

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

Minutes

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

Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean Street
Santa Cruz CA 95060

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Jan Beautz Ellen Pirie
Gustavo Gonzalez (Alt.) Emily Reilly
Randy Johnson Pat Spence
Mike Keogh Mark Stone
David Koch (Alt.) Marcela Tavantzis
Dennis Norton Mardi Wormhoudt
Gregg Albright (ex-officio)

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

2. Oral Communications - None

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin announced there would be no Closed Session (Item 36). She asked to move Item 15 from the Consent Agenda to the Regular Agenda. Commission Chair Pirie assigned it Item 28.1.

Ms. Dellin referred to the Revised Agenda given to the Commissioners which added Item 10.1 and to other handouts which included a corrected meeting schedule (Item 20), the Directors Report (Item 29), letters distributed by Caltrans regarding Item 33 and a hard copy of the PowerPoint presentation provided by Nolte Associates for Item 34.

Commissioner Wormhoudt asked to pull Items 10 and 10.1 from the Consent Agenda. Chair Pirie designated them as Items 35.1 and 35.2 respectively.

CONSENT AGENDA (Norton/Beautz)

4. Approved Minutes of the February 2, 2006 Regular SCCRTC Meeting (Commissioner Keogh and Commission Alternate Koch abstained.)
5. Approved Minutes of the February 16, 2006 Transportation Policy Workshop Meeting (Commissioners Keogh and Reilly and Commission Alternates Gonzalez and Koch abstained.)

POLICY

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

6. Approved Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding the Revised Formula for Distribution of Federal Planning (PL) Funds by AMBAG
7. Accepted Status Report on Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition Project
8. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendment Transferring Funds between City of Santa Cruz Projects (Resolution 21-06)
9. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Transportation Funding Task Force Project Expenditures (Resolution 22-06)

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

10. Approve Recommendations by the Ad Hoc Committee on Compensation Regarding Employment Agreement for the Executive Director - Moved to Regular Agenda as Item 35.1
- 10.1 Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding Expenditures for Travel Expense Reimbursements for the Executive Director Recruitment - Moved to Regular Agenda as Item 35.2
11. Accepted FY04-05 Fiscal Audit for the SCCRTC
12. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Expenditure for the Purchase of a Replacement Printer (Resolution 23-06)

ADMINISTRATION

13. Approved Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Policy Change (Resolution 24-06)
14. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Appointment
15. Approve Resolution of Appreciation for Gregg Albright, Caltrans District 5 Director - Moved to Regular Agenda as Item 28.1
16. Accepted Meeting Schedule for SCCRTC Committees and Invitation to Commissioners to Participate in SCCRTC Advisory Committee Meetings

COMMITTEE MINUTES

17. Accepted Draft Minutes of the February 9, 2006 and February 13, 2006 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee Meetings
18. Accepted Draft Minutes of the February 14, 2006 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
19. Accepted Draft Minutes of the February 16, 2006 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

20. Accepted Three-Month Meeting Schedule
21. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies
 - a. Letter to Caltrans Regarding the Glenwood Curves Safety Project Initial Study
22. Accepted Correspondence Log
23. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
 - a. Letters to State Legislators Regarding State Budget and Proposed Infrastructure Bond

24. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
25. Accepted Handouts from Staff and Commissioners at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meetings
26. Accepted Information Items - No items

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

27. Accepted Staff Recommendations Regarding Safe on 17 Contract Amendment (Resolution 25-06)

REGULAR AGENDA

28. Commissioner Reports - None
- 28.1 Approved Resolution of Appreciation for Gregg Albright, Caltrans District 5 Director

Director Dellin thanked Mr. Albright for all the hard work he has done over the years for District 5. She expressed special thanks for his role in making the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project a priority for Caltrans and for successfully securing gap funding from the California Transportation Commission.

Chair Pirie presented Mr. Albright with a resolution highlighting Mr. Albright's contributions to District 5 and thanking him for his enthusiastic support.

The departing District Director, who has been promoted to Deputy Director for Planning and Modal Programs with Caltrans headquarters in Sacramento, said that he would miss District 5. He added that he would continue to advocate for context sensitive solutions at the state level and to work for policies supporting collaboration between Caltrans and regional and local agencies.

Commissioner Johnson arrived.

Commissioner Stone thanked Director Albright for working with all areas of the community and moved to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission adopt a resolution of appreciation for Gregg Albright, departing Caltrans District 5 Director.

Commissioner Wormhoudt seconded and the motion (Resolution 26-06) passed unanimously.

29. Director's Report - Oral Report

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin announced that Grace Blakeslee was promoted to Transportation Planner and that Cory Caletti was promoted to Senior Transportation Planner. Ms. Dellin also introduced David Brown who was recently hired as a Transportation Planning Technician. She added that staff has been interviewing to fill the one and one-half budgeted vacancies.

Commissioner Norton said he appreciates the staff and praised Ms. Blakeslee for her efforts mapping the rail corridor.

30. Caltrans Report

Gregg Albright, Caltrans District 5, said that the Interim District Director, Cheryl Willis, will be a capable replacement and is sensitive to the needs of communities like Santa Cruz. Mr. Albright also announced that March 10th is the application deadline for his current position.

