

CONSENT AGENDA Wormhoudt/Reilly

4. Approved Draft Minutes of the August 3, 2006 Regular SCCRTC Meeting

POLICY

5. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding FY 06-07 Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Program

PROJECTS and PLANNING

6. Accepted Status Update Regarding the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition Project
7. Accepted Announcement Flyer for Transportation Funding Task Force September 21, 2006 Workshop (enclosed separately)
8. Approve Staff Recommendation Regarding Submitting a SAFETEA-LU Federal Funding Grant for a Required Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan - Moved to Item 33.1
9. Accepted Information on FY 06-07 AB2766 Grants Awarded by the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

10. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Contract Amendment with the PDM Group, Highway 1 Project Consultant (Resolution 05-07)
11. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Highway 1 HOV Lane Project Open House Meetings and Expenditures (Resolution 06-07)
12. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Use of Rental Cars for Business Travel Needs After RTC Autonomy (Resolution 07-07)

ADMINISTRATION

13. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding CalPERS Retirement Final Resolution Authorizing a Contract for RTC Autonomy (Resolution 08-07)

COMMITTEE MINUTES

14. Accepted Draft Minutes of the August 8, 2006 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting
15. Accepted Draft Minutes of the August 17, 2006 Budget & Administration / Personnel Committee Meeting
16. Accepted Draft Minutes of the August 17, 2006 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
17. Accepted Draft Minutes of the August 21, 2006 Rail Acquisition Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

18. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
19. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies
 - a. Letter Regarding Negative Declaration for the Capitola Beach Villas
20. Accepted Correspondence Log
21. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies - None
22. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
23. Accepted Handouts from Staff and Commissioners at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meetings
24. Accepted Information Items
 - a. Letter from the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District Responding to Commissioner Inquiries Raised at the August 3, 2006 RTC Meeting
 - b. "Getting on the Bus: Public Transportation and Environmental Justice in Santa Cruz County" Report Summary
 - c. Correspondence Regarding Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project Soundwall
 - d. Correspondence Regarding Bus Stops on State Route 152 in the City of Watsonville
 - e. Amtrak Capitol Corridor Service Increase News Release and Schedules

- f. Memo from Bike Smart! and 2005 Annual Report
- g. "Caltrain's Pajaro Extension Chugs Along" - August 25, 2006 Article in the Santa Cruz Sentinel
- h. "Clearing Air on California's Success in Pollution Fight" - August 6, 2006 Article in the Sacramento Bee

24.1 Approved RTC Autonomy - Establishing an Account with the State of California's CAL-Card Credit Card Program (Resolution 09-07)

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

No consent items

REGULAR AGENDA

25. Commissioner Reports - None

26. Director's Report

Executive Director George Dondero announced the upcoming seminar "Transportation Funding 101" to be held September 21 at the Live Oak Senior Center, saying that the seminar will be a hands-on interactive approach to learning about the various sources of transportation funding.

Mr. Dondero also announced the Highway 1 HOV Lanes Project Open Houses scheduled for late September.

27. Caltrans Report

Caltrans District 5 Interim Assistant Director David Fapp summarized the Highway 1/17 Project update saying that improvements at the Northbound Morrissey off ramp were completed and a STOP sign was installed at the Rooney/Morrissey intersection. Mr. Fapp said that soundwall construction was on schedule and that the design for a retaining wall between the frontage road on North Plymouth Street and the freeway was redesigned at a savings of about \$300,000. Mr. Fapp said that web cameras will be operational in September to allow web users to view real-time traffic at the Highway 1/17 interchange.

Commissioner Stone thanked Caltrans for agreeing to enhance the crosswalk in front of the New Leaf Market on Highway 9 and make it more visible and the sidewalk safer.

Dave Eselius said the fishhook merge is dangerous and would like to see brush clearing and lighting at night to increase visibility.

Commissioner Reilly said that she received a request from a constituent asking if jake brakes were allowed in the City of Santa Cruz. Ms. Reilly said that trucks using jake brakes make a lot of noise when they enter the city along Ocean Street from Highway 17. She asked who had jurisdiction over the use of jake brakes in that area.

Mr. Fapp said that he had not heard of any other complaints regarding Highway 17 and that addressing the issue would involve a joint effort between the County and Caltrans. He added that since jake brakes are supposed to be used for emergencies, trucks could be traveling at excessive speeds and that the California Highway Patrol may be needed for enforcement. Mr. Fapp said that he would provide Commissioner Reilly with examples of what other areas are doing regarding jake brakes.

