

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

Minutes

Thursday,
February 2, 2006
9:00 a.m.

Santa Cruz City Council Chambers
809 Center Street
Santa Cruz CA 95060

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Jan Beautz Emily Reilly
Gustavo Gonzalez(Alt.) Dale Skillicorn (Alt.)
Randy Johnson Pat Spence
Dennis Norton Mark Stone
Ellen Pirie Marcela Tavantzis
Antonio Rivas 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 said there would be no need for Item 30, the Closed Session on Acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Line. Chair Pirie removed Item 30 from the agenda.

Director Dellin said that there was an add-on resolution to Item 25, Executive Director recruitment, and a last minute revision to the staff report for Item 28, Transportation Funding Task Force, that included significant changes. She explained that 2/3 of the Commission would have to vote to approve these additions to the agenda.

Commissioner Spence moved and Commissioner Wormhoudt seconded to add these items to the agenda. The motion passed unanimously.

Director Dellin referred to a handout that Caltrans distributed regarding the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project and an updated Commission roster to replace the roster in Item 26.

Commissioner Stone asked that Item 7 be pulled from the regular agenda and Chair Pirie designated it as Item 29.1.

Commissioner Rivas arrived.

CONSENT AGENDA (Reilly/Beautz)

Commission Alternates Gonzalez and Skillicorn abstained from voting on Items 4, 5 and 6.

4. Approved Minutes of the January 5, 2006 Regular SCCRTC Meeting
5. Approved Minutes of the January 5, 2006 *Regional Transportation Improvement Program* Evening Public Hearing
6. Approved Minutes of the January 19, 2006 Transportation Policy Workshop Meeting

POLICY

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

7. Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding Highway 1 Projects and Expenditure of Funds for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Project Public Information Brochure (Resolution)- Removed from the Consent Agenda and added to the Regular Agenda as Item 29.1
8. Accepted Status Report on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

No consent items

ADMINISTRATION

9. Approved Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Performance Evaluation and

2006 Goals for the SCCRTC Executive Director

10. Accepted FY05-06 Second Quarter Report on the SCCRTC Work Program

COMMITTEE MINUTES

11. Accepted Draft Minutes of the December 13, 2005 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
12. Accepted Draft Minutes of the January 9, 2006 Bicycle Committee Meeting
13. Accepted Draft Minutes of the January 12, 2006 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee Meeting
14. Accepted Draft Minutes of the January 19, 2006 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

15. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
16. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies
 - a. Letter from Staff to UCSC Regarding the Draft EIR for the Long Range Development Plan
 - b. Letter from Staff to Caltrans Regarding the Draft Transportation Concept Report for Highway 1
17. Accepted Correspondence Log
18. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
 - a. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to UCSC Regarding Draft EIR for the Long Range Development Plan
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 Meetings
 - a. Handouts and Replacement Pages for the January 5, 2006 Regular Transportation Commission Meeting
 - b. Handouts for the January 5, 2006 Evening Public Hearing
 - c. Handouts for the January 19, 2006 Transportation Policy

Workshop Meeting

21. Accepted Information Items

- a. East Cliff Esplanade Meeting Flyer
- b. Facts & Figures from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Transactions Newsletter, December 2005 - January 2006
- c. Report from the Local Investment in Child Care on "Linking Child Care, Transportation and Land Use"

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

No Consent Items

REGULAR AGENDA

22. Commissioner Reports - None

23. Director's Report - None

24. Caltrans Report

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, announced that Gregg Albright, the Director of Caltrans District 5, had been promoted to a post in Sacramento. He said that Caltrans will recruit for a new Director for District 5.

Mr. Krumholz said that the project to improve Highway 17 at Laurel Curve would go to bid on February 21st. He added that Caltrans will be approving concept reports for Highway 1 and Highway 17 and that these will soon become public.

Commissioner Rivas said concerns were expressed at an intergovernmental meeting about traffic at the new Pajaro Valley high school and asked if Mr. Krumholz had received a communication on the subject. Mr. Krumholz said he had not seen the communication but that he would look into the matter.

25. SCCRTC Executive Director Recruitment Update

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that the recruitment process was on schedule and that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee narrowed the field to seven semi-finalists.

She referred to the add-on resolution to authorize the Executive Director to reimburse the candidates for their travel expenses. She also said that the RTC had decided to establish an ad hoc committee to make recommendations to the full RTC concerning compensation and employment contract issues, and that members of this committee needed to be designated. She asked Commissioners to inform Chair Pirie of their interest in serving on the ad-hoc committee.

