

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION  
AND  
SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

**MINUTES**

**Thursday,  
March 4, 2004  
9:00 a.m.**

**Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz CA 95060**

1. Roll Call

Members Present:      Jan Beautz                      Dennis Norton  
                                 Richard De La Paz      Ellen Pirie  
                                 Mike Keogh                      Emily Reilly  
                                 Scott Kennedy                  Pat Spence  
                                 Cliff Barrett (Alt)      Donna Ziel (Alt)  
                                 Mardi Wormhoudt  
                                 Edenilson Quintanilla (Alt)  
                                 Rich Krumholz (Alt) (ex officio)

Staff Present              Linda Wilshusen                  Pat Dellin  
                                 Kim Shultz                      Sean Co  
                                 Karena Pushnik                  Rachel Moriconi  
                                 Gini Pineda                      Luis Mendez  
                                 Tegan Speiser                      Daniel Nikuna

2. Oral Communications

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Commissioner Spence asked to pull Item 8 from the Consent Agenda. Chair Beautz designated it as Item 29.1

**CONSENT AGENDA (Norton/Reilly)**

Commissioner Beautz asked that copies of staff comment letters and draft environmental documents and plans prepared by other agencies as summarized in Item 19 be included in future packets. Staff responded that they had been included in prior packets.

Commissioner Beautz noted an error in the title of Item 23-a, which should have read "Light-Rail Woes Grow".

Commissioner Spence asked that her comment made during the discussion of Item 29 on the February 5, 2004 meeting be

added to the minutes. Ms. Spence said she hoped that Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funds could be used to help the transit district complete its CNG fueling station.

Commissioner Spence asked that the minutes of the February 5<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing reflect several comments she made after public testimony had been taken. Ms. Spence said that she had concerns about the staff recommendations for setting up the task force. She said that staff had indicated that the United Way had already agreed to provide facilitation services and she was concerned that the United Way was not a neutral party and has many clients with prospective stakeholder members, social service providers and potential stakeholder representatives. She said she thought any facilitator should be entirely neutral. Commissioner Spence also said, regarding the next steps recommended in the staff report, that all service providers, social service agencies and potential stakeholders have a framework of definitions to enable meaningful dialogue and requested that staff research the definitions and criteria for the terms "senior" and "disability" and include them in relevant Commission packets and stakeholder task force meetings. She requested the demographics of the 2000 census showing aging trends in Santa Cruz County and the scope of paratransit impacts and level of need based on growth projections, how paratransit services are provided in peer counties and the state and federal statutes showing legal mandates of service providers and social service agencies to provide paratransit services and if possible to have these statutes included in copies of state statutes and also penalties if services are not provided. Ms. Spence said she wanted to know if funding sources are optimized from the various sources noting that the transit district cannot be stretched any further financially.

Commissioner Spence said she had not said that she wanted to personally meet with paratransit stakeholders as stated on page 5-6 of the minutes of the February 5<sup>th</sup> Public Hearing and asked that the sentence be removed. She said she had said she didn't think that only staff should meet with the stakeholders, and that paratransit users and ParaCruz management and staff should also be included. In addition, she thought that one-on-one meetings with stakeholders served the public interest since it was exclusionary.

Ms. Spence noted that Commission Alternate Schiffrin's name had been left out as the maker of the motion on Item 8 of the February 18<sup>th</sup> Transportation Policy Workshop meeting.

4. Approved Minutes of February 5, 2004 Regular SCCRTC Meeting, as amended.

5. Approved Minutes of February 5, 2004 Evening SCCRTC Meeting as amended. Commission Alternate Quintanilla abstained.
6. Approved Minutes of February 18, 2004 Transportation Policy Workshop Meeting, as amended.

