

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

Minutes

Thursday,  
January 5, 2006  
9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean Street  
Santa Cruz, CA

1. Roll Call

Members Present:      Jan Beautz                                  Ellen Pirie  
                                 Dene Bustichi (Alt.)                          Emily Reilly  
                                 Tony Campos                                      Antonio Rivas  
                                 Randy Johnson                                    Mark Stone  
                                 Mike Keogh                                        Marcela Tavantzis  
                                 Dennis Norton                                    Mardi Wormhoudt  
                                 Rich Krumholz (ex-officio Alt.)

Staff Present:           Pat Dellin    Rachel Moriconi  
                                 Karena Pushnik                                    Gini Pineda  
                                 Kim Shultz                                         Grace Blakeslee  
                                 Cory Caletti                                        Luis Mendez

2. Oral Communications

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin announced that there would be no Closed Session. Chair Pirie removed Item 28 from the Agenda. Ms. Dellin said that Caltrans provided a handout designated as page 14e-2 and that pages were added to Items 27 and 29. She said that Commissioner Rivas distributed maps of the Watsonville wetlands trails to Commissioners. Ms. Dellin added that additional written public comments for this evening's public hearing were copied and distributed to Commissioners.

**CONSENT AGENDA** (Wormhoudt/Rivas) as amended

4. Approved Minutes of the December 1, 2005 Regular SCCRTC Meeting

## POLICY

No consent items

## PROJECTS and PLANNING

5. Accepted Update on Highway 1 Projects
6. Accepted Information Item Regarding Highway 17 Glenwood Curve Safety Project/Caltrans Open House

## COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

7. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Expenditures for Voicemail Upgrade and Telephone System Maintenance (Resolution 12-06)

## ADMINISTRATION

No consent items

## COMMITTEE MINUTES

8. Accepted Draft Minutes of the October 12<sup>th</sup>, 2005 Joint SAFE on 17 and Traffic Operation Systems Oversight Committee Meeting
9. Accepted Draft Minutes of the December 9, 2005 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee Meeting
10. Accepted Draft Minutes of the November 14, 2005 and December 12, 2005 Bicycle Committee Meetings

## INFORMATION/OTHER

11. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
12. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies - None
  - a. Quarterly Report on Environmental Document Review
13. Accepted Correspondence Log
14. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
  - a. Letter from the Elderly and Disabled Technical Advisory

- Committee to the City of Santa Cruz Regarding Pedestrian Access in the Proposed Roundabout Design
- b. Letter to Caltrans Regarding Transportation Concept Report for Highway 17
  - c. Letter from the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee to Governor Schwarzenegger Regarding Protecting Proposition 42
  - d. Letter to Caltrans Regarding 2006 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)
  - e. Letter to Caltrans Regarding Caltrans Phone Number for Public Information on Local State Highway Projects
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. California Transportation Commission Press Release Regarding Appointment of New Executive Director
  - b. Caltrans News Release Regarding Adding Safety Messages and Amber Alerts to Highway Information Number
  - c. Letter from Caltrans to Debbie Bulger of Mission: Pedestrian Regarding Audible Pedestrian Signals

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

18. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding SAFE Call Box Maintenance Contract (Resolution 13-06)
19. Approved Contract with Cingular Wireless for Digital Cellular Phone Service for Call Boxes (Resolution 14-06)

**REGULAR AGENDA**

20. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Rivas referred to the maps of the Watsonville wetlands trails that he distributed to Commissioners. He said that the City of Watsonville is proud of the trail system which includes informational pods along the trails. He noted that maps are available at the museum in Ramsey Park as are packets of cards to aid in self-guided tours of the trail system.

## 21. Director's Report

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that the Commission has been recognized by the *Mid County Post* as the organization of the year.

## 22. Caltrans Report

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, noted the response letter from Caltrans about establishing a local or toll-free phone number that the public may call to ask questions about State Highway projects. He said that the local phone number is 831-423-0396.

