

Expenditure Plan Subcommittee
DRAFT MINUTES

Monday – March 26, 2004 – 2:00 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Members Present: Commissioners Beautz, Kennedy, Edenilson Quintanilla (Alternate for Campos), and Pirie

SCCRTC Staff Present: Pat Dellin, Karena Pushnik, Kim Shultz, Linda Wilshusen

Others Present (representing): Heather Boerner (Santa Cruz Sentinel), Piet Canin (Bike to Work/Santa Cruz Area TMA), Bill Comfort (self), Jim Conklin (Business Council), Libby Huyck (self), Virginia Johnson (Ecology Action/Santa Cruz Area TMA), Jeffrey Ringold (HUB for Sustainable Transportation)

Commissioner Beautz called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

1. Introductions: Introductions were made.

2. Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda:

Linda Wilshusen noted that, per committee request, notebooks will be available at the Expenditure Plan meetings with the ballot measure time line/work plan, financial plan fact sheet, draft expenditure plan/ordinance language, past poll results (SCCRTC and Business Council) and community leader/group interview results. Other items will be added as requested.

CONSENT AGENDA (Pirie/Quintanilla)

3. Approved Minutes of the March 1, 2004 Meeting

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Continue Discussion of Private Sector Poll Results

Jim Conklin reviewed the activities that have transpired since the poll. Included was a meeting held earlier in the week (3/23/04) hosted by Jan Beautz, Ellen Pirie and attended by representatives from the County Sheriff, transit and Ecology Action. Mr. Conklin noted that the consultants warned the Business Council that organized opposition would make the ballot measure difficult to pass. The Business Council, therefore, is focusing on the opposition side of the equation, evaluating the composition and strength of the opposition, as well as potential compromise positions.

Mr. Conklin noted that the Business Council likes the idea of 4-5 key projects. Their next poll would probably include:

- Highway 1
- Local Streets/Roads
- Pajaro Valley Rail Station
- Coastal Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail along the rail line

Linda Wilshusen asked how focusing on 4-5 projects addresses the opposition. Mr. Conklin responded that they feel that the majority of the opposition is in or is based in the City of Santa Cruz, even though he was not sure that that was evidenced by the polls.

Scott Kennedy noted that the top three projects that could garner support are:

- Highway 1
- Acquisition of the rail corridor and the pedestrian/bicycle trail
- Transportation infrastructure within each local jurisdiction with the funds allocated per current population, adjusted over time

Questions arose about whether voters in the City of Santa Cruz support Highway 1.

Action: Staff will review the cross tabs for the City of Santa Cruz to determine support for Highway 1.

Questions also arose about whether Highway 17 projects were important and would sway voters. Support for the CHP enforcement programs on Highway 17 was emphasized. The cost of this program for 30 years equals \$3 million.

Action: Staff will review cross tabs for the City of Scotts Valley and San Lorenzo Valley (5th Supervisorial District) to determine support for Highway 17 projects.

Gini Johnson noted that Ecology Action supports the following projects:

- Coastal bicycle/pedestrian trail (within the rail corridor acquired with Proposition 116 funds)
- Local streets and roads including bicycle and pedestrian improvements per local jurisdiction priority
- Promotion of alternative transportation modes including education and incentives
- Promotion of the High Occupancy Vehicle/Express Bus opportunities of the new alternative transportation Highway 1 lane
- Pajaro Valley Train Station

Jan Beautz asked why there is such support for the Coastal Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail even though the poll shows a medium level of support.

Piet Canin noted that the project is very important to the bicycle community, who wants the trail to span the length of the rail corridor. He feels that the RTC has weakened support of bicycling lately with the reduction in staffing of the bicycle coordinator position and comments at recent meetings about the value of alternative transportation modes. Although he does not represent the entire bicycle and environmental community, he feels that the Coastal Bicycle/Pedestrian trail is a necessary component in the Expenditure Plan and would not be supported without it.

Linda Wilshusen summarized the discussion by reviewing the following Expenditure Plan scenario:

- Highway 1 Widening/HOV \$340m
 - Hwy 1 Express Bus and Park/Ride Lots \$10m
- Local Street/Road/Bicycle/Ped Improvements \$106m
- Coastal Bike/Pedestrian Trail adjacent to rail line \$25m
- Senior & Disabled Transportation Services \$14m
- Watsonville-Pajaro Junction Rail Station \$6m
- Highway 17 CHP Safety Enforcement \$3m

- Carpool Programs \$3m
- Contingency/Reserve \$17m
- Administration \$6m

The committee agreed to review the proposal and send in alternate proposals (due 3/29/04) to be considered at the April 5 Expenditure Plan Subcommittee with the goal of forwarding a proposed plan to the RTC at the April 15th TPW Meeting as well as selecting two for testing in the next poll. The draft Expenditure Plan(s) will be released to the public following the April 15 Transportation Policy Workshop.

