

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

Transportation Policy Workshop

MINUTES

Thursday, November 17, 2005

9:00 am

SCCRTC Conference Room

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Members Present: Jan Beautz Ellen Pirie
 Dene Bustichi (Alt.) Emily Reilly
 Tony Campos Pat Spence
 Randy Johnson Mark Stone
 David Koch (Alt.) Marcela Tavantzis
 Dennis Norton Mardi Wormhoudt

Staff Present: Pat Dellin Luis Mendez
 Grace Blakeslee Cory Caletti
 Daniel Nikuna Gini Pineda
 Karena Pushnik

1. Introductions

Self-introductions were made.

2. Oral Communications - None

SCMTD General Manager Les White announced that December 1st would be designated as Rosa Parks Day by the Santa Cruz Metro and that the first seat on every bus would be left empty in her honor. He invited everyone to a ceremony at the Metro Center at 3:00 pm on Thursday, December 1, 2005 in remembrance of Rosa Parks.

Commissioner Johnson thanked the Commission for its share of the funding for the improvements made at the Scotts Valley Drive/Granite Creek Road intersection, saying it was beautiful and relieved congestion in that area tremendously.

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said there would be no need for the Closed Session. TPW Chair Johnson removed Item 7 from the agenda.

Replacement pages for Items 5 and 6 were noted as well as a letter from a member of the public concerning Item 8.

4. Accept Oral Update on Executive Director Recruitment

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said the recruitment was going well and that CPS Executive Search had solicited input from members of the Bike Committee, the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and Traffic Operations System Oversight Committee this past week. She said the recruitment was proceeding on schedule.

5. Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding Concept and Budget for the Transportation Funding Task Force

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin gave the staff report, saying that the main plan is to have two rounds of community meetings in each of the five supervisorial districts, and providing several ways for members of the public to participate: through workshops, the website, newsletters and Community TV broadcasts. She said the project is intended to be a one-year project but that it will span two fiscal years. Ms. Dellin said that after the initial round of neighborhood meetings, staff would return with a progress report, budget update and a recommendation whether to continue the project. She noted that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee also recommends a status report at the end of this fiscal year and recognition that the RTC could stop the project before its end. She explained funds and expenditures for the project budget and the need for additional staff to manage the Task Force activities.

Commissioners discussed various aspects of the Task Force including the budget breakdowns, the best approach to public participation to achieve the goals of the Task Force, and whether the meetings should be focused on hearing ideas rather than educating the public.

Ms. Dellin said that it will be important to educate the public about what constraints and opportunities there are in terms of how transportation funding can be used. She added that there will be lots of work with the media to get the information to the public and get their input. She said she recommended that the RTC make a commitment to the Task Force project, but clarified that the Commission could decide to disband it whenever they chose.

Commissioner Wormhoudt suggested using the first round of meetings to collect input from the public and educate them on the funding process and then have the Task Force organize the information and match the ideas to possible funding sources in order to develop a plan. She said the second round of meetings could be used to present to the public what was learned from the initial public input, what choices would be feasible, present the plan and take input again from the public.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded to:

1. Approve the proposed reworked two-year, concept, scope of work and draft project budget for the Transportation Funding Task Force project;

2. Include the project budget and work plan in the proposed amendment to the FY 05-06 RTC Budget and Work Program and the Draft FY 06-07 Budget and Work Program with the understanding that the second year of the project will only be funded if the RTC agrees to continue the project after review of a written report received before the end of the FY 04-05 05-06;
3. Approve a resolution to authorize the Executive Director to amend Eileen Goodwin's contract to augment it to a maximum expenditure of \$80,000 each fiscal year, to specify this project in the scope of services, and to extend the term to June 30, 2007, with FY 06-07 funding contingent upon the RTC's approval of funding for the Transportation Funding Task Force for the second fiscal year;
4. As part of approval of the amendment to the FY05-06 budget in the following agenda item, approve a temporary full time staff position to assist with Transportation Funding Task Force; and
5. Direct staff to return to the RTC after the initial round of neighborhood meetings to report on progress, provide a budget update and recommend whether to continue the project and staffing to the second round of workshop meetings; and
6. Require a progress report for the project to be presented to the RTC by June 30, 2006.

Commissioners continued to discuss aspects of the Task Force including the level of expertise expected of the planner, the attitude that the Task Force needs to adopt in order to be open minded and successful with the public and the requirement that the Commission review the project after the initial round of public meetings.

Bill Comfort said that looking for a 2/3 support from Task Force members for potential projects looked like a ploy to initiate another ballot measure.

Commissioner Reilly said she would not be as confident in the success of the Task Force if Eileen Goodwin was not involved and that the proposal follows Ms. Goodwin's recommendations.

The motion (Resolution 08-06) passed with Commissioner Johnson voting "no".

