

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

Minutes

Thursday,  
August 4, 2005  
9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA

1. Roll Call

Members Present:      Jan Beautz                      Antonio Rivas  
                                 Dene Bustichi (Alt.) Emily Reilly  
                                 Randy Johnson                      Marcela Tavantzis  
                                 Mike Keogh                              Mardi Wormhoudt  
                                 Dennis Norton                      Donna Ziel (Alt.)  
                                 Edenilson Quintanilla (Alt.)  
                                 Gregg Albright (ex-officio)

Members Absent:      Ellen Pirie

Staff Present:              Pat Dellin                              Luis Mendez  
                                 Rachel Moriconi                      Gini Pineda  
                                 Nathan Luedtke                      Cory Caletti  
                                 Kim Shultz                              Grace Blakeslee  
                                 Tegan Speiser

2. Oral Communications

Bonnie Morr, UTU Local 23, asked for support to maintain labor peace in the contract negotiations with the SCMTD, saying that the drivers do not want to strike and interrupt service.

Les White, SCMTD General Manager, thanked the SCCRTC and staff for working with the California Transportation Commission staff to obtain the AB3090 reimbursement in FY08-09 for the MetroBase project, saying the project is now out to bid. He gave special thanks to Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin and Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi, and added that resolutions of appreciation will be coming.

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin noted the Revised Agenda, additions to Items 22 and 26, the Director's Report and a handout for the PowerPoint presentation to be made by Nolte Associates.

Commissioner Rivas stated his hope that agreement on a labor contract between Santa Cruz Metro and the unions can be reached soon to avoid disruption in service. He added that it is important to provide good health care and other benefits to the drivers.

**CONSENT AGENDA Wormhoudt/Reilly**

4. Approved Minutes of the June 2, 2005 Regular SCCRTC Meeting
5. Approved Minutes of the June 16, 2005 Regular Transportation Policy Workshop Meeting (Commissioners Beautz and Rivas abstained.)

POLICY

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

6. Approved Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Appointments to the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Committee

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

7. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Contract for Traffic Monitoring Services (Resolution 01-06)
8. Accepted Staff Recommendations Regarding Highway 1/Salinas Road Interchange Project

ADMINISTRATION

9. Accepted FY 04-05 Fourth Quarter SCCRTC Work Program Report

COMMITTEE MINUTES

10. Accepted Draft Minutes of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting of July 12, 2005

## INFORMATION/OTHER

11. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
12. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies
  - a. Quarterly Report on Environmental Document Review
13. Accepted Correspondence Log (to be distributed at the meeting)
14. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies on Policy Issues - None
15. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
16. Accepted Handouts from Staff and Commissioners at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meetings
17. Accepted Information Items
  - a. Letter from Board of Supervisors Chair Regarding SCCRTC Autonomy
  - b. Article in San Jose Mercury Regarding the Freeway Service Patrol in the San Francisco Bay Area
  - c. "US Reluctant to Mirror Europe's High Gas Taxes" Article in the San Diego Union-Tribune
  - d. "Assembly Panel OKs Deal on Bay Bridge; LA Mayor Opposes Bill That Would Raise Tolls to \$4 in 2007" Article from the San Francisco Chronicle

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

No consent items

**REGULAR AGENDA**

18. Commissioner Reports - None
19. Director's Report - Oral Report

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin added to SCMTD General Manager Les White's statements, saying that the AB3090 reimbursement had been a team effort and was a coup for the

county. She said it was important that SCMTD Board Chair Keogh and Mr. White had attended the California Transportation Commission (CTC) meetings. Ms. Dellin said that it is part of the Commission's charge to help local jurisdictions obtain funding. Assemblymember Laird and his staff were instrumental in securing the AB3090 reimbursement designation. It was also very helpful to be at the right place at the right time with adoption of the state budget with funds for transportation about two weeks before the CTC meeting.

Ms. Dellin introduced recently hired Transportation Planning Technician Nathan Luedtke to the Commission.

20. Caltrans Report

Gregg Albright, Caltrans District 5, said that the closure of Highway 152 for repairs has been moved back and will not impact the Watsonville Strawberry Festival. The highway will be closed for 40 days. He said that Caltrans is coordinating with local schools on safety measures and that notices were sent to residents affected by road repairs.

