

# **Appendix B**

**Regional Transportation Commission  
and Partner Agency Coordination**

Below is a description of the RTC, member agencies, advisory committees, and related partners. A summary chart can be found at the end of this appendix.

## **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)**

The RTC is responsible for delivering a full range of convenient, reliable, and efficient transportation choices for the community. While promoting long-term sustainability, the RTC provides transportation services, construction management, planning, and funding for all travel modes. The RTC is designated in state statute as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Santa Cruz County. Responsibilities of this designation include preparation of the long-range Regional Transportation Plan (this document), dissemination of state and federal funding, and setting local transportation policy. At the time of this writing, there are twelve (plus one ex-officio) board members and seventeen full-time equivalent staff. The RTC board meets once per month for their regular televised meetings and as needed for a Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW).

The RTC also serves as the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) for Santa Cruz County. The RTC SAFE is one of 18 SAFE programs in California to reduce congestion, improve public safety, and enhance air quality. On Highway 1 and 17, the RTC SAFE provides roadside call box services and Freeway Service Patrol tow trucks that quickly respond to and clear highway incidents.

In addition, the RTC serves as the “Local Transportation Authority” responsible for implementation of Measure D, the Santa Cruz County Transportation Improvement Plan Measure, which was approved in November 2016 by over two-thirds of Santa Cruz County voters.

## **RTC Member Agencies**

### **Local Jurisdictions**

- City of Capitola – The RTC Board includes one member from this city of about 10,180 people occupying a coastal village of approximately 2 square miles.
- City of Santa Cruz – The RTC Board includes one member from this city of about 64,522 people occupying a coastal area of approximately 16 square miles, including the University of California, Santa Cruz.
- City of Scotts Valley – The RTC Board includes one member from this city of about 11,930 people occupying a mountainous area approximately 4.6 miles square located about 6 miles north of the City of Santa Cruz.
- City of Watsonville - The RTC Board includes one member from this city of about 53,800 people occupying a valley of approximately 6.8 square miles adjacent to agriculture lands.
- County of Santa Cruz – The RTC Board includes all five supervisors representing the unincorporated, rural, and urban areas of the county with a total population of 274,673.

## **Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)**

The RTC Board includes three members from the Metro Board. The METRO operates in Santa Cruz County with connections to transit in neighboring counties, providing both fixed route local and express bus service, and paratransit as mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act. The METRO is a recipient of RTC-administered Transportation Development Act funds as designated by the RTC's Rules and Regulations and is a member of the RTC's Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory and Interagency Technical Advisory Committees.

## **Caltrans/State Department of Transportation**

The RTC Board includes one ex-officio (non-voting) member from Caltrans. Santa Cruz County is in Caltrans District 5, headquartered in San Luis Obispo and covering 5 counties. Caltrans is the state agency responsible for highway, bridge, and rail transportation planning, construction, and maintenance. The RTC coordinates with Caltrans on all issues related to their role as the owner and operator of state highways. Caltrans is also a member of the RTC's Interagency Technical Advisory Committee and the "Safe on 17" Task Force.

## **RTC Advisory Committees**

### **Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee**

The committee consists of 5 commissioners selected annually by the RTC and provides oversight and recommendations on Commission administration, budget, policy, finance, audit, and personnel issues.

### **Bicycle Committee**

The committee advises the Regional Transportation Commission and its member agencies on bicycle related issues, including review of proposed bicycle related policies, programs, projects, plans, funding applications, and legislation; input on existing and future roadway/bikeway conditions affecting cycling; coordination with local jurisdictions and bicycle related organizations to promote cycling projects and programs.

### **Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC)**

The committee advises the Regional Transportation Commission and other transportation agencies on the network of specialized transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities in Santa Cruz County as well as about the transportation needs of these members of our community. In addition, the committee serves as the local Social Services Transportation Advisory Council (SSTAC), a state-required entity and the Paratransit Advisory Council (PAC).

### **Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)**

Made up of staff from a variety of jurisdictions and agencies including local jurisdiction public works and planning departments, the Metro, Caltrans District 5, and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), the ITAC reviews and provides technical advice on transportation projects and programs in the region; coordinates and provides recommendations to the RTC on the use of

transportation funds; and serves as a forum for sharing information on transportation projects and federal and state requirements for project implementation.

## **Partner Transportation Agencies**

### **Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)**

AMBAG is a voluntary association of 20 local jurisdictions in Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties and one associate member representing the Council of San Benito County Governments (SBCOG). AMBAG serves as a forum for discussing and making recommendations on issues of regional significance. The agency serves as the region's Metropolitan Planning Organization, a federal designation that carries with it the responsibility for developing federally mandated transportation plans and funding programs. The agency also has the responsibility for coordinating and analyzing the Regional Travel Demand Model and ascertaining the air quality impacts of the projects within transportation plans and programs.