28. Highway 1 Projects Update & Quarterly Progress Report on the Highway 1 HOV & Auxiliary Lane Projects - Oral Presentation by Chris Metzger, Nolte & Associates

Chris Metzger, Nolte & Associates, gave a PowerPoint presentation updating the Commission on the progress made in the engineering, environmental and public outreach aspects of the project. He indicated where additional auxiliary lanes were being considered.

Commissioner Pirie asked that Nolte provide one graph per page so that they can be easily read.

Commissioner Reilly asked if the AMBAG model assumes UCSC enrollment at 15,000. Mr. Metzger said that the model is based on upfront work that corresponds to the AMBAG region, including existing adopted plans.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Reilly regarding costs for optimal improvements exceeding what will be available to fund the project, Mr. Metzger said that the Commission can use this information to determine the best benefit to be had within the budgetary constraints and also to prioritize according to purpose and need. He said that having the data would allow for additions to the project to be added sequentially. Mr. Metzger noted that the cost

estimate table was modified, moving from construction costs only to project costs, and updated to reflect the changes.

Commissioners discussed elements of the reduced geometry alternative and the demographics assumed in the growth analysis.

Commissioner Keogh asked about the percentage of growth included in the travel model and where it is located. Mr. Metzger said he will have to get back to the Commission with these numbers but that the major growth is taking place in the southern portion of the project area. He also said that general plan growth is not always reflected in political decision making.

Commissioner Norton said he thought the projections for increased freeway speed in the build alternatives were too optimistic. Mr. Metzger responded that the key to increased traffic flow is ramp metering and that analyzing intersections is currently in process.

Commissioners discussed the trade off of being delayed on the freeway with the delays built into waiting to get on the freeway and asked if this time was factored into projections for total trip times. It was noted that there is some ability to adjust total delay time by adjusting ramp metering, but that increased number of trips will increase total delay time.

Bill Comfort asked for clarification that the total delay measurement is actually the delay of all vehicles and that since there will be more vehicles, there will be an increase to the total delay time, but that individual vehicle delay will be less. Mr. Metzger agreed saying that the ratio of total delay to total freeway trips should be considered.

Dave Eselius said that the starting assumptions should be stated. He said that he wanted to see what the occupancy rate of the proposed HOV lane would be, saying that an additional lane is needed on the freeway but not if it isn't going to be used. He asked for more information regarding impacts to auxiliary streets and said that the Commission should apply to have projects included in the bond proposed by the Governor which will come before the voters in November.

Don Hoernschemeyer also asked that the starting assumptions be stated.

29. Federal Legislative Update - Oral Presentation by Carolyn Chaney, RTC's Federal Assistant

SCCRTC Federal Assistant Carolyn Chaney highlighted the funding issues of potential interest to the Santa Cruz Region, including the FY 2007 Department of Transportation Budget, reduced appropriations to the new Small Starts Program and former Secretary of Transportation Norm Mineta's "National Strategy to Reduce Congestion on America's Transportation Network." Ms. Chaney also touched on the on-going debate regarding Amtrak funding and the administration's proposals to privatize the railroad.

Ms. Chaney said that the donor-donoree formula for recouping federal gas tax money is becoming more favorable to California and that there are funding increases all across the board from last year, although appropriations bills will probably be postponed until after the elections. She added that changes in the House and Senate could postpone appropriations even further, so that even though there are budgetary increases, the RTC may still have to work with FY06 funding levels.

Ms. Chaney also warned that because consumers are using less gas than in the past, there could be a huge shortfall in predicted revenues.

Commissioner Keogh thanked Ms. Chaney for her presentation and said that he thought the Commission was being well represented by her in Washington.

30. RTC Autonomy - Liability, Property & Commercial Crime Insurance Coverage

Senior Planner Tegan Speiser presented the Commission with a summary of the Commission's various insurance needs and a comparison of costs between insurance proposals which were reviewed by the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee, SCCRTC consultant Bob Scott, County Risk Management and staff.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Campos seconded to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel

Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Approve the purchase of property, liability and commercial crime insurance policies as proposed by insurance broker Driver Alliant Insurance Services and authorize the Executive Director to expend funds not to exceed \$20,000 for this purpose.