Commissioner Beautz moved and Commissioner Rivas seconded to approve the staff recommendations that:

1. Commissioners plan to attend the full Transportation Policy Workshop meeting on Thursday, February 16th from the special start time of 8 a.m. to noon to interview the Executive Director finalists; and
2. Individual Commissioners indicate to the Commission's Chair by February 8th if they are interested in serving on the ad hoc committee to formulate recommendations to the full Commission on compensation and an employment contract for the new Executive Director

with the additional recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to reimburse the travel expenses of candidates who are invited to interview for the Executive Director position; and
2. Approve a resolution to expend up to \$5,000 for candidate travel expenses.

The motion (Resolution 19-06) passed with Commissioners Norton and Tavantzis voting "no".

Commissioner Norton asked to see the list of applicants.

Commissioner Pirie noted that the recruitment discussions had been held in closed session by the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee, and asked County Counsel whether additional Commissioners may attend.

County Counsel Rahn Garcia clarified that if more than six Commissioners wanted to sit in on a closed session of the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee, that the Commission must publicly notice the meeting as a closed session of the full Commission.

Commissioner Johnson arrived.

26. Solicit Committee Preferences

Director Dellin noted that every year Commissioners inform the Chair whether they want to serve on the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and that recommendations will be made at the March Regional Transportation Commission meeting. She asked Commissioners to inform Chair Pirie of their interest to serve on the committee by February 8th.

27. Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project Update - Oral Report by Caltrans

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, said that Gregg Albright, the Caltrans District 5 Director, had approved start of the Highway 1/7 Merge Lanes project with tree removal, consistent with the process laid out to the RTC at its last meeting. He added that the Public Awareness Campaign for the project, led by the City of Santa Cruz and Caltrans, needs to start early due to the tree removal already in progress. He said that Caltrans and the RTC have a Cooperative Agreement for Commission staff to coordinate a Transportation Demand Management program during construction by urging increased use of carpools, vanpools and transit to ease congestion. He said that Caltrans has provided \$100,000 to fund this effort.

Mr. Krumholz discussed the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project, explaining that the lowest of the five bids to construct the project was 21% higher than projected but that he was reasonably sure that the funding gap could be bridged. Considering that the price for construction will only continue to grow, the Project Development Team decided that waiting to remove the trees was not an option. He said a re-vegetation effort is part of the tree removal plan.

The Commission discussed the importance of communication with the public.

Commissioner Wormhoudt expressed serious concern about the process, noting that in December the Commission approved a motion that included Caltrans returning to the Commission in January with a report on the options regarding the tree removal. She said the tree removal was intended to start in early February and had instead begun in January. She said she was aware that Caltrans had the authority to proceed without the Commission's approval, but asked what

was the point of discussing the issue in December and January meetings if Caltrans was going to proceed without consulting the Commission as agreed in December.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin agreed that it was unfortunate that it was not clear when the decision would be made to proceed with the tree removal, saying that the Project Development Team unanimously advised Caltrans to move forward.

Commissioner Rivas asked that the transportation management plan materials be bilingual along with brochures, postcards, changeable message signs, etc.

Commissioner Stone wanted to underscore that having the decision made by Caltrans and the Project Development Team takes away from the process and did not provide enough time for public input.

Commissioners continued to discuss the process and the impact of delaying the project another year

Director Dellin said that in the next few months, City of Santa Cruz staff and Caltrans staff working on the public information program will present an overview of the public information program. She added that Caltrans will also prepare a monthly report for the Commission.

Commissioner Reilly asked that the presentation include how the school site councils will be apprised of the situation.

Commissioner Wormhoudt asked that a formal entry to the minutes be made stating her opposition to cutting 165 trees before an acceptable bid had been presented to the Commission and before the date agreed upon by the Commission in December.

David Eselius said that the Commission should not undermine the authority of Caltrans and that the Commission did not understand the bidding process.

Micah Posner said that Caltrans views itself as a public developer.

Paul Elerick said he found out that the trees were coming down from a KION television broadcast and that the Public Awareness Campaign should tell everyone that the fishhook

remains the fishhook.

Piet Canin, SCATMA, said that five of the programs listed on the draft Transportation Demand Management Plan are run by the SCAMTA which is losing Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality funding and will need to look at future funding sources.

Bruce Korb said he likes big trees but thanked the Commission for going ahead with the project.

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

1. Hear an oral update from Caltrans about the status of the construction bids;
2. Accept information about the Public Awareness Campaign;
3. Review and accept the Draft Transportation Demand Management Plan; and
4. Approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to implement the Transportation Demand Management Plan and expend funds in the amount of \$100,000 over three years according to the plan and the Commission's budgets.

The motion (Resolution 19-09) passed unanimously with the proviso regarding Commissioner Wormhoudt's objection to the tree removal.

28. Transportation Funding Task Force - Update and Appoint Members

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that the revised staff report added several recommendations from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee regarding membership in the Transportation Funding Task Force and reimbursement for travel expenses. She added that the original staff report included the RTC determining which three of the eight applicants would fill the positions of Land Use/Developer, Auto Driver-at-Large and Commuter-at-Large on the Transportation Funding Task Force.

