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

THIS ITEM FOR INFORMATION ONLY  

Regional Bike Signage Project  

The Countywide Bicycle Route Signage Program is currently in the construction phase. This week, crews are completing the installation of over 100 signs in the city of Santa Cruz and beginning installation of the signs in the unincorporated county.  

Discretionary Funding Update  

At the June 6th RTC Meeting, I was directed to meet with stakeholders for input into a proposed process and timeline for programming RTC’s discretionary funds with the intention to support the distribution of the RSTPX/STBG funds by formula basis to the local jurisdictions for the current round of funding.  

On Monday, I met with the Public Works Directors for the four Cities and the County. Santa Cruz METRO representatives were also in attendance.  

There was a clear understanding that RTC is still mandated to apportion the funds for projects implemented by cities, the county, and other transportation agencies on a fair and equitable basis based upon an annually updated 5-year average of allocations. Projects shall be nominated by cities, counties, transit operators, and other public transportation agencies through a process that directly involves local government representatives. Projects will still be required to be programmed in the FTIP.  

Distributing the next round of RSTPX/STBG funds by formula to the county and cities will provide a reliable fund source to those jurisdictions for the next 3-years. There was discussion about the types of projects that recipient jurisdictions may nominate, including maintenance of the local street network, State Highway projects, active transportation projects, and other non-infrastructure /education programs that have traditionally been nominated by the RTC. Local jurisdictions understood that the RTC would no longer be able to fund some of these projects and may be asked to fund them in the future. Although there was discussion of providing a percentage of the funds to METRO, the Public Works Directors expressed a desire that METRO be funded from other funding sources, if possible.  

There was discussion about using the remaining discretionary fund sources for METRO and other Regional priorities, including the Harkin Slough project, if they are eligible and
cannot be funded by other means, such as grants or Measure D. Since the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) estimate and guidelines were not yet released, discussion about programming the other funding was somewhat limited. It was agreed that METRO would assess its needs, so that an analysis could be done as to how RTC should program its remaining discretionary funds.

Assuming no RSTPX funds are programmed to METRO, there was consensus among the Public Works Directors that the formula distribution should be done on population, with a 5% floor. The floor would benefit Capitola and Scott’s Valley whose annual share of the funding would not be enough to fund a typical project need. I requested that the Public Works Directors discuss and get concurrence from their CAO and city managers, respectively.

The group is expected to meet again in a month. I expect to make a recommendation at the September 5th RTC meeting.