

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

MINUTES

**Thursday,
August 5, 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
	Tony Campos	Ellen Pirie
	Richard De La Paz	Emily Reilly
	Randy Johnson	Pat Spence
	Mike Keogh	Mark Stone
	Mardi Wormhoudt	Rich Krumholz (Alt.)

Members Absent: Scott Kennedy

Staff Present	Linda Wilshusen	Pat Dellin
	Kim Shultz	Grace Blakeslee
	Gini Pineda	Luis Mendez

2. Oral Communications

Sue Renner said that the public comments for the draft EIR were not included in the Regional Transportation Commission meeting packet. She said that people wrote to Commissioners in lieu of speaking at the public hearing and that she wants the comments forwarded to the Commission. Ms. Renner also said that the public needs to know about the business plan for the recreational rail and asked what the current time frame was for release of the plan.

Commissioner Beautz said she will get it to the public as soon as the information is available.

Dave Eselius said he wanted a public engineering study on the configuration of Highway 1 to see if an HOV lane will be beneficial to people who drive cars since he thinks it will be underutilized. He also suggested including a fourth lane in the design and environmental review at this time in order to save money later when a fourth lane will most likely be needed.

Ken Kannegaard said that RMC Pacific Materials would like to be included in the Closed Session negotiations regarding the rail right-of-way acquisition. He said he can provide accurate information about freight handling, time and costs.

Bonnie Morr said she hoped the recreational rail operators will be union operators.

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Deputy Director Pat Dellin referred to an add-on item for Item 15 and asked to move Item 19 from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda.

Commissioner Keogh asked that Item 26 be heard before Item 24. Mr. Keogh also said he had questions regarding Item 17a, saying he was not aware that monies approved in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program were movable.

Commissioner Beautz asked for a written response regarding this funding shift and agreed to take Item 26 out of order before Item 24.

CONSENT AGENDA (Wormhoudt/Pirie)

Commissioner Spence asked that some additional comments be added to page 4-20 of the minutes of the June 17, 2004 Public Hearing.

Ms. Spence asked what the cost for out of state travel to the Transportation Research Board would be. Executive Director Linda Wilshusen said that the registration was \$150 and that travel costs were not yet determined.

Commissioner Spence asked to defer approval of Item 10, the minutes of the Paratransit Coordination Task Force of June 16, 2004, until the Transportation Policy Workshop meeting because the Task Force had not seen and approved the minutes.

Deputy Director Dellin said that all committee minutes are drafts and as such are only accepted by the Commission and not formally approved until the committees approve them.

Commissioners discussed the policy of submitting draft committee minutes to the Commission prior to final approval and decided that all draft minutes should include the word "DRAFT" on the documents themselves.

Commissioner Wormhoudt noted that her motion did not include any changes to Item 7. The motion to approve the Consent Agenda passed unanimously.

4. Approved Minutes of June 17, 2004 SCCRTC Evening Public Hearing

POLICY

No Consent Items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

5. Accepted Final Report on Traffic Signal Battery Backup Project

COMMISSION BUDGET and EXPENDITURES

6. Accepted FY04-05 Budgets and Work Programs from Bike to Work and the Community Traffic Safety Coalition
7. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Out of State Travel Authorization for Presentation at Transportation Research Board Conference

ADMINISTRATION

8. Accepted Fourth Quarter Report on the Commission's FY03-04 Work Program

COMMITTEE MINUTES

9. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Bicycle Committee Meeting of July 12, 2004
10. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Paratransit Coordination Task Force Meeting of June 16, 2004
11. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting of June 8, 2004

INFORMATION/OTHER

12. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
13. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies - None
14. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other