The motion passed unanimously.

31. RTC Autonomy - Resolutions for Employee Medical Insurance

Senior Planner Tegan Speiser briefly reviewed the CalPERS Health Benefits Program that had been presented to the Commission at the June 29th Transportation Policy Workshop. Ms. Speiser noted that the Commission agreed to contribute to the cost of health premiums at the same levels established by the current County Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs).

She noted a typographical error regarding the date on one of the resolutions and that it would be corrected prior to signature by the Chair.

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

1. Adopt resolutions to provide CalPERS Health Benefits to RTC employees by electing to be subject to the Public Employees' Medical And Hospital Care Act and fixing the employer's contribution for employees and the employer's contribution for annuitants at different amounts; and
2. Direct staff to conduct the necessary enrollments and implement the CalPERS Health Benefit Program as part of the RTC's employee benefit package.

The motion (Resolutions 10-07, 11-07) passed with Commissioner Norton voting "no".

32. RTC Autonomy - Human Resources Policies and Employee/Employer Relations Resolutions

Senior Planner Tegan Speiser said that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee had seen the policies twice and that changes were noted in underline/strikeout

format. She said that staff worked to eliminate duplication in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and Human Resources policies and that the policies were reviewed by outside legal counsel and by the employee representation units SEIU Local 415 and the County Mid-Management Association through the meet and confer process.

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

1. Adopt resolutions approving the new RTC Human Resources Policies and RTC Employee/ Employer Relations Resolution with an effective date of October 21, 2006 for both documents;
2. Direct staff to incorporate both of these documents into an RTC Policies and Procedures Manual for the post-autonomy organization; and
3. Direct staff to develop the procedures and forms required to implement the new RTC Human Resources Policies.

The motion (Resolutions 12-07, 13-07) passed unanimously and Commissioner Wormhoudt congratulated staff and everyone else who participated in the development of the policies and employee/employer relations resolution.

33. *RTC Autonomy - Adoption of RTC Administrative and Fiscal Policies*

Senior Planner Tegan Speiser said that this item was also necessary for autonomy and was developed to meet the needs of a small agency like the RTC and to reflect existing RTC policies. She said that the limit for expenditures which could be approved by the Executive Director had been raised from \$2,500 to \$15,000 which is consistent with other department heads and executive of other special districts. In addition, the RTC will remain open between noon and 1:00 p.m.

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

1. Approve a resolution adopting the *RTC Administrative and Fiscal Policies* with an effective date of October 21, 2006.

The motion (Resolution 14-07) passed unanimously.

- 33.1 Approve Staff Recommendation Regarding Submitting a SAFETEA-LU Federal Funding Grant for a Required Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan - Formerly Item 8

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik explained that the RTC recently received information regarding the application process for Section 5311 funds and possible changes in use requirements which could limit the projects eligible for funding. Ms. Pushnik said that allocations for funding will be determined by a Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. She said that usually a grant application by the RTC would come before the Commission for approval prior to submittal, but that AMBAG submitted funding applications on behalf of Santa Cruz, Monterey and San Benito counties in order to comply with the August 15th deadline.

In addition, Caltrans informed staff that there may be additional funding sources available for at least some of the staff time and costs to develop the plan.

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

1. Retroactively approve the submitted application for Section 5311 funds under SAFETEA-LU to develop the required Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to submit other grant applications for funds that may be used for the development of the Coordinated Public Transit Human Services Transportation Plan.

The motion passed unanimously.

It was announced that Item 34 was removed from Closed Session as there was no further need for discussion.

The Commission adjourned into Closed Session at 11:10 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

34. Conference with Labor Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code 54957.6 - Removed from Agenda

Commission Negotiators: Ellen Aldridge and George Dondero

Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit and General Representation Unit

35. 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.

36. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 5, 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 TMA |
| Eric Grabiell | Transportation Funding Task Force |
| Les White | SCMTD |
| Donna Ziel | Alternate for Commissioner Stone |
| Dave Eselius | |
| Mark Dettle | City of Santa Cruz Public Works |
| Lee Otter | Coastal Commission |
| Cliff Walters | Sierra Railroad |
| Paul Elerick | CFST |
| Bill Comfort | |
| Bob Yount | |
| Don Hoernschemeyer | |

\\RTCSEV1\Shared\RTC\TC2006\TC0906\TCminutes0906.doc