

POLICY

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

6. Accepted Status Report on State Legislation and Budget
7. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Resolution of Support for the *Coast Daylight* Passenger Train Service (Resolution 01-07)
8. Accepted Information Regarding the 2006 Job Access & Reverse Commute and the New Freedom Competitive Grant Programs
9. Accepted FY 05-06 Fourth Quarter SCCRTC Work Program Report

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

10. Accepted Status Report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) Revenues

ADMINISTRATION

No Consent Items

COMMITTEE MINUTES

11. Accepted Draft Minutes of the June 5, 2006 Rail Acquisition Committee Meeting
12. Accepted Draft Minutes of the June 12, 2006 Bicycle Committee Meeting
13. Accepted Draft Minutes of the June 13, 2006 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

14. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
15. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies
 - a. Letter from Staff Regarding the Arana Gulch Park Master Plan Final EIR and Public Hearing
 - b. Quarterly Report on Environmental Document Review

16. Accepted Correspondence Log
17. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
 - a. Letter from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Supporting the Metro Transit District's Grant Application for Increased Bus Service
 - b. Letter from the Bicycle Committee Regarding Scotts Valley Drive Bicycle Loop Detector Pavement Marking
 - c. Letter from the Bicycle Committee Regarding the Beach Street Bikeway
 - d. Letter from Staff to Caltrans Regarding Certification of the City of Capitola Bicycle Plan
18. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
19. Accepted Handouts from Staff and Commissioners at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meetings
20. Accepted Information Items
 - a. Letter from the County of Santa Cruz Regarding the San Lorenzo Valley Trail Feasibility Study Final Report
 - b. Letter from the Volunteer Center Thanking the RTC for Continued Support
 - c. Letter from the City of Watsonville to Caltrans Regarding Improved Bus Stops as Part of the State Route 152 Rehabilitation Project
 - d. "Routine Accommodation of Pedestrians and Bicyclists in the Bay Area" - June 2006 Report from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission
 - e. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Survey on Construction Cost Increases and Competition

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

No Consent Items

REGULAR AGENDA

21. Commissioner Reports - Oral Reports

Commissioner Mark Stone, reporting on the 13th Annual CalCOG Regional Issues Forum, said that issues discussed included

a ballot proposition to strengthen Proposition 42 protections, the transportation bond measure on the November ballot and a housing ballot proposition that includes funding for transit. Commissioner Stone said he had concerns about a statewide movement to develop regional blueprints (coordinating transportation and development) as a criterion for transportation funding.

Commissioner Rivas announced that the Strawberry Festival would be held in Watsonville over the weekend and a tour of the Civic Plaza Building would be given on Friday.

Commission Alternate Gonzalez said that he received a document prepared by UCSC students regarding public transit and environmental justice. He said the report may be a marker for improving the bus system, especially in minority and low income neighborhoods. Commission Alternate Schiffrin asked for a copy of the report.

Commission Alternate Barrett announced that Scotts Valley will participate in a Santa Cruz bike club challenge all day Saturday.

Chair Pirie asked that Item 24 be taken next on the agenda.

22. Director's Report - Taken Out of Order after Item 24

Executive Director George Dondero announced that the City of Watsonville and the Regional Transportation Commission were awarded the Tranny Award for Pedestrian and Bicycle Projects for the Wetlands Slough Trails.

Mr. Dondero introduced the Regional Transportation Commission's new Administrative Services Officer, Leslie Haynes, and congratulated Rich Krumholz on his appointment as Director of Caltrans District 5.

Mr. Dondero also reported on Proposition 1B which will be on the state ballot in November. He said that staff is serving on two of the California Transportation Commission's advisory committees: the Working Group for Corridor Mobility Improvement Account Guidelines and the Working Group on Performance Measures.

23. Caltrans Report

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, said that a model of

the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project will be available at the main library in the near future and that the drainage work at both the Branciforte and Carbonera Creek areas are proceeding in a timely fashion in order to be completed before the rainy season begins.

