

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

MINUTES

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

**Watsonville City Council Chambers  
215 Union Street  
Watsonville, CA**

1. Roll Call

Members Present:      Jan Beautz              Dennis Norton  
                                 Tony Campos              Ellen Pirie  
                                 Scott Kennedy              Emily Reilly  
                                 Mike Keogh              Pat Spence  
                                 Mark Stone              Andy Schiffrin (Alt.)  
                                 Charles Sanchez (Alt.)

Members Present:      Randy Johnson      Richard De La Paz

Staff Present              Pat Dellin              Linda Wilshusen  
                                 Kim Shultz              Tegan Speiser  
                                 Gini Pineda              Luis Mendez  
                                 Karena Pushnik      Rachel Moriconi  
                                 Daniel Nikuna              Grace Blakeslee  
                                 Cory Caletti              Lyle Broschat

Chair Beautz thanked Commissioner Kennedy for his work on the Commission citing his good ideas and willingness to work collaboratively.

2. Oral Communications

**Dave Wright**, Friends of the Rail Trail (FORT), announced that the Go for Health Coalition had added their endorsement for using Proposition 116 funds to acquire the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and that FORT was planning to file a ballot measure to be included in the November 2006 election that would allow FORT to give direction to the RTC to use Proposition 116 funds to acquire the rail line.

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

An add-on item to the Caltrans report was distributed by Charles Sanchez, Caltrans District 5.

Staff handed out a summary of the results of transportation sales tax measures around the state and a spreadsheet showing the breakdown of votes on Measure J.

**CONSENT AGENDA (Schiffrin/Kennedy)**

4. Approved Minutes of October 7, 2004 Regular SCCRTC Meeting

POLICY

No Consent Items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

5. Accepted Update on Lead Agency for Santa Cruz Branch Line Rail Right-of-Way Acquisition

COMMISSION BUDGET and EXPENDITURES

6. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Extension to Contract with BizFu for Computer Support Services (Resolution 18-05)
7. Accepted Quarterly Report on Transportation Development Act Revenues

ADMINISTRATION

8. Approved Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Amendment to the FY04-05 Budget and Work Program (Resolution 19-05)
9. Approved Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Confirmation of Conflict of Interest Code
10. Approved Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Response to Triennial Performance Audit
11. Accepted First Quarter Report on the Commission's FY04-05 Work Program

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

12. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Budget and Administration / Personnel Committee Meeting of October 22, 2004
13. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Paratransit Coordination Task Force Meeting of October 20, 2004
14. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting of October 12, 2004
15. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Bicycle Committee Meeting of October 18, 2004

## INFORMATION/OTHER

16. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
17. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies - None
18. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies on Policy Issues - None
19. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
20. Accepted Handouts from Staff and Commissioners at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meeting
21. Accepted Information Items
  - a. Letter from the Executive Director to Union Pacific Railroad Company Regarding Response to Letter on Rail Trail Activists' Actions
  - b. Staff Contact List
  - c. Letter from Caltrans Regarding Project Study Report Development for FY04-05
  - d. Letter from AMBAG to Caltrans Regarding FY05-06 FTA and FHWA Partnership Planning Grant Proposals
  - e. Evaluation from City of Santa Cruz of Beach Street Bikeway Demonstration Project
  - f. Information on Conversion of HOV Lanes to High Occupancy Toll (HOT)Lanes in Minnesota
  - g. Letter from Department of Transportation to Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Regarding Delivery of Federal Transportation Obligation Authority

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES

No Consent Items

#### REGULAR AGENDA

22. Commissioner Reports - None

23. Director's Report

Executive Director Linda Wilshusen announced that Governor Schwarzenegger had appointed Will Kempton as the new Director of Caltrans. She said that the release of the final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Recreational Rail Service is tentatively scheduled for January with a public hearing planned for February. She added that she had distributed a brochure for the Lewis and Clark recreational rail service featuring the Budd rail diesel car which she toured during a recent visit to Portland.

24. Caltrans Report

Charles Sanchez, Caltrans District 5, reviewed the written reply to questions posed by Commissioner Reilly at the October 7, 2004 Commission meeting stating why reclaimed water could not be used for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project. Mr. Sanchez listed a number of reasons including the fact that municipal reclaimed water is not available and that collecting storm water runoff could be detrimental to riparian wildlife habitat and natural sediment flow to the creeks.

Mr. Sanchez reported that Caltrans is still working on a solution to improve safety for pedestrians at Morrissey Boulevard and Highway 1.

**Debbie Bulger**, Mission Pedestrians, asked if drawings of the Highway 1/17 project were available to the public and if it was true that the plans for underpasses did not include sidewalks, bike lanes or lighting on the undersides of new bridges.