## POLICY

No consent items

## PROJECTS and PLANNING

7. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Amendment to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to Include the Ways to Work Project Selected by Congress for Job Access and Reverse Commute Grant Funding (Resolution 26-04)

## COMMISSION BUDGET and EXPENDITURES

8. Approve Budget and Administration / Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Amendment to the FY 03-04 Budget and Work Program - Moved to the Regular Agenda as Item 29.1
9. Accepted Semi-Annual Financial Statements (enclosed separately for Commissioners)

## ADMINISTRATION

10. Accepted Status Report on Transportation Development Act Revenues
11. Accepted Meeting Schedules for SCCRTC Committees and Invitation to Commissioners to Participate

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

12. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee Meeting of February 2, 2004
13. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee Meeting of February 19, 2004
14. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Budget and Administration / Personnel Committee Meeting of February 18, 2004

15. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting of February 10, 2004
16. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Bike Committee Meeting of February 9, 2004
17. Accepted Draft Minutes of Traffic Operation Systems Committee Meeting of February 4, 2004

## INFORMATION/OTHER

18. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
19. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies
20. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies on Policy Issues - No Letters
21. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
  - a. Letters from the United Transportation Union, Local 23, to the SCMTD and the Commission Regarding Union Participation in the Paratransit Task Force
22. Accepted Handouts from Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meeting
23. Accepted Information Items
  - a. Article from the *San Jose Mercury News* Entitled "Light Rail Woes Gene Grow" -
  - b. Response to Bill Comfort's Questions Posed at the December 2003 Santa Cruz Business Council General Meeting
  - c. Article from *SFGate.com* Entitled "High-Speed Railroad to L.A. Crawls Ahead / Schwarzenegger Wants to Put Off Ballot Measure"

**REGULAR AGENDA**

24. Commissioner Reports - None
25. Director's Report

Executive Director Linda Wilshusen welcomed Commission Alternate Donna Ziel to the meeting and congratulated

Commissioners Pirie and Beautz for their recent re-elections to the Board of Supervisors. She mentioned the upcoming Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Expenditure Plan Subcommittee meetings and noted that there would be a closed session teleconference today after the regular meeting adjourned.

26. Caltrans Report

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, announced that right-of-way funding for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project was anticipated in the near future because money had been freed up for right-of-way activities in another part of the state. This funding should keep the project on schedule to begin construction in the summer of 2005 if the construction funding is made available in the State Transportation Improvement Program.

Commissioner Reilly asked if Caltrans was still expecting to install flashing lights on Mission Street in March and requested that Public Works be notified when the work was scheduled in order to advise residents.

Commissioner Pirie said she was still concerned that the merge lanes design would create a bottleneck and asked about the status of Caltrans' proposed auxiliary lane to the Soquel Drive interchange.

Mr. Krumholz said a southbound auxiliary lane was viable but did not see funding in the foreseeable future. He said the merge lanes project was a good first step and was designed to full standards.

Mr. Krumholz said that Tony Harris had been appointed as Acting Director for Caltrans. He apologized for a scheduling conflict resulting from a meeting in Boulder Creek regarding the Highway 9/236 interchange set for the same time as the public hearing tonight regarding the recreational rail.

27. SCCRTC Committee Appointments

Chair Beautz said that Commissioner Keogh had requested to be added to the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and that otherwise she proposes that membership on the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee and the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee would remain the same.

Commissioner Pirie moved to ratify the appointments and Commissioner Kennedy seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

28. Status Report on Highway 1 Projects

Executive Director Linda Wilshusen said that public meetings to define the scope of the environmental analysis for the Highway 1 HOV Widening Project were set for April 26<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup>.

Ms. Wilshusen said that the Highway Construction Authority (HCA) was scheduled to hold its second meeting on March 5<sup>th</sup> and that the SCCRTC staff was working with the County on a transition plan. The SCCRTC will continue to provide project management oversight for the PA/ED activities until the HCA is ready to accept project responsibilities.

Director Wilshusen reported that the that the results of a poll regarding the proposed Expenditure Plan conducted by the Business Council generally confirmed the results of an earlier poll conducted by the SCCRTC's consultant, Gene Bregman, with strong support numbers in the mid 60's. The Business Council recommended incorporating a broader range of stakeholders, including people opposed to the widening project, to develop the Expenditure Plan.