Mr. Krumholz said he would return with information for Commissioner Spence about the times that the Highway 17 southbound lane at Granite Creek will be closed.

24. Transportation Funding Task Force Update - Summary of Comments and Project Continuation - Taken Out of Order after Item 21

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik reviewed the goals of the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF) and referred to the list of problems, solutions and funding comments received from the public during the meetings held throughout the County and from the interactive Task Force website. She said that some comments would be forwarded to city and county Public Works departments and to the SCMTD.

Ms. Pushnik briefly reviewed the work done in the first phase and the work to be done in phases two and three. Actual costs for Phase I in FY05-06 came in below estimates in some areas and above estimates in other areas. She said that after including the carry-over from FY05-06, the budget for FY06-07 would need an estimated additional \$85,000, including \$40,000 for staff time, if the Commission chose to continue the Task Force. She said these additional funds could be considered for the October budget amendment.

Task Force Convener Fred Keeley said that the Commission packet included a condensed version of the data gathered during the Task Force meetings. Mr. Keeley said that after gathering as much information as possible, the goal was to condense it into a meaningful report to present to the Commission.

Task Force consultant Eileen Goodwin said participation was terrific and that there was a great desire among participants for education about transportation issues, especially regarding funding mechanisms.

Commissioner Spence asked that future project budgets be presented in a more understandable format and asked how the

Task Force planned to acquire the necessary additional funding.

Commissioner Rivas said he wants more detail regarding staff time before considering approval of a revised budget.

Commissioner Beautz suggested approving the budget just through October.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin noted that the staff recommendations did not include a commitment to continue past what was already approved in FY06-07 and that potential additional funding be discussed as part of the normal budget process so that the RTC has the opportunity to consider potential implications to the overall budget.

Commissioner Reilly added that the need for extra money is an indication of the success of the Task Force, saying that if fewer people participated, less staff time would be required to process the feedback.

Commissioner Stone said that pulling the plug on the project at this time would send the wrong message to the public.

Commissioners discussed how to deal with Task Force members who did not actively participate. Commissioner Norton suggested allowing members to have alternates.

Dave Eselius thinks the Task Force served its purpose and should be discontinued.

Task Force member **Paul Elerick** supported continuing the Task Force.

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

1. Accept the summary and detailed list of comments received through the Transportation Funding Task Force workbook;
2. Review the expenses for the first phase and budget for future phases of the Transportation Funding Task Force; and
3. Approve continuation of the Transportation Funding Task Force project and consider a revised budget and

completion of funding for Phases I and II through the October 06 budget amendment process.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners thanked staff and the Task Force for their hard work and effective presentation of information gathered through the workbooks and workshops.

25. FY 06-07 Article 4 Transportation Development Act (TDA) and State Transportation Assistance (STA) Claims from Santa Cruz Metro Transit District (SCMTD) and Accept SCMTD Annual Report - Taken Out of Order after Item 23

Deputy Director Luis Mendez gave the staff report noting that after the staff report was written, additional State Transit Assistance (STA) funds became available for the Metro but that today's claim does not include the increased STA funds.

SCMTD General Manager Les White gave an annual report on the Metro. He said it had been a tough year for the transit district, especially due to the labor dispute which resulted in providing 1 million fewer rides for the year. He said that the district was now more stable internally and that ridership had rebounded, noting that the Highway 17 Express was especially successful because several agencies were involved in making the express service work.

Mr. White said that the ParaCruz eligibility and certification process was working well, that there were requests for additional express service to areas such as Watsonville and Los Gatos, that riders wanted a streamlined service to the airport and that he was concerned about providing service to a growing UCSC.

He recognized the need to reconfigure Watsonville service so that it re-circulated throughout the city and said he would like to attract a funding source for a summer beach shuttle.