Executive Director Linda Wilshusen said she thought that underpasses and overpasses that are used by vehicles will have bike and pedestrian improvements but that some underpasses that don't officially have pedestrian access may not.

Commissioner Schiffrin asked that a written report be brought to a future meeting listing all the Hwy 1/17 project underpasses whether used by vehicles or not and the plans for each.

Commissioner Pirie asked that Caltrans bring a report on the possibility of continuing the southbound auxiliary lane to the Soquel Avenue exit.

25. Designation of Nominating Committee for 2005 SCCRTC Chair and Vice-Chair

Commissioner Beautz suggested Commissioners Campos, Keogh and Johnson to serve as the Nominating Committee. The Commissioners agreed by consensus.

26. Transportation Projects in the City of Watsonville - Oral Report by David Koch, Public Works Director, City of Watsonville

David Koch, Public Works Director for the City of Watsonville, provided a presentation showing photographs of recently completed and planned transportation improvement projects in the area, many of them funded by state and federal funds allocated by the RTC. Included were road projects, sidewalk and bicycle route improvements and the new slough pathway system connecting residential areas, schools and retail.

Commissioner Pirie asked if the City was planning to connect the new high school to the pedestrian paths. Mr. Koch responded that the City was looking into it.

Commissioner Reilly asked that a description of the materials used to construct the slough trails be sent to the City of Santa Cruz.

In response to questions from Commission Alternate Schiffrin, Mr. Koch said that the City of Watsonville had not yet coordinated with the Coastal Commission about tying the slough paths in to the proposed rail trail, but would like their support, and that concerns about endangered species were addressed when the City master plan was developed and incorporated into the trail design.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin said that documentation showing how the City of Watsonville resolved problems regarding endangered species might be useful to the City of Santa Cruz with its planning for the Broadway/Brommer project.

Commissioner Spence asked if there was a plan to remove non-native plants. Mr. Koch replied that there were various projects to remove non-native plants and replant with native species and that the City was requiring developers to do so also.

**Micah Posner** said he supports the trail system and that it should connect to the high school and rail lines.

27. Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim from the County of Santa Cruz for Bike Projects

Commission Alternate Schiffirin moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a resolution for the County of Santa Cruz's FY 2004/2005 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 project allocation requests totaling (\$165,094).

A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 20-05) passed with Commissioners Beautz, Campos, Kennedy, Norton, Pirie, Schiffirin and Stone voting "yes".

28. Review of Results of Ballot Measure J: The Local Transportation Improvement Act

Commissioners reviewed their decision at the previous meeting to only poll voters about Measure J if it failed but had gathered at least 57% of the vote.

Commissioner Reilly asked for information on measures that passed in other areas. Deputy Director Pat Dellin said that she was going to attend the Self-Help Counties Coalition meeting and would report on the mix of transportation projects and campaign materials for the measures that were successful, along with the demographics of those counties.

Commissioners debated whether to poll again even though the measure only garnered support from 42.8% of the voters.

**Gine Johnson** supported polling now because she feels there isn't a regional plan that can be funded.

**Paul Elerick**, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, said the people have spoken by defeating the measure and suggested that the campaign that supported the measure pay for any polling on the election results.

**Micah Posner**, People Power, said that widening highways only perpetuates a flawed system and agreed with a comment made by Commissioner Norton that it would be better to poll people on what they wanted from a transportation plan rather than what they did not like about the Expenditure Plan.

**Debbie Bulger** said that talking to people was the best way to find out what they want and that it was important to bring people together to form a consensus. She said she feels there is a lot of concern about how tax money is being spent to promote a particular project and noted that informational materials with a neutral position would not have included promotional aspects like pictures of smiling people in wheel chairs. She concluded that money be would be better spent on projects than on polling.

**Dave Wright** said any poll should include questions about how the Commission has interacted with other partners in the community and how the SCCRTC is making decisions regarding transportation needs for the County.

**Paul Franklin** said a survey would be better than a poll in order to get perceptions from constituents about their evaluation of transportation projects in general and not just their feelings about Measure J.

**Paul Marcellin-Sampson** urged random sampling techniques.

Commissioners continued to discuss whether they would support a poll. Comments included that it would be good to find out what went wrong while the ballot measure was still fresh in the minds of the voters; that it was possible that the measure failed because people didn't want to spend the money and not because they disapproved of the projects; that the widening project was too expensive for a county with such a small tax base and that it might be better to wait to poll on a different plan entirely, such as the rail line acquisition; that a lot of people didn't vote because there were so many projects in the Expenditure Plan; and that polling on projects did not take into account the influence of campaigns in favor of or opposed to the ballot measure.

Commissioner Spence pointed out that transportation funding is confusing and that some people don't understand how the funding comes in. She suggested having flow charts on the website or in the newspaper showing how transportation funding comes and how the process works.