Regarding the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project, Mr. Albright said that due to the inclusion of transportation funds in the state budget, Caltrans will be seeking an allocation of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds for this project. However, the timeline is tight. He said that Caltrans has been able to re-negotiate contracts with utilities companies and that PG&E will be able to deliver right-of-way work in time for a September CTC Commission vote. He added that the current obstacle to having the project ready for a CTC vote in September was being able to reshuffle projects within Caltrans that were negotiated when it looked like the Merge Lanes Project would be delayed indefinitely due to lack of funding.

Commissioner Beautz said she found it disturbing that the project is not ready to go now that funding is available. Mr. Albright said that Caltrans made a business decision to redirect staff to projects that were not stalled and that at that time, it was a good decision as there was no way to predict that Proposition 42 funds would be available this fiscal year. He said he is doing everything he can to re-schedule Caltrans projects to meet a September deadline but that the project is currently scheduled to go before the CTC in November.

Commissioner Reilly asked about a letter Commissioners had received from a resident regarding soundwalls. Acting Executive Director Dellin said that Senior Planner Karena Pushnik would follow up.

**Dave Eselius** said he had requested that a corridor study be done to define what the transportation flow is from Scotts Valley to Monterey and to connect the planned individual projects in a way that showed how they managed the traffic flow.

21. Certificate of Appreciation for Departing Commission Alternate Edenilson Quintanilla

Vice-Chair Randy Johnson presented Commission Alternate Edenilson Quintanilla with a Certificate of Appreciation, saying that Mr. Quintanilla brought a strong and consistent voice on issues to the Commission and in representing the community.

Several Commissioners expressed appreciation for Commission Alternate Quintanilla's perspective and his support for specific projects. They said they were glad he was continuing his education and would miss him.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin commended Mr. Quintanilla as a good problem solver and consensus builder.

Commission Alternate Quintanilla said it had been a privilege to serve on the Commission.

22. Update on State Transportation Improvement Program and State Budget

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin gave the staff report noting the increase in anticipated funding from the federal transportation bill and the federal earmarks obtained by Congressman Sam Farr for the auxiliary lanes and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. Ms. Dellin also noted that California would be getting a slightly higher percentage of its gas tax money returned to the state than in the past.

On the state side, Ms. Dellin said that Proposition 42 funds would be available for at least this fiscal year and that there could be more money coming in if the state can

reach agreements with Indian gaming tribes. There are two local roads projects that could get their funding as a result.

John Presleigh, County Public Works, explained that the Graham Hill Road improvements will be ready for funding but that repairs to Amesti Road were being stalled because the County had not yet reached an agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) regarding the alignment for Amesti Road.

Commissioner Rivas suggested that the Commission and County Supervisors send letters of support to Congressman Farr.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin reiterated how important it is that Caltrans ensure that the Highway 1/17 Merge lanes Project is ready for a CTC vote in September since the CTC has started allocating funds. She said that there are other projects that need funding, and if obstacles are not overcome, there may not be enough money for our project.

**Dave Eselius** said the scenic trail is hinged on the purchase of the railroad and that the purchase has not been fully accepted by the community. He asked that the Commission accept as a task to determine how the scenic trail will be built if the rail corridor is not purchased.

23. Update on Highway 1 Projects and Quarterly Progress Report on the Highway 1 Widening/HOV Lane PA/ED - Oral Presentation by Chris Metzger, Nolte & Associates

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said the Commission should consider a public hearing in the fall regarding the auxiliary lanes project which is an independent utility project. She recommended that the Commission approve the concept today and approve the dates next month.

Chris Metzger, Nolte Associates, and Pat Gelb, Parsons, Inc., gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Commission on environmental, engineering, public outreach and schedule developments for the Highway 1 Widening/HOV Lane Project.

Commissioner Rivas asked for maps in color to help identify where bike/pedestrian overpasses are planned.

Commissioner Keogh asked that the right-of-way necessary for each freeway design alternative be indicated. Mr. Keogh noted that the second freeway interchange alternative needed more analysis at Morrissey and Soquel due to backup caused by traffic lights.

Commissioner Beautz moved and Commission Alternate Quintanilla seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Commission:

1. Request that Caltrans and Pacific Gas and Electric finish their work in time for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project to be submitted to the California Transportation Commission for an allocation of STIP funds at its September meeting;
2. Accept a Quarterly Progress Report from the consultant on the Highway 1 Widening/HOV Lane Project, and receive a Status Report on other activities related to the Highway 1 project; and,
3. Direct staff to return in September with a recommended date and location for an evening public information open house/ RTC public hearing on the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lane project.