### **California Highway Patrol (CHP)**

The CHP provides "Safety, Service, and Security" to Californians through active programs, task forces, community outreach, and communication. In addition, the CHP provides enforcement of traffic laws on roads and highways and safety training for all ages, including youth and seniors. The CHP are members of the 'Safe on 17' Task Force.

### **California Transportation Commission (CTC)**

The California Transportation Commission is a policy-making body appointed by the Governor and Legislature. The CTC works closely with Caltrans and oversees state-level transportation planning, policy, and funding decisions. The California Transportation Commission, in consultation with Caltrans, decides how and when to allocate state funds for transportation projects through a variety of programs including the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) programs. One of the main sources of discretionary transportation funds available for our region is from the STIP, of which 75 percent is allocated to Regional Transportation Planning Agencies (RTPA) for regionally significant projects, and 25 percent is allocated to state highway and intercity rail programs selected by Caltrans. The CTC has final approval on local funding plans for the STIP.

### **Community Bridges**

Community Bridges operates transportation services under the brand of Lift Line for seniors and people with disabilities; is the locally designated Consolidated Transportation Services Agency; is a recipient of RTC-administered Transportation Development Act funds as designated by the RTC's Rules and Regulations; and is a member of the RTC's Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee.

### **Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC)**

The CTSC and its South County Bicycle/Pedestrian Work Group operate under the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency. These groups represent a coalition of agencies and individuals that promote

bicycle and pedestrian safety, particularly for school children. The CTSC is a member of the RTC's Bicycle Committee.

### **Ecology Action's Transportation Program**

The former Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association merged with the non-profit organization Ecology Action in 2005 which continues to offer workplace-based commute programs to its member employers. Ecology Action also coordinates a wide range of bike and pedestrian safety education, marketing and incentive programs including Bike to Work/School. This organization has members on both the RTC's Bicycle Committee and Interagency Technical Advisory Committee.

### **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)**

This agency is within the U.S. Department of Transportation and supports State and local governments in the design, construction, and maintenance of the Nation's highway system (Federal Aid Highway Program) and various federal and tribal owned lands (Federal Lands Highway Program). The RTC coordinates with the FHWA on all state highway projects.

### **Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)**

The FRA was created by the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 and is one of ten agencies within the United States Department of Transportation working on intermodal transportation. The RTC coordinates with the FRA on rail issues.

### **Federal Transit Administration (FTA)**

The FTA is one of ten agencies within the United States Department of Transportation and provides financial and technical assistance to local public transit systems. Public transportation includes buses, subways, light rail, commuter rail, monorail, passenger ferry boats, trolleys, inclined railways, and people movers. The RTC coordinates with the FTA on financial assistance to operate existing systems and to secure new transit grant funding.

### **Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)**

This Regional Transportation Planning Agency provides similar functions as the RTC for the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area. The RTC coordinates with MTC on issues related to coordination with the Bay Area (Highway 17 "Safe on 17" Task Force, commuters/rideshare, etc), funding, and statewide matters.

### **Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District (MBUAPCD)**

The Air District oversees state and federal ambient air quality control in the Monterey Bay region. The agency develops transportation regulations and control measures to reduce vehicle emissions; helps determine whether the region is meeting and maintaining state and federal air quality standards; and ensures that state Air Resources Board regulations are followed. The air district also distributes funds from a \$4 per vehicle registration fee collected by the Department of Motor Vehicles (known as AB 2766 funds) and Carl Moyer Funds, and channels them back to the region as grants for emissions-reducing transportation projects. The MBUAPCD is a member of the RTC's Interagency Technical Advisory Committee.

## **Safe on 17/Traffic Operations Systems (TOS) Committee**

In 1998, Highway 17 was identified as a high collision corridor. The Safe on 17 task force was formed to develop strategies for improving safety and reducing collisions through education, enforcement, and engineering. The Traffic Operations Systems Committee focuses on technological systems to improve highway operations throughout Santa Cruz County. Because these two committees have similar membership, they meet at the same time. Since Highway 17 straddles two counties, the members that attend these meetings consists of two regional transportation planning agencies, two California Highway Patrol divisions, two Caltrans districts, and two transit districts.

## **San Benito Council of Governments (SBCOG)**

This Regional Transportation Planning Agency provides similar functions to the RTC in San Benito County. The agencies coordinate on Monterey Bay regional issues.

## **Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)**

This Regional Transportation Planning Agency provides similar functions to the RTC in Monterey County. The agencies coordinate on Monterey Bay regional transportation issues.

## **University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)**

One of the University of California's ten campuses, UCSC aggressively encourages use of alternatives to driving alone. UCSC charges for on-campus parking and uses the funds to subsidize vanpool programs for their employees. They collect a fee from all students as part of registration and provide "free" year-long bus passes for all students for the Metro buses anywhere in the county and free shuttle service on campus. UCSC prepares a Long-Range Development Plan (LRDP), which includes a transportation element, and is similar to a city General Plan. UCSC is a member of the RTC's Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

## **Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)**

This agency provides oversight of transportation in Santa Clara County including operation of bus and light rail transit. Coordination with this agency is primarily focused on cross-county transit such as the Highway 17 Express and connections to Bay Area transit.