Commissioners agreed that compromise will be necessary to get broad support. Commissioner Beautz said that a sales tax should make sure people from all areas benefit and Commissioner Norton said that asking the same question will get the same answers and that it might be time to find a new direction with a vision for the long term. Commissioner Reilly suggested looking into bus rapid transit.

Commission Alternate Schifffrin asked for an item regarding what to do next about widening Highway 1 to be put on a future agenda. He said it may make sense to look at other alternatives and their costs.

Director Wilshusen said that staff will bring back the information requested regarding the counties where transportation sales tax measures passed and said that what to do now about Hwy 1 could be addressed in the draft 2005 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) which is expected to be released in January or February.

Commissioner Pirie asked to add whether the successful measures were for a ½ cent or a ¼ cent sales tax.

Commissioners agreed to put the item on the January agenda.

Commissioner Campos concluded the discussion by saying that compromise means everything is on the table.

#### 29. Status Report on Highway 1 Projects

Deputy Director Pat Dellin gave the staff report. She said it was important to keep on schedule with the Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project in order to keep costs down. She noted that waiting for AMBAG to complete its traffic model could push back the time to complete the PA/ED.

Ms. Dellin said that the main issue to address at this time is the selection of alternatives for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project and that the scope of work had provided for up to seven alternatives to go through the environmental process. She said that the RTC may want to consider an additional low-cost alternative since the sales tax measure did not pass.

Ms. Dellin said that there will be a presentation from Nolte Associates on alternatives at the November 18, 2004 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting and that it is hoped to have this part of the project wrapped up by January to keep on schedule. The public hearing would occur in January.

Commission Alternate Schifffrin said it would be useful for staff to contact groups concerned about Highway 1 and solicit input on alternatives. He also asked for cost information regarding alternatives to be included in the January discussion. He added that costs for transportation system management options, such as ramp metering lights, lengthening on-ramps and auxiliary lanes, should be broken down to be analyzed on an individual basis.

Commissioner Beautz noted that the Major Transportation Investment Study included a lot of information regarding transportation system management options.

30. Process for Recruitment of Executive Director

Executive Director Linda summarized the recommendations made at the October 22, 2004 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee meeting.

Commissioners discussed exempting the position from the County Civil Service system, noting that if it was not exempt there would be a limited time for an interim position resulting in a shorter period of time for the recruitment process.

Commission Alternate Schiffirin said his only concern was that in the event that the Civil Service approved the exemption and the Interim Director is not appointed to the permanent position, will she be able to go back to her previous position as Deputy Director.

County Administrative Officer Susan Mauriello said that if the Commission wanted to have Deputy Director Dellin serve as Interim Director then the County would not fall behind her and could thus accommodate this concern.

Deputy Director Dellin said would be happy to serve as Interim Director.

Commissioner Spence said that Cabrillo College recently went through a successful recruitment and hired an outside consultant. Ms. Mauriello said the County had a flexible system and that she will be returning to the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee in January with a full range of options.

Commissioner Campos said that the Commission had a unique opportunity to appoint an outstanding person for the Interim Director position and moved to approve the Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Appoint RTC Deputy Director Pat Dellin to serve as Interim Executive Director beginning December 13, 2004;
2. Request that the County Administrative Officer immediately initiate the process to exempt the RTC Executive Director position from the County's civil service system;
3. Request that the County Administrative Officer return to the January 2005 meeting of the Budget & Administration Committee with a recruitment plan;

4. Request County Counsel and the County Administrative Officer to review and report back at this same meeting on options for having a contract or other agreement with the new Executive Director; and
5. Designate the Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee to oversee the recruitment process, with final decisions to be made by the full RTC and with Commissioner Jan Beautz to serve as liaison between the Committee and the County.

Commission Alternate Schiffirin seconded asking the maker to include the addition to request the CAO to take steps to ensure that the Interim Director can return to her position if not selected to permanently fill the position.

Commissioner Campos agreed and the motion passed unanimously.

**Paul Marcellin-Sampson** said he supported removing the position from civil service and having the Commission have direct oversight of the Executive Director position.

31. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, November 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, December 2, 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>
Robert Yount	
Les White	SCMTD
Charles Sanchez	Caltrans
Debbie Bulger	Mission Pedestrians
Thomas Hiltner	SCMTD
Genevieve Bookwalter	Santa Cruz <i>Sentinel</i>
Sandra Coley	Pajaro Valley Transportation
Management Association	
Mike Dalbey	FORT
Paul Franklin	
Micah Posner	People Power
Paul Marcellin-Sampson	Metro Riders Union
Diana Torres-Wong	County Personnel
Susan Mauriello	County Administrative Officer
Ligi Leong	CAO Office
Paul Elerick	CFST
David Wright	FORT
John Presleigh	County Public Works
Edenilson Quintanilla	Board of Supervisors Office