The motion passed unanimously.

**Dave Eselius** said that he felt that the needs for the highway widening have been assumed but not defined, saying that HOV lanes may not improve the level of service or resolve safety issues, that the bridges may not be wide enough for an eventual eight-lane highway, that the metering lights may not be properly configured and that the Commission does not have authority to make decisions about railroad bridges.

24. Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program Task Force

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin introduced Commissioner Wormhoudt to discuss the results of the subcommittee meetings to look into developing a Comprehensive Transportation Funding Program Task Force.

Commissioner Wormhoudt said she realizes the proposal will be challenging but stimulating. She said the task force will be large and will consider both what the transportation needs are, and what revenue sources are available.

Ms. Wormhoudt reported that Eileen Goodwin, Apex Strategies, explained the rationale for having such a large group to represent the diversity of opinions and ideas regarding transportation solutions and said it was necessary for the county to have wide representation. Commissioner Wormhoudt added that community meetings will be held in every district in both Spanish and English in order to develop draft plans to bring back to the Task Force. She said that the Task Force will develop its own work plan as its first task.

Commissioners discussed the size and composition of the Task Force. Issues raised included whether the unincorporated areas were represented as widely as the cities, if Regional Transportation Commission members should serve on the Task Force, what would happen if a 2/3 consensus could not be reached, flexibility in appointing members and if any of the suggested groups should be removed. It was also suggested that additional membership slots be created for a bus driver, someone from a pedestrian advocacy group, and a person who attends school rather than works for the school districts.

Commissioners made suggestions to add more groups to the list developed by the sub-committee noting that it was better to be inclusive rather than exclusive.

Commissioner Wormhoudt said that it was good to include elected officials because they are accountable to the public.

Commissioner Reilly moved and Commissioner Wormhoudt seconded to approve the recommendations by Commissioners Campos, Norton, Stone, Wormhoudt and the staff that the RTC:

1. Approve the recommendations of the subcommittee as outlined in the attached memo concerning the establishment and functioning of a Transportation Funding Program Task Force;
2. Direct staff to return to the next Commission meeting with a resolution formally establishing the Transportation Funding Program Task Force and to the October Commission meeting with a proposed budget;
3. Direct staff to negotiate an amendment to the contract with Eileen Goodwin consistent with the recommendations

in this letter for consideration at the October Commission meeting;

4. Direct staff to formally invite Fred Keeley to serve as the convener of the Task Force; and
5. Direct staff to contact the various groups and agencies recommended for membership on the Task Force and request that they appoint representatives at their earliest convenience with the intention that the Commission would review the membership roster at its October meeting and that the first Task Force meeting would be held in October 2005.

with the addition that the representatives named including the Highway 1 Highway Construction Authority, Salud Para La Gente, the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, the Latino Lawyers Association, American Medical Response, the Sheriff's Office, the Pleasure Point Business Association, the Rio del Mar Improvement Association, the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, the United Transportation Union, Mission Pedestrians and Santa Cruz Consolidated Emergency Communications Center be added.

Commissioner Norton suggested an amendment that RTC members would not be directly appointed to the Task Force. Commissioner Rivas seconded and the maker and second of the underlying motion accepted it as a friendly amendment.

It was agreed that it would be acceptable if another body appointed an RTC member as its representative.

**Terry Winston** recommended adding the Seacliff Association and the Sumner Improvement Association saying that residents in these areas would not be represented by the Rio del Mar Improvement Association.

Commissioner Beautz recommended adding the Seacliff Association but not the Sumner Improvement Association.

**Paul Elerick**, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, said he did not understand the difference between Eileen Goodwin's role and Fred Keeley's role as convener. He expressed concern that south county is not represented fully and suggested adding the Brown Berets. He said that it seemed like the list is frontloaded to the business community and employers.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said staff will return with a clarification of the differences between Ms. Goodwin's and Mr. Keeley's roles.

**Dave Eselius** said he hopes this group has no authority to make decisions.

**Eric Child** said to add more neighborhood associations and pedestrian advocacy groups.

**Piet Canin** suggested trading Bike to Work for the Santa Cruz Bicycle Industry Coalition.

**Bob Yount** suggested adding 10 at large members.

Eileen Goodwin said that increasing the group size did not concern her and that she has techniques to have people participate. She said her role as the facilitator is to work closely with the chair and would be spending time with staff and that she would arrange for presentations, bring in guest speakers who might have information on technical issues and would provide meeting summaries. In addition she would be able to educate the Task Force on what funding mechanisms are available and realistic.