31. SCCRTC Committee Appointments

Chair Pirie reported that all the existing members of the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee, which includes Commissioners Pirie, Beautz, Wormhoudt, Campos and Keogh wish to remain on the Committee. In addition, Commissioner Rivas wishes to serve. Ms. Pirie recommended that these six Commissioners be appointed to the Committee.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Beautz seconded to approve Chair Pirie's recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

32. FY 06-07 SCCRTC Budget and Work Program

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin highlighted some aspects of the Budget and Work Program, including that the Transportation Funding Task Force will start work in the spring and a report on its progress and potential continuation to completion will be provided to the Commission in the summer. She said that the Budget Task Force is currently under-funded and the Commission will decide later whether to continue the Task Force work into

the next Fiscal Year. Potential funding sources are a Caltrans grant and other state funds.

Director Dellin said that in the past, the Commission had planned to wait until the rail line was purchased before initiating work on a master plan for the rail trail and Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, but given that the decision regarding the rail line acquisition will be made in the next six to nine months, the budget includes funding for a master plan in order to be ready to release a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for consultant assistance. She said that a more inclusive report will be brought to the Commission in the future.

Ms. Dellin reported that since the Commission decided to hire a consultant to conduct the traffic counts for the Traffic Monitoring Report, staff no longer needs the Commission van and is proposing to sell it and ask for matching funds from the air district through an AB2766 grant to buy a hybrid electric sedan to better serve the Commission's needs. She mentioned that Commission reserves are low but when the main budget amendment is adopted in October, there should be a more accurate financial picture.

Ms. Dellin also said that it might be wise to hire a state consultant and that not having a voice in Sacramento could be the reason why the SCCRTC didn't have a project in the Governor's proposed bond project list.

Commissioner Pirie asked for a report with specifics regarding how retaining a state legislative assistant can benefit the Commission.

Commissioner Keogh asked about the source of funds for liability insurance for the rail line. Senior Planner Luis Mendez said the liability insurance estimate came from the business plan and that there will not be bids until additional information is obtained including the structures assessment and the determination of the short line operator.

In response to comments from Commissioner Tavantzis, Chair Pirie asked for a report on the Rideshare program in the next month or two.

Commissioner Spence asked for a report showing how Community Bridges spends their money, especially how much

is spent on taxi scrip. Chair Pirie asked that the report be brought to the Commission at a future RTC meeting.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve a resolution adopting the FY06-07 Budget and Work Program;
2. If additional funds for the RTC's operating budget are realized at a later date, consider assigning them in a future budget amendment to rebuild the Commission Reserves, to fund the under funded portions of the Transportation Funding Task Force project (if the RTC decides this summer to continue it to the second round of meetings), and/or to fund a full year of a Sacramento Assistant; and,
3. Direct staff to pursue an AB2766 grant for a hybrid sedan for use on RTC business and as a replacement to the RTC's van which is no longer needed for traffic counting purposes.

The motion (Resolution 27-06) passed unanimously.

33. Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project Funding Update - Oral Presentation by Caltrans

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that the funding gap has been filled for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project thanks to Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission (CTC). She said a presentation on the project will be made at the April 6th RTC meeting and that an Open House and groundbreaking are scheduled for April 19, 2006.

Gregg Albright said Caltrans expects to award the construction contract on March 10th and that the project website www.hwyl-17.caltrans.ca.gov is up and running. He said that the facts that the winning bid was only 21% over the estimate and that the project is very solid influenced the CTC to fund it.

Commissioner Reilly said she expects that the report in April will focus on how impacts to the community, especially the schools, will be mitigated, rather than just why the project is being done. She said that members of the community should be asked for their ideas regarding

solutions in order to achieve true community involvement.

Mr. Albright agreed and said that he will continue to work to institutionalize collaborative decision making with the community at the state level when he assumes his new post.

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

Chris Metzger used a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the progress made on the Highway 1 projects. Regarding the Highway 1/HOV Widening Project, he said that the Initial Historic Properties Survey Report has been submitted to Caltrans, that the wetlands have been delineated for both the Army Corps of Engineers and for the Coastal Commission and that a Transit Market Study, to define real demand for transit facilities, was underway.

Commissioner Pirie asked to see some of the documents that Nolte Associates had prepared.

Commissioner Keogh asked if one of the southbound entrances to Highway 1 from Morrissey Boulevard would be eliminated. Mr. Metzger said that the full build plan alternative considered this removal, but that it was not being considered as part of the Auxiliary Lanes Project. He added that it could be considered in the Auxiliary Lanes project.

In response to comments from Commissioner Reilly, Mr. Metzger said that there will be an effort to reconfigure the problematic Morrissey Boulevard interchange in the HOV project and to improve the interchange to a lesser degree in the Auxiliary Lanes Project. He added that part of the HOV project would be to reconstruct the La Fonda bridge.

Director Dellin said that as part of the Highway 1/17 Project, Caltrans will make some small scale improvements, including a stop sign at the exit. Longer term improvements require realigning the off ramp and could be part of the Highway 1 HOV Lanes Project.

