November Transportation Ballot Measure

The Regional Transportation Commission's "Safety, Pothole Repair, Traffic Relief, Transit Improvement Measure" will appear on the November 8, 2016 ballot after securing approval from the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz and Watsonville.

The measure includes a balanced mix of projects across transportation modes and geographic areas of Santa Cruz County, many of which are needed improvements to the local transportation network that will not happen without our new local funding. The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) developed the ballot measure over the last two years based on extensive public input and support.

Projects in the plan will improve safety for drivers, pedestrians, biking and cycling near schools; repair potholes; repave streets; improve traffic flow on Highway 1; maintain transportation for seniors and people with disabilities; reduce global warming and air pollution by providing transportation options like sidewalks, bike lanes, and traffic preserving and enhancing transit options in the rail corridor; and deliver other projects to meet the mobility needs of current and future generations. If approved by the voters in November, the half-cent sales tax measure will also reduce reliance on Sacramento and Washington for transportation funding, create local jobs and stimulate local economic vitality.

Based on vast and broad community input, the 2016 Transportation Improvement Measure includes citizen oversight, independent audits, and strict financial accounting requirements. With the state's 1/4 cent sales tax increase expiring at the end of the year, the measure would effectively only increase sales taxes by 1/4 cent over current levels. This half-cent sales tax for the next 30 years will raise approximately $177 million annually, requires citizen oversight, independent audits, and that all funds are spent locally. This is not a bond issue so all tax moneys collected go to pay for the approved projects.

"Transportation" page 9

Improvements to Highways 1, 9 and 17:
Highway 1: Improve traffic flow for employees (especially from Aptos and Watsonville), businesses, transit buses and first responders through the addition of auxiliary lanes.

Highway 17: Funding the Safe-on-17 Freeway Service Patrol and protection for motorists and wildlife by building a wildlife undercrossing at Laurel Curve.

Highway 9: Safety improvements in the San Lorenzo Valley, especially near schools.

Monterey Bay Scenic Trail: Continued expansion of the Coastal Rail Trail for cyclists and pedestrians along the rail corridor in Watsonville, Santa Cruz and Capitola, and connecting to Monterey County.

Investigation of future transit options in the rail corridor. Conduct a transparent public process to analyze options to meet future mobility needs; the plan does not include funding for any new commuter or visitor rail service.

New bridges for cyclists and pedestrians: Cyclist- and pedestrian-only bridges to be built over Highway 1 at Chanticleer St. and Mar Vista Dr.

Percentage Allocations:
30% Direct Allocation to Cities and County • Local roadway pavement repair and operational improvements, school and neighborhood traffic safety projects, bicycle and pedestrian projects.
25% Highway Corridors (Highways 1, 9 & 17) • Auxiliary lanes that separate entering and exiting traffic from through lanes to improve traffic flow and safety.
41st Ave-Scopel Dr. Bay/Porter Park/St. Park-Park • Bicycle and pedestrian over-crossings.
20% Transit for Seniors and People with Disabilities • Santa Cruz METRO (16%) • Community Bridges Lift Line Para-transit Service (4%).
17% Monterey Bay Scenic Trail • 8% Rail Corridor.