- Agencies on Policy Issues
- a. Response from County Counsel to Marilyn O'Rourke for Request for Records
 - b. Response from Deputy Director to Sylvia Previtali for Request for Records
15. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
 16. Accepted Handouts from Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meeting
 17. Accepted Information Items
 - a. Letter from City of Santa Cruz Regarding Project Funding Modification Request for Soquel/Capitola Intersection Improvements
 - b. Media Release Regarding Community Traffic Safety Coalition's Pedestrian Safety Campaign
 - c. Letter from Governor Schwarzenegger Regarding Energy and Gasoline Conservation and Declaration of Action Response Form
 - d. Article from *Western City Magazine* from the League of California Cities Titled "How to Balance City and Regional Interests When You're Asked to Serve Both"
 - e. Article from *Mercury News* Titled "Low-Key Cars Have a Clean-Air Secret"

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

18. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Privatizing Call Box Answering (Resolution 02-05)

REGULAR AGENDA

19. Accepted 2003 Annual Report on the Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Project

Lt. Jason Butler of the California Highway Patrol reported on Highway 17 safety, saying there had been a greater than 40% reduction in accidents along the corridor due to the efforts of the Safe on 17 Task Force.

Executive Director Wilshusen noted that the minimal investment of \$50,000 per year in SAFE funds saved many lives and thanked both the CHP and Caltrans for their work.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded to approve the staff recommendation that the Regional Transportation Commission/Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) accept the annual report for the Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Project. The motion passed

unanimously.

20. Commissioner Reports - None

21. Director's Report - Oral Report

Deputy Director Pat Dellin said that she will be scheduling the annual individual meetings with Commissioners over the next couple of months.

22. Caltrans Report

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, noted a mistake in the letter from Caltrans Project Manager Luis Duazo that stated that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) would be voting on the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in September. The CTC will vote on the STIP today.

He said that the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project was included in the FY 05-06 STIP and if the money comes in on time, the project will be able to start in August 2005.

Commissioner Johnson arrived.

Commissioner Reilly thanked Caltrans for the crosswalk lights on Mission Street and said the Mission Street widening had been a model project.

Dave Eselius said regarding the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project, he would like alternatives to rubberized asphalt proposed because it is most often used in hot weather states and would probably not be appropriate for Santa Cruz.

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik said the Project Development Team had made a presentation about a year ago showing why rubberized asphalt was not a viable option.

Commissioner Reilly moved to accept the Caltrans report. Commissioner Pirie seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

23. FY 04-05 Transportation Development Act Claim from the City of Santa Cruz

Deputy Director Pat Dellin reviewed the staff report and noted the project list for the claim. Ms. Dellin said that Cheryl Schmitt, City of Santa Cruz Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator, was available for questions.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved to approve the staff recommendation that the Commission adopt the resolution approving the City of Santa Cruz's FY 2003/2004 (\$94,300) and FY 2004/2005 (\$21,000) Transportation Development Act

(TDA) Article 8 project allocation requests totaling \$115,300. Commissioner Pirie seconded.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 03-05) passed unanimously.

24. FY 04-05 Claim for Transportation Development Act and Other Funds from the SCCRTC - Taken out of order after Item 26.

Deputy Director Pat Dellin summarized the staff report noting that the claims were consistent with the previously approved FY04-05 budget.

Commissioner Keogh asked why the amount requested under the Proposition 116 funding source was only \$9.1 million and not the \$10.7 remaining from the original \$11 million awarded to Santa Cruz County.

Executive Director Linda Wilshusen replied and said that a portion of the \$11 million was to be spent on improvements for the rail line such as platforms and that the money requested in the claim would be used for acquisition.

Commissioner Beautz said that the claim was a process to accept money and not an indication that it would all be spent in the exact amounts specified on the claim.

Deputy Director Pat Dellin said that the claim was needed so the Commission could receive the funding and that expenditures over \$2,500 would need to be approved by the Commission.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved to approve the Article 3 claim for Transportation Development Act funds and funds from other sources. Commissioner Reilly seconded and the motion (Resolution 04-05) passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved to approve the Article 8 claim for planning services to accomplish the FY04-05 work program. Commissioner Norton seconded. A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 05-05) passed unanimously.

25. Status Report on Highway 1 Projects

Deputy Director Pat Dellin reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff was recommending that the CTC program the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project for State Transportation Improvement Program FY05-06.