Commissioners continued to discuss improvements at the Morrissey Boulevard interchange, the footprints for the three build alternatives for the projects and drainage issues.

Mr. Albright interjected that drainage along the Highway 1 corridor is less than desirable and that drainage issues being considered are site specific to the project. He added that all drainage issues will be fully disclosed in the environmental document.

Commissioner Pirie said that the HOV project could provide an opportunity for the county and cities with drainage projects to work in conjunction with the highway improvement projects.

Commissioner Spence commented that it would enhance the Highway 17 express if the northbound auxiliary lane was lengthened to go completely under Morrissey Boulevard to connect with the merge lane from the Highway 1/17 project.

35. Final 2006 State and Federal Legislative Agendas

Acting Executive Director Pat Dellin said that after consulting with the RTC's committees, Carolyn Chaney, the Commission's Washington consultant, and other committees including the California Association of Councils of Governments, Caltrans' Coordinating Committee and the Regional Transportation Planning Agencies Group, very few changes were made to the Draft 2006 Legislative Agenda approved by the RTC in January. She said it was still unclear what is happening at the state level regarding the potential bond measure.

Gregg Albright, Caltrans District 5, said that Santa Cruz is missing from the state's general operating project list and advised the Commission to be fully engaged in using the performance measurements listed in the Governor's bond measure. He said that the Governor wants to see every project walk through the performance measures and thinks that Santa Cruz can meet the performance measures, especially the Highway 1/HOV Widening Project.

Director Dellin agreed, noting that the Commission adopted a list of projects already that conformed to the performance measures.

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

1. Adopt the proposed 2006 State and Federal Legislative Agendas;
2. Forward the Legislative Agendas to our State and Federal representatives; and,
3. Direct staff to continue to provide periodic status reports as negotiations progress on the prospect for a State Transportation Bond Measure and other associated legislative matters.

The motion passed unanimously.

35.1 Approve Recommendations by the Ad Hoc Committee on Compensation Regarding Employment Agreement for the Executive Director - Formerly Item 10

Commissioner Wormhoudt raised concerns about the total cost to hire the Commission's new Executive Director. She said that the compensation package is quite a bit higher than originally discussed and will impact other County of Santa Cruz department heads who do not receive a similar package. She added that County workers are not getting the raises that they are asking for and that it would be best to stay within the original amount budgeted for the position.

Commissioners discussed the fact that the Executive Director will be more of an agency head than a County department head and will have more responsibilities than County department heads. It was pointed out that the SCCRTC will be an independent agency in about six months and the Executive Director position should be viewed in that light.

Commissioner Reilly said that she had less of a problem with the compensation than with the process and thought that the recruiters should have made the salary range clear. Commissioner Beautz said that compensation was not set in advance.

Commissioner Stone thought that the salary and progression was too rich and Commissioner Johnson said that if the package was compared to another independent agency, such as the transit district, it was probably in the ballpark.

It was noted that the Ad Hoc Committee approved the package with a 5-1 vote, with Commission Alternate Schiffirin voting "no".

Commissioner Beautz moved and Commissioner Spence seconded to approve the Ad Hoc Committee on Compensation for the Executive Director recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve the attached employment agreement to hire George Dondero II as the new SCCRTC Executive Director to start in April, 2006 and authorize the RTC Chair to sign the agreement on behalf of the RTC;
2. Request that the County Administrative Officer, as the hiring authority for this position, sign the employment agreement on behalf of the County;
3. Request that the County Board of Supervisors take the actions necessary to implement the agreement; and
4. Disband the Ad Hoc Committee.

The motion passed with Commissioners Wormhoudt, Stone, Reilly and Tavantzis voting "no".

- 35.2 Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding Expenditures for Travel Expense Reimbursements for the Executive Director Recruitment - Formerly Item 10.1

Director Dellin explained that travel expenses for the interviewees had exceeded the estimated amounts and that direct expenses for the recruiting company had exceeded the estimated amounts as well. She said that the expenditure increases requested were consistent with actual costs.

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

1. Approve a resolution to amend the contract with CPS Executive Search and increase the expenditure limit by up to \$2,500 for direct expenses incurred by CPS Executive Search in the Executive Director recruitment; and
2. Approve a resolution to increase the expenditure limit from \$5,000 to \$7,500 to reimburse finalists and semi-finalists for their actual travel costs for interviews for the Executive Director position.

The motion passed (Resolutions 28-06 and 29-06) with Commissioners Wormhoudt, Reilly and Tavantzis voting "no".

CLOSED SESSION

36. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR - Removed from Agenda

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

37. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for
Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC
Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 6,
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

Bob Yount	E & D TAC/MAC
Theresia Rogerson	HAS - Health Education
Paul Elerick	CFST
Bill Comfort	
Piet Canin	SCTMA
Donna Ziel	Mark Stone's Alternate
Les White	SCMTD
Chris Schneiter	City of Santa Cruz Public Works
Genevieve Bookwalter	Santa Cruz <i>Sentinel</i>
Ken Kannegaard	Cemex