

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Transportation Policy Workshop

MINUTES

Thursday, February 19, 2004

9:00 am

SCCRTC Conference Room

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Members Present:	Jan Beautz	Ellen Pirie
	Tony Campos	Scott Kennedy
	Pat Spence	Randy Johnson
	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)	Michelle Hinkle (Alt)
	Richard De La Paz	Dennis Norton
	Emily Reilly	Mark Stone
	David Murray (ex-officio)	
Staff Present:	Linda Wilshusen	Tegan Speiser
	Karena Pushnik	Kim Shultz
	Luis Mendez	Gini Pineda

1. Introductions

Introductions were made.

2. Oral Communications

Commissioner Spence thanked the Commission for the automatic front door.

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Executive Director Linda Wilshusen distributed a postcard mailer regarding the March 4<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing on the Recreational Rail Environmental Impact Report and Use of Proposition 116 Funds.

**CONSENT AGENDA (Schiffirin/Reilly)**

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4. Accepted Minutes of January 22, 2004 TPW Meeting

5. Approved County of Santa Cruz FY03-04 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Project Allocation Claim (Resolution 25-04)

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

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6. Accept Status Report on Highway 1 Projects

Executive Director Linda Wilshusen reviewed the status of the Highway 1 Projects saying that the Public Information Plan for the Highway 1 HOV/Widening Project would be presented to the Commission in March. Ms. Wilshusen said that the Board of the Highway Construction Authority (HCA) had had its initial meeting on February 6<sup>th</sup> and selected Commissioner Pirie as Chair, accepted a Proposed Conflict of Interest Code, adopted Bylaws, and designated the County to serve as the host agency. She said that RTC staff are working with County staff on the transition plan to transfer PA/ED activities to the HCA once staffing, funding, and oversight agreements are in place. The RTC will need to take an official action to implement the transfer. In the interim, RTC staff is preparing a budget amendment for discussion with the Budget and Administrative Committee which assumes the SCCRTC will continue to provide project management oversight of PA/ED activities and fund consultant contract expenses through the end of Fiscal Year 2003-2004. Ms. Wilshusen reported that the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee hoped to forward a draft Expenditure Plan to the Commission in April and that final engineering on the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project is nearly complete.

Commissioner Reilly asked if the SCMTD would be reimbursed for expenditures in forming the HCA. Commissioner Beautz replied that no agency, including the Commission, had been reimbursed for its work prior to the formation of the HCA and that all the participating agencies had provided services on a *pro bono* basis.

7. Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding Environmental Review of Transportation Sales Tax Measure Expenditure Plan

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi explained that projects included on the Expenditure Plan are subject to CEQA review. Ms. Moriconi said that if new projects that weren't studied in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are included in the Expenditure Plan, a supplemental EIR would be required, but if no new projects are included, an addendum to the RTP would be sufficient. She referred to a list of projects currently under consideration and said they had all been studied in the EIR for the last Regional Transportation Plan and said staff recommended not adding projects to the list that had not been included in the RTP EIR.

Commission Alternate Schiffirin said that the Highway 1 HOV/Widening Project was initially intended to end at State Park Drive and questioned whether extending the project limits required a supplemental EIR.

Senior Planner Moriconi said that the EIR review was on a program level basis covering the whole area.

Mr. Schiffrin said that “program level” defines the kind of EIR and that the project still needs to be defined.

Director Wilshusen said that staff will confirm that the current project description conforms to the RTP.

Commissioners discussed whether improvements to the Highway 1 bridge over the San Lorenzo River should be called out specifically to attract support from Santa Cruz City residents, or if it would be sufficient to consider these improvements as part of the Highway 1/9 Intersection Improvements.

Celia Scott asked if there is a written legal opinion on the staff interpretation of CEQA requirements.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin said he had previously asked for an opinion and thinks it should be available to the Commission and released to the public.

Commissioner Beautz said it is not standard practice to release a legal opinion even when the subject is one discussed in open session.

Commissioners Stone and Beautz asked to agendize the issue in March in either open or closed session.

Ms. Scott said that normally under CEQA there is an Initial Study prior to environmental review. Ms. Moriconi responded that it is her understanding that there is no need for an Initial Study for an addendum to the RTP.

Director Wilshusen will consult with County Counsel and agendize as appropriate.

Commissioner Beautz moved and Commissioner Kennedy seconded to approve the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee and staff recommendation that the Regional Transportation Commission confirm that no new projects, not already included in the *2001 Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP), will be included in the Expenditure Plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

8. Approve 2004 Legislative Agenda (*continued from February 5, 2004 Meeting*)

In light of the fact that this item had been continued from the February 5<sup>th</sup> RTC meeting and the RTC has had sufficient time to review it, the Commission dispensed with the staff report.

Commission Alternate moved to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Review and adopt the proposed 2004 Legislative Agenda; and,
2. Direct staff to keep the Commission, local agencies and public informed on impacts to local transportation projects resulting from measures to address the state budget.

Commissioner Norton seconded.

Commissioner Beautz said she was not willing to support new state gas taxes since local jurisdictions did not control the money and that she did not support state involvement in local land use policies.

The motion passed with Commissioners Beautz, Spence, Hinkle, Norton and Campos voting “no” on Item 2b of the Draft 2004 Legislative Agenda: State Issues and with Commissioners Beautz, Spence, Hinkle, Pirie and Campos voting “no” on Item 13 of the Draft 2004 Legislative Agenda: State Issues.

#### 9. Consider Revising Timeframe for SCCRTC Meetings

Executive Director Wilshusen reviewed the staff recommendations.

Commissioner Beautz said she agreed with the basic time frame but said that meetings should not be ended at a specific time if members of the public had not been given an opportunity to speak after waiting all morning to do so.

Commission Alternate Schiffirin moved to accept the staff recommendation to:

1. Consider the options for addressing the time needed for the two monthly meetings of the SCCRTC, the regular meeting on the first Thursday of the month and the Transportation Policy Workshop meeting on the third Thursday of the month;
2. Confirm the meeting timeframe for Transportation Policy Workshop meetings as 9:00 am to 12:00;
3. Extend the meeting timeframe for regular RTC meetings to be from 9:00am to 12:30 pm;
4. Request that individual Commissioners set aside these timeframes in their schedules; and
5. Approve expenditure of funds to provide refreshments for Commissioners at TPW and regular RTC meetings.

Commissioner Pirie seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

#### 10. Conference with Real Property Negotiator for Acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

- Property: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line from Watsonville Junction to Davenport
- Agency Negotiator: Kirk Trost, Miller, Owen & Trost

- Negotiation Parties: SCCRTC, Union Pacific
- Under Negotiation: All terms

**OPEN SESSION**

11. Next Meetings / Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

The next regular RTC meeting will be held Thursday, March 4, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

A public hearing on the completion of the Recreational Rail Environmental Impact Report and Proposition 116 Funding will be held by the RTC on Thursday, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop will be held Thursday, March 18, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Office, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gini Pineda, Staff

**ATTENDEES**

Bill Comfort

Les White

Bob Yount

Kirk Trost

Peter Scott

Celia Scott

Neil McElwee

Julianna Rousseau

Heather Boerner

Dick Wilson

SCMTD

MASTF/E&D TAC

Miller, Owen & Trost

CFST

League of Women Voters

Sentinel

City of Santa Cruz