Commission Alternate Quintanilla suggested finding a venue at a mid-point in the county.

Commissioner Reilly suggested video documentation and Ms. Goodwin agreed and added it might be possible to broadcast the meetings on Community TV.

Fred Keeley said he would be glad to help.

Commissioner Johnson pointed out that since these meetings would be open to the public, people can voice their opinions and ideas by attending the meetings. He also suggested adding a commuter group.

Commissioner Beautz mentioned a carpooling group and Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin suggested that if the motion is approved, staff would return in September with a comprehensive list of what was approved.

Commissioner Tavantzis asked if the maker wanted to make the changes suggested by members of the public and said she supports adding the Seacliff group, the Brown Berets, a

commuter representative and trading bike groups as suggested by Piet Canin. This was accepted as a friendly amendment.

The motion passed unanimously.

#### CLOSED SESSION

25. 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: Price and Terms

#### OPEN SESSION

Open Session reconvened at 1:05pm.

Kirk Trost of Miller, Owen & Trost, reported that in closed session the Commission approved the public release of the supplemental structural assessment on the La Selva Beach Trestle and directed staff to negotiate with Union Pacific for a further analysis of the La Selva Beach Trestle.

Approval of the public release of the supplemental structural assessment report on the La Selva Beach Trestle was on a 6-5 vote, with Commissioners Norton, Ziel, Tavantzis, Quintanilla, and Rivas voting "No". Approval of negotiating with Union Pacific for a further analysis of the La Selva Beach Trestle was unanimous.

26. Acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line - Amendment to Negotiations Contract and Draft Structural Assessment

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin reported that this item includes two written staff reports, the main staff report and a supplemental staff report. The supplemental staff report states that the draft structural assessment report was available. The report, prepared by the engineering consultant firm of Biggs-Cardoza, rates each of the structures and recommends more detailed analysis on six structures.

Commissioner Rivas moved and Commission Alternate

Quintanilla seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve Resolution 02-06 amending the contract with Miller, Owen and Trost for Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line acquisition services to add \$170,000, increase the rate for attorneys with sub-consultant Kirkpatrick and Lockhart, clarify language and make the necessary budget amendments consistent with this action; and
2. Accept status information on other elements of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition Project.

and to approve the staff recommendations in the supplemental staff report that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Review the draft Santa Cruz Branch Line Structural Assessment report prepared by Biggs Cardosa Associates, Inc. and Systra Consulting;
2. Direct staff and consultants to obtain a cost estimate to conduct all of the additional detailed structural analyses recommended in the draft structural assessment report and return to the August Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) meeting with a specific budget, funding plan and timeline to perform the analyses; and
3. Direct staff and consultants to negotiate with Union Pacific any necessary changes to the right of entry agreement to conduct the additional detailed structural analyses of the structures.

Commissioner Keogh asked whether the study would include the cost of the seismic analysis as recommended in the reports.

Acting Deputy Director Luis Mendez confirmed that it would and asked whether the motion included the recommendations on both staff reports. The maker, second and Chair indicated it did.

Commission Alternate Quintanilla said he had researched potential funding sources for the retrofit and suggested researching the American Jobs Creation Act for 2004.

The motion passed unanimously.

27. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:10pm.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2005 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 1, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

<u>Name</u>	<u>Representing</u>
Robert Yount	
David Eselius	
Bill Comfort	
Genevieve Bookwalter	Santa Cruz Sentinel
Piet Canin	SC TMA
Bob Scott	SCCRTC Technical Advisor
Paul Elerick	CFST
Cliff Walters	Big Trees Railroad
John Presleigh	County DPW
Lynn Robinson	
Bonnie Morr	UTU Local 23
Chris Metzger	Nolte Associates
Olga Rodriguez	Nolte Associates
Pat Gelb	Parsons
Leo Moll	
Les White	SCMTD
Don Hill	Santa Cruz County
Fred Keeley	Santa Cruz County Treasurer
Linda Puzzifero	SCATMA
Bill Fieberling	
Peter Hieflin	
Ken Kannegaard	Cemex
Anthony Notaro	BCA