accelerated growth of the Small Transit Intensive Cities Program (STIC), funding for acquisition of transit capital (Bus and Bus Facilities, and Low and No Emissions Bus Programs), and increase funds for Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) implementation, state of good repair, and other transit programs.
- **Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Support development of new funding programs to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation, expand eligibility for CMAQ and other funding programs to Santa Cruz County. Support funding and coordination of vehicle electrification planning and infrastructure.
- **Performance Measures:** Support development of performance measures which are consistent with RTC approved goals, policies, and targets and which recognize data limitations of many regions.
- **Marketplace Fairness:** Allow states and local governments to collect sales taxes on out-of-state online purchases, which would increase TDA and local sales tax revenues.

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