29. FY 04-05 SCCRTC Budget and Work Program

Commissioner Beautz suggested discussing Item 29.1 prior to discussing Item 29.

29.1 Approve Budget and Administration / Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Amendment to the FY 03-04 Budget and Work Program - Formerly Item 8

Deputy Director Pat Dellin gave the staff report saying that because arranging staff support for the Highway Construction Authority Joint Powers Authority (HCA/JPA) was going to take more time than was anticipated when the FY03-04 budget was originally adopted, the RTC Budget and Work Program needed to be amended to reflect the RTC's continued oversight of the PA/ED through the end of the fiscal year. Ms. Dellin said that the budget amendment included updated fiscal costs for RTC staff, publicity, a mass mailing for public information meetings and pass-through costs to the County while its staff performs administrative duties as the host agency. Ms. Dellin verbally amended the amount budgeted for county staff from \$15,000 to \$18,000.

Ms. Dellin clarified, in response to questions from Commissioner Reilly, that funding designated for the PA/ED could not be spent on organizational work or staffing expenses for the JPA and that these funds needed to come

from either the sales tax measure or contributions from the member agencies. Ms. Dellin said that the member agencies knew the administrative costs were estimates and any increase in costs would be consistent with the percentage of contribution as previously agreed.

Commissioner Spence questioned whether the \$200,000 budgeted for ADA and digital upgrades of the call box system served a real purpose because there was no footprint indicated to make the call boxes more accessible to handicapped drivers. Director Wilshusen said that there would be a more extensive discussion of the call boxes in Item 30 and noted that many of the access requirements concern people who are deaf. She said that physical accessibility issues are the subject of a statewide call box committee discussion.

Commissioner Spence asked how much money was being added to the budget. Director Wilshusen said that the amended budget moved money around rather than added money to the budget, by putting the PA/ED reserves into the budget.

Commissioner Keogh referred to the proposed Task Force on Paratransit Coordination which needed to be included in the Work Program and asked if the transit district was included in the list of stakeholders. Director Wilshusen assured him it would be.

Commissioners decided to reserve making a motion until after discussing Item 29.

29. FY 04-05 SCCRTC Budget and Work Program

Deputy Director Pat Dellin reviewed the FY 04-05 SCCRTC Budget and Work Program recommended by the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee, saying that the continued funding crisis has made it necessary to trade funds, make cost cuts and juggle projects competing for funds. She said that transportation funds had already been taken by the state and some State Transportation Improvement Program money was not available.

Ms. Dellin said that in prior fiscal years the Commission had a surplus in the Commission's Reserve account to backfill reductions in funding but that the Commission Reserves were practically depleted. In addition, costs for necessary operational items have increased.

Ms. Dellin highlighted cost reductions in both the elimination of one-time costs such as the installation of the Local Area Network (LAN) and the performance audit, and in discretionary reductions including reducing on-going

costs for services and supplies and retaining one unfilled staff position, noting that this reduction would impact the work program. She said that even though the work program is affected, staff should be able to deliver high priority and state-mandated programs.

Deputy Director Dellin identified areas in several programs where staff time could be reduced and programs that could trade Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) or other funding for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds to keep going.

Ms. Dellin concluded that even with the reductions and funding source juggling, an increase of \$210,000 in Transportation Development Act (TDA) money would be needed. She said all TDA claimants will get the same amount of funding next fiscal year as they did this year.

Ms. Dellin said that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee is concerned about the lack of funding and is looking at other sources to enhance operating revenues for future fiscal years and decrease the need for TDA revenues.

Commissioners discussed staff recommendations regarding cost reductions.

Commissioner Keogh said that the transit district is facing a deficit and noted that there is no increase in TDA funding planned for either the transit district or Community Bridges. He asked that the Commission reevaluate how the \$200,000 in Transportation Development Act revenues is allocated.

