

AGENDA: April 4, 2019

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Guy Preston, Executive Director
RE: Director's Report

THIS ITEM FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Highway 9 – Complete Streets

On April 18, 2019, Commissioner McPherson and Assemblyman Stone's offices organized a meeting with Caltrans District 5, County Public Works, CHP, the SLV School District, RTC staff, and other state and Congressional representatives to discuss near- and longer-term options for addressing pedestrian safety along Highway 9 between Graham Hill Road and the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Schools complex in Felton.

Caltrans is currently evaluating suggestions made at the meeting and identified through the Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Complete Streets Corridor Plan. RTC staff will continue to work with its partners to support implementation of projects and public education efforts throughout SLV, both on short- and long-term solutions.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST)

The City of Santa Cruz Planning Commission adopted the Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration for Phase II of Segment 7 of the MBSST at its meeting on April 18, 2019. That decision has been appealed to the full City Council. A date to hear the appeal has not yet been set.

The City of Santa Cruz announced that the Trestle will open to the public on Friday, May 17, 2019.

Initial planning has started for ribbon-cutting scheduled to be on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 12:15-12:45 p.m. under the banner of National Public Works Week.

Bike to Work

May is Bike to Work Month and May 9th is Bike to Work Day. The RTC is a funding partner and sponsor of the Bike to Work event. On May 9, 2019 from 6:30-9:30 a.m. there will be 12 Bike to Work breakfast sites around the county where bikers will receive free breakfast, coffee, smoothies and bike maintenance. Some sites will also offer electric bike test rides and free massages and acupuncture. The RTC will have a booth at the Pacific Avenue site.

For more information on Bike to Work Day, please visit the Ecology Action website.
<https://ecoact.org/bikemonth/>

Open Streets Watsonville

The RTC is also a sponsor of Open Streets Watsonville which is taking place on June 2 from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. in downtown Watsonville. Open Streets transforms city streets into public parkways where people can enjoy active outdoor recreation in a safe and fun car-free environment. We will have a booth at this event as well to promote the RTC's programs and projects.

Community Bridges - Lift Line

Community Bridges, provider of Lift Line Paratransit Dial-A-Ride Program, held a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for two new electric vehicles and charging stations at its fleet facility Watsonville. The total project cost for the two EV shuttles and the two charging stations was \$360K. The California Air Resources Board's California Climate Investments grant provided \$268K and \$62K came from RTC's Measure D.

Transition from gas to electric vehicles will reduce GHG emissions and provide for a more sustainable future.

Staffing Changes

I am sad to announce that Anais Schenk, Transportation Planner III has left the RTC for greener pastures at the County. Anais will be sorely missed, and we wish her all the best at the County. We look forward to working with her, as she will continue to be heavily involved in transportation planning, just across the river.

Many of Anais assignments have been assigned to other staff, including Tommy Travers, who has been provisionally appointed from a Planning Technician to a Planner. Included in his provisional responsibilities, Tommy will replace Anais as the RTC's staff lead for the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

June RTC Meetings

The regular June RTC meeting will be held on Thursday June 6, 2019, as planned. As there is no meeting in July and staff anticipates having several items that will need RTC Board approval prior to the August 1, 2019 meeting, but may not be ready in time to make the June 6, 2019 meeting agenda, I may request a special meeting of the RTC Board in late June, likely Thursday, June 27, 2019 after the County completes its budget hearings in July. We will send notifications if a Special Meeting of the RTC Board is scheduled.