6. Amendment to the FY05/06 Budget and Work Program

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that the County Auditor-Controller had reduced his estimate of Transportation Development Act revenues by \$68,500. Ms. Dellin outlined staff recommendations.

After discussion, Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Stone seconded to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommendations to:

1. Accept the quarterly report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues and the updated estimate of FY05-06 TDA revenues from the County Auditor-Controller which reduces the FY05-06 estimate by \$68,504;
2. Approve allocation of the full Transportation Development Act (TDA) surplus,

- \$62,926, as a special, one-time allocation to SCMTD;
3. Approve a resolution approving the other proposed amendments to the FY05/06 Budget and the Work Program as discussed in the staff report, including the addition of the following projects:
 - a. Transportation Funding Task Force
 - b. Establishing the SCCRTC as an autonomous governmental agency, and
 - c. Implementation of the TDM/Ridesharing Plan during construction of the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project;
 4. Include in the budget and approve the addition of 0.5 FTE (full time equivalent) Transportation Planning Technician and the filling of a 1.0 FTE Transportation Planner position to assist existing staff on the three new projects, with the condition that the RTC can reconsider the staffing additions if funding or project needs change; and
 5. Direct staff to include in the draft of next fiscal year’s budget a full year of the 0.5 FTE Transportation Planning Technician position and, for the Transportation Funding Task Force project, a half year of the 1.0 FTE Transportation Planner position, with reconsideration of extension of those positions to occur prior to their termination.

The motion (Resolution 09-06) was approved unanimously.

Closed Session – Removed from Agenda

7. 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

Deputy Director Luis Mendez called Paul Chrisman, Miller, Owen & Trost, to participate in a conference call while discussing Item 8.

8. Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition – Additional Structures Assessment Analysis

Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee presented the planning maps that had been prepared for the Commission. Ms. Blakeslee explained the map legends and upper and lower panels of each page and emphasized that the maps were for planning purposes only. She said they would be posted on the County’s GIS Map Gallery, with a link on the SCCRTC website, and that CD’s would also be available to the public.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin thanked Grace Blakeslee of the RTC staff and Matt Price of County GIS for preparing the maps. She added that copies of the maps would also be available at local libraries and at the Commission offices.

Ms. Dellin said staff recommended hiring HNTB Corporation for the recommended structural analyses and noted that Biggs Cardoza will conduct a peer review of the HNTB assessments.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez discussed the overall budget, noting that Union Pacific has agreed to pay for ½ of the cost of the La Selva structure analysis and has agreed to make the results of the structural analyses open to the public.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin proposed that the SCCRTC contract directly with HNTB. She added that Miller, Owen & Trost has asked for a rate increase for their hourly rate and staff recommended approval.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Norton seconded to approve the Rail Acquisition Task Force (RATF) and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve amending the right of entry agreement with Union Pacific (UP) to cover the recommended additional structural analyses;
2. Approve hiring HNTB Corporation for production of the recommended additional structural analyses and Biggs-Cardoza for the peer review;
3. Approve the revised financial plan for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition project to include the necessary funding for the additional structural analyses and peer review;
4. Accept the planning maps of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Right of Way (ROW) produced by the Santa Cruz County GIS Department; and approved additional staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:
5. Approve contracting directly with HNTB Corporation for the additional structural assessment analyses; and
6. Approve the attached resolution amending the contract with Miller, Owen and Trost to increase some of the hourly rates.

Commissioners asked if the money for the hourly increase for Miller, Owen & Trost would affect Transportation Development Act funding. Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin responded that there was reserve funding that could be used if necessary and that TDA funds would be safeguarded.

In response to a question regarding the timing of the AB3090 reimbursement application, Ms. Dellin said that an updated timeline will be presented at a future meeting now that the timeline for the structures assessment is known.

The motion (Resolution 10-06) passed unanimously.

9. Next Meetings / Adjournment

A Public Hearing on Highway 1 Soquel Avenue to Morrissey Blvd Auxiliary Lanes Project is scheduled for Thursday, November 17th, at 7:15 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. The Public Hearing will be preceded by an Open House at 6 p.m. Commissioners are encouraged to attend the 6 p.m. Open House.

The next regular RTC meeting will be held Thursday, December 1, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop will be held Thursday, December 15, 2005 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Office, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Bob Yount	
Bill Comfort	
Les White	Santa Cruz Metro
Donna Ziel	Alternate for Mark Stone
Genevieve Bookwalter	<i>Sentinel</i>
Ken Kannegaard	Cemex
Bob Scott	SCCRTC Technical Advisor
Piet Canin	SC Transportation Management Agency
Elizabeth Burnham	
Gustavo Gonzalez	Alternate for Tony Campos
Cliff Walters	Sierra Railroad