Mr. Krumholz said that Highway 9 south of Glengarry is completely closed due to mudslides and that Caltrans is trying to get an emergency contract to repair the highway. He later updated the Commission with the news that a contract was awarded to Granite Construction and that the closure was expected to last 30 days.

He also mentioned that the Caltrans Public Hearing regarding improvements to the Glenwood Curves Project on Highway 17 is scheduled for Tuesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 pm at Scotts Valley High School.

## 23. SCCRTC Executive Director Recruitment Update - Oral Report by Acting Executive Director

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that the recruitment is on schedule and that the recruiter will have a full report at the next Budget and Administration / Personnel Committee meeting.

## 24. Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim from the County of Santa Cruz for Bicycle/Pedestrian Projects

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that the Transportation Development Act claim was consistent with the *2005 Regional Transportation Plan*.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded to approve the Bicycle Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the a resolution approving the County of Santa Cruz's FY 2005/2006 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 claim for \$174,377 and a reallocation of \$29,526

for pedestrian and bicycle projects.

A roll call vote was taken. Commissioners Beautz, Norton, Pirie, Rivas, Reilly, Stone and Wormhoudt voted "yes". Commissioners Campos and Johnson had not yet arrived at the meeting. The motion (Resolution 15-06) passed unanimously.

25. Update on Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Projects

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, said that bids for a contract to remove the trees in the areas identified as needing removal will be opened tomorrow. He said this "minor contract" would not be awarded until the major construction contract bids are opened on January 24<sup>th</sup> and that more information will be available at the Project Development Team meeting on January 26<sup>th</sup>.

Commissioner Wormhoudt thanked the committee for its responsiveness to the Commission's concerns.

Commissioner Beautz moved and Commissioner Wormhoudt seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Accept the Project Development Team's plan for coordinating the early contract for tree removal with the construction contract for the Highway 1/17 Interchange Merge Lanes Project;
2. Request that Caltrans report back to the RTC at its February meeting with the results of this coordination effort; and
3. Request that Caltrans and City of Santa Cruz staff present an overview of the Public Information Program for this project at an upcoming meeting of the RTC.

The motion passed unanimously.

26. Transportation Funding Task Force Update and RTC Appointments

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin reported that staff has received some responses to the invitations to organizations to participate in the Transportation Funding Task Force. She said that the first meeting of the Task Force is tentatively planned for late February or early March.

Ms. Dellin said that the Commission needs to appoint four

representatives, including one for the Commission itself. An application form was distributed, with applications due by January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Commissioner Pirie nominated Commissioner Wormhoudt to represent the Commission.

Commissioner Reilly moved to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Accept this Update on the Transportation Funding Task Force;
2. Approve the proposal of Commission Chair Pirie to appoint Commissioner Mardi Wormhoudt as the RTC's representative on the Transportation Funding Task Force; and
3. Assist staff in identifying appropriate individuals to apply for the other three RTC appointments to the Task Force: representative of the Land Use Development Community; representative of Automobile Advocates/Auto Drivers At Large; and representative of Commuters at Large.

Commissioner Rivas seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners discussed details of the remaining three appointments. Commissioners agreed that meetings should be held in the evenings or on weekends.

27. Draft 2006 Legislative Agenda and 2005 Legislative Update

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin referred Commissioners to the draft legislative agenda beginning on page 27-11.

Ms. Dellin said that Governor Schwarzenegger intends to propose a massive infrastructure bond measure during the State of the State Address which, if approved, would provide additional funding for transportation projects.

Commissioner Campos joined the meeting.

Ms. Dellin said there may be a growth management plan associated with the bond which will include a land use and transportation plan. In addition, it may be possible that the infrastructure bond could include earmarked projects. She said that staff will work with the committees and bring recommendations for earmarks to the Commission along with

the final legislative agenda in February. She added that staff will advocate that regional planning agencies have control over which projects are funded for their regions.

Director Dellin said that Deputy Director Luis Mendez and Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi will attend the Transportation Research Board meeting in Washington, DC in February. They will meet with Carolyn Chaney, the Commission's legislative staff person.