Scott Kennedy questioned whether the transportation ballot measure had any chance of success on a presidential election, stating that they normally bring out the progressives in the City of Santa Cruz. Ellen Pirie expressed interest in having the election even if the Business Council decides not to develop a campaign. Jan Beautz expressed concern with a measure without a campaign, noting that it is hard to predict public sentiment and that the RTC should be willing to reassess the issue as the date draws near.

Linda Wilshusen requested a deadline from the Business Council for a decision about the campaign. Jim Conklin said that by the end of April, beginning of May the Business Council will make a decision based on the results of a second poll.

Pat Dellin noted that the next steps include taking the Draft Expenditure Plan to the full SCCRTC at the April 15 Transportation Policy Workshop and the May 6 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.

5. Continue Discussion on Coalition Building/Expenditure Plan Development Process

Chair Beautz noted that this item was already covered in the preceding item.

6. Adjournment/Next Meeting: Commissioner Beautz adjourned the meeting at 3:40 pm.

The next meeting of the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. April 5, 2004 in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectively Submitted _____
 Karena Pushnik, Staff

**Expenditure Plan Subcommittee
MINUTES**

Monday – April 5, 2004 – 9:00 a.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Members Present: Commissioners Beautz, Kennedy, Edenilson Quintanilla (Alternate for Campos), and Pirie

SCCRTC Staff Present: Rachel Moriconi, Karena Pushnik, Kim Shultz

Others Present (representing): Bill Comfort (self), Don Hoernschemeyer (CFST), Gine Johnson (Ecology Action/Santa Cruz Area TMA), Janet and Michael Singer (self), Les White (SCMTD)

Commissioner Beautz called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

1. **Introductions:** Introductions were made.
2. **Additions/Deletions/Changes to the Agenda:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA (Pirie/Quintanilla)

3. **Approved Minutes of the March 26, 2004 Meeting**
4. **Received Information Items:**
 - a. March 22, 2004 Article from *Marin Independent Journal* – “Voters Could Find November Ballot Taxing”
 - b. March 29 2004 Article from *Sacramento Bee* – “Big Split on Transit, Road Tax”
 - c. March 18, 2004 Article from *NapaNews.com* – “Transportation Group Lists Top Projects.”

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Recommended Program of Projects for the Expenditure Plan

Rachel Moriconi provided an overview of the attachments included in the staff report, noting that staff developed a “Synthesis Scenario” project list for the Expenditure Plan based on input received from Subcommittee members and others that attended the March 26, 2004 Subcommittee meeting. She also referenced a memorandum from Commission consultant Eileen Goodwin which indicates that most Expenditure Plans in other regions include more than a dozen categories/projects. Karena Pushnik noted that the Subcommittee could develop two different project lists to test in the next poll.

Staff reminded the committee that because the ballot can only include a limited number of words, project descriptions will be minimal and not include costs, but that the Expenditure

Plan, which will be included in the *Voter Information Pamphlet*, can include details on each category/project.

The following was discussed regarding the projects/categories:

Highway 1 Widening/Carpool Lanes

Bill Comfort stated his belief that an additional contingency amount is needed for the Highway 1 Widening/Carpool project in order to issue bonds for the project. Staff noted that the project cost for the Highway 1 project already includes a contingency amount, but agreed to double check with Pat Busch to ensure sufficient contingency amounts are shown to address bonding requirements.

The subcommittee questioned why the amount for Highway 1 had dropped by \$10 million in the latest project list. Staff stated that they believed it was because the latest estimates for the southern extension were lower, but agreed to confirm this information.

Hwy 1 Express Buses, Park and Ride Lots and Carpool/Alternative Transportation Programs

The Subcommittee decided to list these projects/programs under the Highway 1 Widening Project – showing Park and Ride lots with Carpool/Alternative Transportation Programs (rather than with Express Buses). Les White indicated that three to four buses would be needed to run express bus service on Highway 1 during commute hours. The Subcommittee decided to recommend \$5 million for Highway 1 Express Buses to fund bus purchases, replacements, and some operation/service costs and \$8 million for Park/Ride Lots and Carpool/Alternative Transportation Programs. As an aside, Commissioner Pirie suggested staff research using the Green Valley Cinema parking lot as a park and ride lot.