Ms. Dellin said that Commissioner Reilly and RTC staff along with staff from Assemblyman Laird's office, the Metro transit district, Santa Cruz City Schools and local police

had met to discuss pedestrian safety issues at the Morrissey Boulevard Interchange, in light of the closure of Branciforte Elementary school.

Deputy Director Dellin said that the County Board of Supervisors acted to place the Transportation Sales Tax Measure on the November 2004 ballot. She said the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee decided at its August 2nd meeting to disband.

Ms. Dellin said that staff will continue to monitor the progress on SB1793 (McPherson), which it is hoped will allow for a comprehensive approach to design-build and private financing for infrastructure projects statewide.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved to approve the staff recommendation that the Regional Transportation Commission accept the status report on activities related to the Highway 1 Project. Commissioner Campos seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

26. Update on the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Deputy Director Pat Dellin said that nine projects showed differences between California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff recommendations for the STIP and the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), with the most significant difference being the MetroBase project which was not recommended by CTC staff to be reinstated in the 2004 STIP. Ms. Dellin said that the CTC staff decided to maintain over-programming for some counties in order to continue funding projects that were included in the 2002 STIP and under-programming other counties, such as Santa Cruz County. She said that RTC and Metro staff has continued to work with the Commission's legislative representatives in Sacramento. The current strategy was to request part of the \$7.8 million if it is impossible to receive the full amount for the project. She said that if funding is still not available in the STIP, Commission staff will return with alternative plans by December and that one possibility would be to temporarily deprogram some STIP projects and give the money to MetroBase.

Commissioner Keogh said that two AB3090 reimbursements were included in the RTIP proposal and it was his understanding that only one was allowed. He made a motion to hold a public hearing to see which AB3090 reimbursement should be pursued.

Deputy Director Dellin explained that AB3090 for the Rail Line acquisition would have only applied if the funds were

to be used this calendar year and since that is not the case, it has been dropped from consideration.

Executive Director Linda Wilshusen said evidence of a loan by September would have been necessary to qualify for AB3090 reimbursement and since there was none, the project had been moved to FY08 without a request for AB3090 reimbursement.

Commissioner De La Paz arrived.

Deputy Director Dellin said that a public hearing will be needed to amend the RTIP to conform to the approved STIP. She recommended that the public hearing be held in October and that it include plans to fund the MetroBase project which has always been a priority for the Commission.

Commissioner Spence noted that a public hearing on the Environmental Impact Report for the Recreational Rail needed to be scheduled within the same time frame.

Commissioner Beautz asked for a written memo to be included in the Transportation Policy Workshop packet updating changes in the RTIP.

Commissioners discussed the AB3090 replacement project for the City of Santa Cruz and staff said it would bring information on the replacement project to the August Transportation Policy Workshop meeting.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved to approve the staff recommendations and Commissioner Pirie seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION

27. 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

28. Conference with Real Property Negotiator for Lease 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, Sierra Railroad, Santa Cruz Big Trees and Pacific Railway Company and Other Potential Short Line Railroad Operators

Under Negotiation: All terms

OPEN SESSION

After reconvening in open session the SCCRTC released the following statement: "An administrative draft of the business plan for the Santa Cruz Branch Line has been completed and received by the Regional Transportation Commission in closed session. At its next meeting (August 19, 2004 Transportation Policy Workshop) during closed session, the RTC will decide whether to make the document public."

29. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:25 p.m.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 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, September 2, 2004 at 9:00 a.m. at Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz CA 95060.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, staff

ATTENDEES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Charles Sanchez	Caltrans
Don Jordan	CHP
Jason Butler	CHP
Piet Canin	Bike to Work
David Eselius	
Jim Conklin	Business Council
Bonnie Morr	UTU Local 23
Robert Yount	
Bill Comfort	
John Presleigh	County DPW
Cheryl Schmitt	City of Santa Cruz
Donna Stone	
Sue Renner	
Ken Kannegaard	RMC Lonestar
Bob Scott	SCCRTC Technical Advisor