

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Transportation Policy Workshop

MINUTES

Thursday, April 20, 2006
9:00 am
SCCRTC Conference Room
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Members Present: Jan Beautz Ellen Pirie
 Tony Campos Emily Reilly
 Randy Johnson Andy Schiffrin (Alt.)
 Mike Keogh Pat Spence
 Dennis Norton Mark Stone
 Dave Murray (ex-officio) Marcela Tavantzis

Member Absent: Antonio Rivas

1. Introductions

Self introductions were made.

2. Oral Communications - None

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda

Executive Director George Dondero noted add-on pages to Item 7.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez asked to pull Item 4 from the Consent Agenda. Transportation Policy Workshop Chair Campos suggested discussing the issue immediately.

Mr. Mendez noted the flier regarding the dates, times and locations of the Transportation Funding Task Force meetings. He said that staff was informed that there is no San Lorenzo Valley Business Association. He said that Commissioner Stone suggested contacting the Felton, Ben Lomond and Boulder Creek Business Associations. He added that the Brown Berets are not interested in participating and that Barrios Unidos was contacted as a possible replacement organization. Mr. Mendez also said that the Santa Cruz Parenting Association had been contacted about selecting a participant for the Task Force. He said that the names of any volunteers will be brought back to the Commission for approval.

Bill Comfort suggested that the address to the workshop locations be placed on the website, where the list of the workshops appears.

Regarding Item 5, Commissioner Keogh asked why it was necessary to ask County Counsel for an opinion on disbanding the Rail Acquisition Task Force (RATF).

Commission Alternate Andy Schiffrin explained that when the issue was discussed at the RATF meeting, it was noted that if the RATF was disbanded and the entire Commission took its place, a quorum of the Commissioners would have to be present to conduct business. A possible solution would be to make the RATF a joint venture with the Commission, which would allow either to meet. In addition, since many of the items discussed by the RATF are confidential, there could be the need for closed sessions. The RATF decided that an opinion from County Counsel on the legal implications of these issues was prudent.

Commissioner Norton said that all Commissioners should walk the rail corridor to educate themselves regarding its condition.

Commissioner Spence asked for a list of the current RATF members.

Consent Agenda (Norton/Reilly)

4. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Adding New Seats to the Transportation Funding Task Force
5. Accepted Status Report Regarding the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition Project

Regular Agenda

6. 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update

SCCRTC Planner Grace Blakeslee said that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff released its recommendations for the *2006 State Transportation Improvement Program* on April 7th and that only 14 of the 26 projects proposed in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) were included and that only nine of these projects would be programmed as listed in the 2006 RTIP. Ms. Blakeslee said that similar disparities are an issue for every region in the state.

Ms. Blakeslee said that of the funds recommended, only \$3.3 million is for new programming. In addition, this money includes cost increases for carryover projects from the 2004 STIP and for the increased cost for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project. She said that staff wrote a memo asking for an increase of the share going to highway and road projects, but that these increases are not likely. She said that the STIP is not a reliable source of funding and that the Transportation Funding Task Force is a good place to discuss reliable funding sources. Ms. Blakeslee added that staff will report back when the CTC approves its staff's recommendations on April 27th.

In response to comments from Commissioner Spence, Ms. Blakeslee said that staff is working with the City of Watsonville to try and resolve the improvements to Struve Slough Road.

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

1. Review the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff recommendations for the Santa Cruz County portion of the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); and
2. Review the April 13, 2006 memorandum to David Brewer, CTC Chief Deputy Director, and provide input on any additional follow-up action desired.

The motion passed unanimously.

7. RTC Job Classifications and Organizational Structure

Executive Director George Dondero referred to add-on pages 7-23 to 7-25 which described the Administrative Services position being recommended for Commission approval. He said that the idea had been discussed at the last Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee meeting.

Executive Director Dondero said that the goal is to take administrative jobs, currently performed by transportation planners, and redirect them to an administrative services position, freeing up time for planners to concentrate on Commission projects.

Mr. Dondero said that this additional position would be cost neutral to the Commission since there was currently a vacant planner position with a budgeted salary similar to that proposed for the administrative services position. He added that leaving the planner position vacant would make it easier to fill should the need arise, but that the need for an additional planner did not seem necessary in the near term.

Commissioner Johnson questioned whether the administrative services position is truly cost neutral if the vacant planner position were to be filled.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin said that this new position would shift many administrative tasks away from planners and would allow planners to do planning work. He said that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee agreed that the vacant planner position will remain unfilled for FY06-07 and added that if a proposal to fill the position was presented to the Commission, he would have to be convinced of the need for an additional planner.

Commissioners discussed the salary and benefits proposed for this new position and what the planners would be able to do that they are not currently doing.

Deputy Director Mendez said that planning for the trails master plan was an example of a new project, currently not assigned to a planner.

Senior Planner Tegan Speiser said that for the past four years the majority of her duties have included administrative support and that after autonomy, the staff will be taking on new duties such as personnel, risk management and purchasing. She said once the duties are shifted, the Commission can reevaluate staff needs.

Marco Greenfield offered to do odds and ends of administrative tasks.

Commissioners discussed savings in overhead costs currently paid to the County and the pros and cons of leaving the planner position vacant, even though it was not going to need to be filled in the foreseeable future.

Commission Alternate Schiffirin moved to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Accept the Memo from the former Executive Director on RTC Job Classifications and Organizational Structure;
2. Approve the addition of an administrative services management position for the RTC;
3. Request that the County Board of Supervisors approve the addition of the administrative services management position for the RTC;
4. Request that the County complete all its work for approval and classification of the administrative services management position by April 26th in order to allow the RTC staff to complete the interviewing and hiring process as soon as practicable;
5. Approve increasing the hours of the Typist Clerk II position from 20 hours per week to 30 hours per week.

with the clarification that the hiring for the administrative services position would be for an Administrative Services Officer I and that the unfilled planner position would remain vacant in 06-07. Commissioner Reilly seconded.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was announced that there would be no Closed Session.

Closed Session

8. 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

9. Next Meetings / Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 a.m.

The next regular RTC meeting will be held Thursday, May 4, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the **City of Capitola Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA.**

The next Transportation Policy Workshop will be held Thursday, May 18, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Office, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| Bob Yount | |
| Paul Elerick | CFST |
| Bill Comfort | |
| Cliff Walters | Sierra Railroad |
| Mark Greenfield | |
| Gustavo Gonzalez | Office of Tony Campos |
| Genevieve Bookwalter | Santa Cruz Sentinel |
| Ken Kannegaard | Cemex |
| Jennifer Calate | Caltrans |