Commissioner Keogh noted that Items 5 and 7 of the draft Legislative Agenda were not specific and asked that if either of the recommendations were to be implemented that they be placed on the Regular Agenda for Commission approval.

With that caveat, Commissioner Keogh moved to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Accept a report on the 2005 Legislative Session;
2. Review and accept the proposed Draft 2006 State and Federal Legislative Agendas and release to the RTC committees for review and comment; and
3. Direct staff to work with California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG) and our elected state representatives to support amendments to proposed infrastructure bonds that provide greater benefit to Santa Cruz County's efforts to address transportation funding needs and support CALCOG amendments to SB 1024 (Perata), the Infrastructure Bond Act.

Commissioner Beautz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

**CLOSED SESSION - Removed from Agenda**

28. 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

29. Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition: Agreements for Structural Assessment

Paul Chrisman, Miller, Owen & Trost, joined the meeting via telephone.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that a resolution to approve a contract with HNTB to perform additional structural analysis would need to be approved by the Commission. She said that the resolution is consistent with action the Commission approved in November and with the financial plan.

Ms. Dellin referred to the revised Right of Entry Agreement and asked that staff recommendations be approved with the changes noted in the revised agreement.

Commissioners discussed the end date for invoices to be submitted to Union Pacific in order to have the railroad company pay for some of the costs of the additional analysis and agreed that the Commission needed some leeway regarding the end date.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin noted that it was important that HNTB inspect the La Selva trestle after Union Pacific had finished working on it. She said that the work should be completed by January 15<sup>th</sup> and that the Right of Entry agreement is expected to be signed soon. Ms. Dellin added that an updated overall project timeline would be presented at the next meeting.

**Bill Delaney** said that he was dismayed that the County and California procurement procedures allow the awarding of a non-competitive contract and made several points regarding the scope of work described in the HNTB contract.

Mr. Delaney said that the Commission should ask HNTB to determine future capital improvement costs for structures. In addition, he said that a change in the level of freight service could impact Cemex, possibly causing them to close the cement plant. Lastly, he said that if shippers think that the Commission is not interested in freight service, a case could be made before the Surface Transportation Board that the Commission is not supporting an important method of transporting goods.

Commissioner Johnson joined the meeting.

Commissioner Beautz said that the Commission should be looking at what future obligations will be and asked why it was not included in the scope of work.

Director Dellin said that the report will address short and long term capital costs and Deputy Director Luis Mendez said that staff will work with HNTB to clarify this in the scope of work.

Commissioner Tavantzis asked why the Commission is asking for a recommendation to reduce freight service.

Deputy Director Mendez said that the report will inform the Commission whether the rail line can carry the current freight loads. If it cannot, it will provide information on the options available, which could include lower freight loads and/or repairs.

Commissioner Norton noted that the Commission has never discussed discontinuing freight service.

Commissioner Norton moved and Commissioner Wormhoudt seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve the proposed amendment to the right of entry agreement with Union Pacific as included in Attachment 1, with modifications as discussed;
2. Approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with HNTB to produce additional detailed structural analyses as shown on the approved scope of work at a maximum cost of \$201,110 and add \$6,000 to the Miller, Owen & Trost contract for structural assessment work including peer review of the structural analyses to be produced by HNTB.

The motion (Resolution 16-06) passed unanimously.

30. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 am.

A Public Hearing on the Draft *2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)* is scheduled for this evening, January 5, 2006 at 7:00 p.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2006 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, February 2, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Santa Cruz Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gini Pineda, Staff

#### ATTENDEES

Bill Delaney	
Jack Sohriakoff	County Public Works
Bill Comfort	
Mauna Loa Morris	Hope Services
Paul Elerick	CFST
Don Hoernschemeyer	CFST
Genevieve Bookwalter	<i>Sentinel</i>
Les White	Santa Cruz Metro
Mark Dettle	City of Santa Cruz
Reid Searle	
Cliff Walters	Sierra Railroad