Local City and County Transportation Improvements

Janet Singer questioned if voters prefer to know specific roads and projects that could be funded. The Subcommittee noted that it would be difficult to predict all of the improvements that could be done over the next 30 years and also noted that voters may not be familiar with roadways in other jurisdictions. Commissioner Beautz recommended the text of the Expenditure Plan be modified to show that projects will be selected by local jurisdictions during a public hearing process.

Coastal Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail Next to Rail Line

Commissioner Beautz questioned why the amount for this project has gone up \$5 million since the last list. Commissioner Kennedy responded that it may be important to increase the amount to more closely match the full project cost in order to appease the bicycle community. Commissioner Beautz noted that the Commission could fund the balance of the project with other funds distributed by the Commission. Gine Johnson noted that local cities and the County may decide to use part of their local share of the Expenditure Plan funds to fund portions of the trail.

Bicycle/Pedestrian Components of the Highway 1 Widening/Carpool Lane Project

Gine Johnson and Bill Comfort advocated for showing the costs for the three new bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings and for bicycle lanes and sidewalks on existing overcrossings separately from the overall Highway 1 Widening/Carpool Lane Project. The Caltrans Project Study Report (PSR) estimated the cost of each of the new overcrossings at \$2.4 million. Bill Comfort had estimated the cost for bike lanes and sidewalks on joint automobile/bike/pedestrian overcrossings. Kim Shultz agreed to ask Nolte what cost to show in the Expenditure Plan for other bicycle/pedestrian facilities on the overcrossings.

Janet Singer suggested the cost of ramp meters, auxiliary lanes, and other elements of the Highway 1 project also be shown separately. Due to uncertainties related to the cost, location, and feasibility of these elements, staff recommended the Expenditure Plan text not show estimated costs for each, but still list the elements.

Highway 17 Safety Improvements and CHP Enforcement

The Subcommittee decided to rename this category as “Highway 17 Safety Programs,” but to list CHP Enforcement and other Highway 17 safety improvements within the Expenditure Plan text.

Watsonville- Pajaro Junction Rail Station

Commissioner Beautz questioned what is happening with extension of train service to Pajaro given the suspension of the Transportation Congestion Relief Program. The subcommittee discussed shifting funds to the Rail-Trail if the station is not built. Commissioner Quintanilla noted that the project polled extremely well among south county voters. Staff noted that the rail service is part of the proposed Monterey County sales tax measure Expenditure Plan. *(TAMC staff has since indicated that they are continuing to move forward and seek other funding sources and believes that this is an excellent candidate for federal new starts funding. TAMC is also using some money from Proposition 116 to fund the project.)*

Administration

In response to a question from Bill Comfort, Commissioner Beautz requested that staff explain why \$200,000 is needed for administration. Staff noted that a large portion of the cost covers annual audits and that 1% for administration is typical for implementation of sales tax measures.

Commissioner Beautz expressed reluctance to soliciting input from the Commission’s committees on the Expenditure Plan and instead recommended bringing a select group of community members together to review the proposal. Staff recommended the Commission solicit input from as many groups as possible as a means to begin informing the community about the need for the sales tax measure. Commissioner Pirie stated that she intends to share the draft Plan with groups she works with, including Chambers of Commerce.

10:40 a.m. Commissioner Kennedy had to leave the meeting.

Following discussion of each of the categories/projects the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee reconfirmed its support for including all of the listed projects/programs in the Expenditure Plan and **unanimously recommended (Pirie/Quintanilla) the Regional Transportation Commission release for public comment the following Program of Projects:**

Proposed Program of Projects:	\$M
Highway 1 Widening/Carpool Lanes Santa Cruz to Aptos	333
- 3 New Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossings	7
- Highway 1 Express Buses	5
- Park/Ride Lots and Carpool/Alternative Transportation Programs	8
Local City & County Transp. Improvements -Street/Road/Bicycle/Ped/Transit	108
Coastal Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail next to rail line	21
Senior & Disabled Transportation Services	15
Highway 17 Safety Programs (CHP Enforcement & Hwy 17 improvements)	5
Watsonville-Pajaro Junction Rail Station	5
Contingency/Reserve	17
Administration	6
TOTAL	530

7. Adjournment/Next Meeting: Commissioner Beautz adjourned the meeting at 10:47 a.m.

The next meeting of the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. May 3, 2004 in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectively Submitted _____
Rachel Moriconi, Staff