Commission Alternate Schiffirin questioned discrepancies on the budget pages and Mr. White said that the figures used were from the third quarter and that he would send the final adopted June budget to the Commission.

Mr. Schiffirin also said it was unacceptable for UCSC to

pass along costs for increased service to the community. Mr. White said he would send a copy of a letter sent to UCSC that states that the University's assumptions in its Long Range Development Plan regarding traffic impacts were unacceptable. He indicated that further negotiations with UCSC were needed.

Commissioner Norton noted that there was a lot of talk at Task Force meetings about renewing school bus service and suggested a free bus pass for students under 15. He added that Capitola needed expanded service and should get priority over expanding service to UCSC.

Commissioner Rivas said he was glad there would be more service within Watsonville. He said that more service in the Green Valley Road area was needed due to the increase of student riders and suggested a bench along the route and one at the nearby mobile home park.

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

1. Approve the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's FY 06/07 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 4 claim in the amount of \$5,880,834, per resolution;
2. Approve the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's FY 06/07 State Transit Assistance Act (STA) claim in the amount of \$1,806,592, per resolution; and
3. Accept Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's 2005 Annual Report and oral presentation by the SCMTD General Manager.

The motion (Resolutions 02-07 and 03-07) passed unanimously.

26. RTC Autonomy - RTC Employees' Participation in CalPERS Retirement System

Senior Planner Tegan Speiser described the procedures and costs associated with contracting with the California Public Employees' Retirement System (CalPERS) to offer retirement benefits to Regional Transportation Commission employees. Contracting with CalPERS to provide these benefits is part of the work plan leading to the Commission being established as an autonomous governmental entity.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rivas seconded to approve staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Adopt a resolution declaring the RTC's intent to enter into a contract with the California Public Employees Retirement System (CalPERS) to provide retirement and survivor benefits to Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission employees under the 2% @ 55 Formula for Local Miscellaneous Members;
2. Approve disclosing the future annual costs of offering CalPERS retirement benefits to RTC employees as determined by the CalPERS System Actuary;
3. Approve October 21, 2006 as the effective date for beginning RTC's new membership in the CalPERS retirement system and for transferring the accumulated contributions, assets and liability for prior and current service from the County of Santa Cruz to the RTC;
4. Approve payment of CalPERS administrative charges to establish a new contracting agency and perform employees' prior service calculations not to exceed \$1,500; and

staff and the employee bargaining unit's recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

5. Approve offering the CalPERS 1959 Survivor Benefit - Level 4 to interested RTC employees pending the outcome of an employee election to determine participation in Social Security.

The motion (Resolution 04-07) passed unanimously.

27. Mission Street Median Landscaping

Commissioner Emily Reilly led the discussion regarding planting street trees and landscaping in the center median of Mission Street, saying that these design elements are important for traffic calming. She said she was surprised to learn that Caltrans refused to permit the City of Santa Cruz to plant the trees, stating that an agreement to plant the trees was reached during the Mission Street widening project. She asked that Chair Pirie write a letter to Caltrans urging them to approve the median planting.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin asked District 5 Director

Rich Krumholz to explain the departure from the agreement. Mr. Krumholz said that because Mission Street is both a main street for the City of Santa Cruz and a state highway, both entities are collectively responsible for the safety of drivers and pedestrians. He said that Caltrans sees the need for providing landscaping and that low lying median planting is acceptable but that trees are problematic. He said that Caltrans provided for irrigation in anticipation of vegetation, not necessarily trees, and that there has to be a balance between safety and aesthetics. Mr. Krumholz added that he was not aware of any written agreement to allow trees in the median and that the median is so narrow, the planting of trees would require a design exemption. He said the city engineer would have to prepare a fact sheet to substantiate why there should be an exception to a standard design.

Commissioner Reilly said she thinks the city is ready to do all these things but is reluctant because Caltrans indicated that it would be a waste of time. She added that the intention is not to have trees all the way down Mission Street. She asked the Commission to support the City of Santa Cruz in this effort.

Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works Director, said he has been working with Caltrans and respects their opinion, but that residents really want this improvement.

Commission Alternate Schifffrin asked who makes the decision to approve a design exception. Mr. Krumholz answered that ultimately someone in headquarters makes the decision, but that it is based on recommendations from District 5. He said the City should go forward with the process. Mr. Krumholz committed to expeditiously reviewing whatever the City submits, saying he understands that Highway 1 is a gateway to the community and that visual cues are important for drivers to recognize that the highway is beginning to serve its dual role as a main street for the City. He added that Caltrans is very concerned with safety and that it is not desirable to have trees near intersections since they could impede visibility and pose a hazard to pedestrians. He apologized for any misconceptions or misinterpretations that may have occurred when the Mission Street Widening Project was implemented.

Commissioner Reilly made a motion to ask the Public Works Director to keep the Commission informed on ongoing

negotiations with Caltrans and to seek the Commission's support for the City's efforts, if needed. Commissioner Stone seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned into Closed Session at 11:30 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

28. Conference with Labor Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

Commission Negotiators: Ellen Aldridge and George Dondero

Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit and General Representation Unit

29. 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

The Commission reconvened into Open Session at 11:58 a.m.

30. Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition - Peer Review of the Santa Cruz Industrial Lead Supplemental Structural Assessment Report

Commissioner Spence departed the meeting.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez said that additional detailed structural analysis prepared by HNTB was presented at the June 29, 2006 Regional Transportation Commission meeting. He said that the peer review of this work, produced by Biggs Cardosa and Associates was completed.

Mr. Mendez said that technical comments received by staff were forwarded to the consultants and that their responses are included in the reports. He said that the structures assessment work has brought up some issues that must be discussed with Union Pacific before the selection of a

shortline operator and additional appraisal work can proceed. When some resolution has been reached, a new timeline will be presented to the Commission.

Commissioners asked whether all of the recommended repairs listed in the reports were included in the cost estimates and whether the maintenance cost estimates assumed completion of the repairs. Commissioners also asked about the work done by HNTB Corporation to ensure that the list of the recommended repairs is complete and about disagreements between the findings of HNTB Corporation and the peer review of Biggs Cardosa and Associates.

Mr. Mendez responded that all of the repairs are included in the cost estimates and that the maintenance costs assume completion of the recommended repairs. Mr. Mendez stated that he accompanied the HNTB engineers during their analysis of the La Selva Beach trestle and that the engineers climbed the structure to take measurements and remove rust from a representative number of structure members to produce reliable repair recommendations and that in the repair recommendations the consultants took into consideration member connections. Mr. Mendez explained that the only real disagreement between the two consultant companies stemmed from the fact that two different manuals for railroad engineering are used for lateral forces in a seismic analysis resulting in differences in evaluation of potential problems.

Bob Yount asked about insurance costs and costs for capital improvements. He questioned the sources of revenue and asked for a commitment from the Commission that funding for the SCMTD would not be affected by the railroad purchase.

Commissioner Pirie clarified that the assumption is that repairs are to be made before the SCCRTC would begin maintenance responsibilities.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Beautz seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission accept the peer review produced by Biggs Cardosa Associates, Inc. of the *Santa Cruz Industrial Lead Supplemental Structural Assessment Report* produced by HNTB Corporation.

The motion passed unanimously.

31. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 pm.

The **Transportation Policy Workshop** scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. **has been cancelled.**

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Fred Keeley	Transportation Funding Task Force Convener
Sandra Coley	Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association
Eric Grabriel	
Les White	SCMTD
Donna Ziel	Alternate to Mark Stone
Dave Eselius	
Mark Dettle	Director, City of Santa Cruz DPW
Lee Otter	California Coastal Commission
Cliff Walters	Sierra Railroad
Paul Elerick	CFST
Bill Comfort	
Bob Yount	