Commissioner Spence concurred noting that when fixed route service is cancelled paratransit service along those routes is also cancelled. She said that the transit district should receive 85% of the TDA revenues instead of receiving the same amount as in last year's budget.

Commissioner Kennedy said that Commissioners need to be more specific with their suggestions about where to cut the RTC budget before saying that the transit district should receive more funding.

Commissioners discussed how the work program will be affected after the Widening Project is handed off to the Highway Construction Authority (HCA). Director Dellin said that the Commission will continue to have a role in the project even after the HCA takes over and that the RTC will still be working with Caltrans on the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project. She noted that many RTC projects had been

put aside to work on the Highway 1 Widening Project, that the Regional Transportation Plan needs to be updated and that the increase in paratransit coordination could take a lot of staff time.

Ms. Dellin said that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee still had TDA issues to discuss but that it was important to adopt a budget today in order to be included into AMBAG's work program. She noted that the budget could be amended in the future.

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, said he did not recommend cutting staff time in the area of land use and transportation coordination and said that even with its own significant budget cuts, Caltrans puts money into this area because as development continues, developers need to pay their pro-rata share of impact on transportation.

Public comment was heard.

**Kem Akol**, Bike Committee Chair, asked how staff time reduction for bike programs affected these programs stating that bike programs can be measured in results, including filling potholes and compliance with state and federal mandates.

**Piet Canin**, Bike to Work, said that having a bike staff person allows experts in the field to help local jurisdictions with decisions and in getting good value for their money. He used the bike lanes in Capitola and crossing lanes on Empire Grade as examples of this cooperative effort.

Commissioner Kennedy moved to adopt the budget as presented. Commissioner Reilly seconded.

In lieu of Commissioner Reilly's friendly amendment to notice the next Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee meeting as a full Commission meeting, noting that if a quorum of Commissioners were not present the Committee could not proceed, Commissioners agreed with Director Wilshusen's suggestion to let the Committee work on the TDA issue and bring any additional recommendations to the Commission.

Commissioner Kennedy confirmed that the motion included Item 29.1.

The motion (Resolutions 27-04 and 28-04) passed unanimously.

30. Accept SAFE Call Box and Freeway Service Patrol Operational and Financial Review and Approve Budget and Administration / Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Call Box Answering Services

Senior Planner Luis Mendez reviewed the call box program noting that some call box ADA accessibility improvements for mobility and hearing impaired individuals have become viable recently. He said that analog service will be eliminated in 2007 and that call boxes will be upgraded to digital service at an estimated cost of \$300,000 to \$350,000. Mr. Mendez said that staff will present recommendations for these improvements to the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee as work priorities permit.

Mr. Mendez said that call box programs can now use private answering services and that doing so will result in a cost reduction of 28% in the first year and 44% thereafter.

Mr. Mendez said that the Commission may want to consider a reduction in Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) service hours because State Transportation Improvement Program funds programmed to the FSP are not currently available due to the State's budget crisis. He said the FY 03-04 budget will cover the shortfall with SAFE funds but cannot continue to do so indefinitely.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved to approve the Budget and Administration Personnel Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission/Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE):

1. Review the operational and financial report on the SAFE call box, the Freeway Service Patrol, the Traffic Operations System (TOS), and Safe on 17 programs, and
2. Approve privatizing call box call answering services through the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's private call answering contract.

Commission Alternate Quintanilla seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned into closed session.

#### CLOSED SESSION

31. 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**

32. Next Meetings/Adjournment

A Public Hearing on the Recreational Rail Environmental Impact Report and Proposition 116 Funding for Acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Line is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

The next regular SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectfully submitted,

---

Gini Pineda, Staff

**ATTENDEES**

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
John Presleigh	County DPW
Neil McElwee	
Bob Yount	MASTF
Charles Sanchez	Caltrans
Les White	SC Metro
David Bianchi	Family Services Agency
Ken Kannegaard	RMC Pacific
Al Cornibe	RMC Pacific
Dena LoiJos	HSA
Celia Barry	HSA
Jeff North	UTU