Commissioner Wormhoudt suggested voting on the applicants before dealing with the recommendations of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee .

After discussion, Commissioner Norton moved and Commissioner Wormhoudt seconded to accept all eight

applicants to the Transportation Funding Task Force.

Dave Eselius said the Task Force has no technical representation and is pushing a political agenda.

Lynn Robinson, an applicant for the Auto Driver-at-Large position, approved of including all eight applicants.

Bruce Korb encouraged the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Commission discussed the remaining recommendations suggested by the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee to add positions and to reimburse transportation costs to Task Force members.

Commissioners discussed the recommendations.

Commissioner Tavantzis moved to approve the recommendations of the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee to add positions to the Transportation Funding Task Force as follows:

1. A seat be designated for a disabled individual;
2. Two new seats for representatives of the Central Coast Center for Independent Living and the San Andreas Regional Center; and,
3. A voting Community Bridges representative.

Commissioner Norton seconded.

Commissioner Rivas asked to include a driver-at-large from Watsonville, if possible. The maker of the motion and the second agreed and the motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Spence noted that meeting locations would have to have handicap accessible features. Staff will work with Ms. Spence to hear her input.

Commissioners discussed the last of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee recommendations regarding reimbursing members for their transportation costs. It was noted that such reimbursement could set a precedent for other Committees and have significant fiscal consequences.

Commissioner Norton moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded to not pursue reimbursement of Task Force members. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded that the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee appoint the disabled person to the Task Force.

The motion passed unanimously.

29. Priority Projects for Statewide Infrastructure Bond Measure

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi said that in case the funds generated by an infrastructure bond are not distributed equitably according to the usual State Transportation Improvement Program formula, the Regional Transportation Commission should be prepared to submit a list of proposed Projects by Category. Ms. Moriconi also recommended that the Chair be authorized to send letters to the California Transportation Commission forcefully recommending that the current State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) allocation process which provides for equitable distribution of funds and regional decision making be followed.

Commissioner Beautz suggested including in the letter support for a "firewall" to protect Proposition 42 funds.

Commissioners discussed the listed projects and whether they could postpone voting and discuss the list further.

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said it was important to relay the list now and that projects could be pulled back later.

Public comment was heard.

Dave Eselius said the Commission has no priorities and that there are no projects that improve the level of safety on roads.

Piet Canin, representing the Bike Committee, said that voters should know that there are projects that they would support.

Les White said he supports the list, adding that converting

buses to Compressed Natural Gas is the Metro's highest priority. He added that SCMTD will continue to advocate for the full list of transit projects.

Commissioner Beautz moved to approve the staff recommendations that the RTC:

1. Reiterate Santa Cruz County's first priority with any transportation bond measure that the funds be distributed equitably to regions and that each region retain the authority to decide how to program any new funds;
2. Approve the list prepared by staff and the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) of proposed Priority Projects by Category for discussion with our local state legislators and transportation advocacy groups in the event the Statewide Transportation Bond Measure focuses on earmarked projects; and
3. Direct staff to provide periodic status reports as negotiations progress on the prospect for a Statewide Transportation Bond Measure,

with the addition that Chair Pirie write a letter to local legislators and others regarding the RTC's priorities.

Commissioner Tavantzis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

29.1 Staff Recommendations Regarding Highway 1 Projects and Expenditure of Funds for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Project Public Information Brochure (Resolution)- Formerly Item 7

Commissioner Stone said he was concerned that the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project could pose a segmentation problem and asked for an opinion from County Counsel on the issue.

Commissioner Stone moved and Commissioner Wormhoudt seconded to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Approve a resolution authorizing expenditures of up to \$2,500 in budgeted funds to produce a Spanish language newsletter for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project.
2. Receive this status report on activities related to the Highway 1 Projects

with the addition that County Counsel return with an opinion on segmentation.

Rich Krumholz said that it was determined in the 1997

Project Study Report that the Auxiliary Lanes could be considered to have independent utility and would not be considered a segment of the Highway 1 HOV Lane Widening Project. He said that the Federal Highway Administration was being consulted as well.

Paul Elerick said he would like to see a legal opinion and that in his view it is segmentation. He asked for a legal opinion regarding segmentation on the auxiliary lane proposed at Porter Street also.

The motion (Resolution 20-06) passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION (removed from Agenda)

30. 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

31. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, February 16th, 2006 from 8:00 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 2, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Bruce Korb	
John Presleigh	County of Santa Cruz
Sandra Coley	Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association
Paul Elerick	Committee for Sensible Transportation
Don Hoernschemeyer	Committee for Sensible Transportation
Bill Comfort	
Piet Canin	Ecology Action/Bike to Work
Lynn Robinson	
Bonnie Morr	UTU 23
Teresa Buika	UCSC
Bob Scott	SCCRTC Technical Advisor