## **Volunteer Center's Transportation Program**

This agency oversees a transportation program using volunteer drivers to provide rides and companionship to many in the county who are ineligible for other transportation services. The Volunteer Center provides insurance coverage and reimburses gasoline costs, although many also volunteer this cost. The Volunteer Center is a recipient of RTC-administered Transportation Development Act funds as designated by the RTC's Rules and Regulations and is a member of the RTC's Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee.

## Summary Information for the Regional Transportation Commission, Advisory Committees, and other related agencies

(agency descriptions can be found in pages before this summary)

<i>Agency</i>	<i>Board or Members</i>	<i>General Meeting Times</i>	<i>Contact Phone &amp; Website</i>
<b>Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (S</b>	12 Commissioners, 1 ex-officio	1st Thursdays, 9:00 am, excluding July 3rd Thursdays, as needed 9:00 am	831/460-3200 www.sccrtc.org
<b>Member Agencies:</b>			
City of Capitola	5 council members, 1 on RTC; DPW and Plng on ITAC	2nd & 4th Thursdays, 7:00 pm	831/475-7300 www.cityofcapitola.org
City of Santa Cruz	7 council members, 1 on RTC; DPW and Plng on ITAC	2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 3:00 pm & 7:00 pm	831/420-5030 www.cityofsantacruz.com
City of Scotts Valley	5 council members, 1 on RTC; DPW and Plng on ITAC	1st & 3rd Wednesdays, 6:00 pm	831/440-5602 www.scottsvally.org
City of Watsonville	7 council members, 1 on RTC; DPW and Plng on ITAC	2nd & 4th Tuesdays, 4:30 or 6:30 pm	831 768 3040 www.cityofwatsonville.org
County of Santa Cruz	5 supervisors, all 5 on RTC; DPW and Plng on ITAC	Tuesdays, 9:00 am	831/454-2200 www.co.santa-cruz.ca.us
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	11 directors + 1 ex-officio, 3 on RTC; 2 staff on ITAC	4th Fridays, 9:00 am	831/426-6080 www.scmtd.com
Ex-Officio: Caltrans District 5			Local: 831/423-0396 www.dot.ca.gov
<b>RTC Committees:</b>			
Budget, Administration, and Personnel Committee	6 Commissioners	2nd Thursday, 3:30 pm, as needed	831/460-3200 www.sccrtc.org
Transportation Policy Workshop	12 Commissioners	3rd Thursdays, 9:00 am, as needed	831/460-3200 www.sccrtc.org
<b>RTC Advisory Committees:</b>			
Bicycle Committee	11 members	2nd Monday, 6:00 pm, even numbered months	831/460-3200 www.sccrtc.org
Elderly & Disabled Advisory Committee (E&DTAC)	16 members	2nd Tuesday, 1:30 pm, even numbered months	831/460-3200 www.sccrtc.org
Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)	19 members, 1 ex-officio	3rd Thursday, 1:30 pm, as needed	831/460-3200 www.sccrtc.org
<b>Partner Agencies/Committees:</b>			
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)	24 members, 1 associate	Typically 2nd Wednesday, 6:00 pm	831/883-3750 www.ambag.org
California Highway Patrol (CHP)	n/a		831/662-0511 www.chp.ca.gov
California Transportation Commission (CTC)	11 members + 2 ex-officio	varies	www.catc.ca.gov
Community Bridges/Lift Line	13 members		www.communitybridges.org/lifeline
Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) & South County Bicycle & Pedestrian Work Group (SCBPWG)	varies	CTSC: 1st Tue, 2:00 pm, even # months. SCBPWG: 1st Tue, 10:30 am, odd # months	831/454-4312 www.sctrfficsafety.org
Ecology Action's Transportation Program	9 members		ecoact.org/Programs/Transportation
Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	n/a		www.fhwa.dot.gov
Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)	n/a		www.fra.dot.gov
Federal Transit Administration (FTA)	n/a		www.fta.dot.gov
Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC)	21 members		www.mtc.ca.gov
Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District	11 members	3rd Wednesday, 1:30 pm	831/647-9411 www.mbuapcd.org
SAFE on 17/Traffic Operations Systems Committee	varies	March and September	831/460-3200 www.sccrtc.org
San Benito Council of Governments (SB COG)	5 members	3rd Thursday, 3:00 p.m.	831/637-7665 www.sanbenitocog.org
Transportation Agency for Monterey Counties (TAMC)	12 members + 6 ex-officio	4th Wednesday, 9:00 am	831/775-0903 www.tamcmonterey.org
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)	n/a		www2.ucsc.edu/taps/
Valley Transportation Authority (VTA)	n/a		www.vta.org/
Volunteer Center's Transportation Program	n/a		www.scvolunteercenter.com/