

CONSENT AGENDA (Wormhoudt/Beautz)

4. Approved Draft Minutes of the September 7, 2006 Regular SCCRTC Meeting (Commission Alternate Skillicorn abstained)
5. Approved Draft Minutes of the September 21, 2006 Transportation Policy Workshop Meeting (Commission Alternate Skillicorn abstained)

POLICY

No Consent Items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

No Consent Items

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

6. Accepted FY 05-06 Internal Annual Financial Reports (enclosed separately for Commissioners only)
7. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Out-of-State Travel Authorization for Conferences and Meetings with Federal Legislative Staff

ADMINISTRATION

8. Approve Commission Meeting Schedule for Next Calendar Year - Moved to the regular Agenda as Item 29.1
9. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding New Implementation Date for RTC Autonomy
10. Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding RTC Autonomy - Organizational Chart, Salary Schedule and Job Descriptions (Resolution) Moved to the Regular Agenda as Item 29.3
11. Approve Staff Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Section 125 Pre-tax Plan Document (Resolution)- Moved to regular Agenda as Item 29.2

COMMITTEE MINUTES

12. Accepted Final Minutes of the August 14, 2006 Bicycle Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

13. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
14. Accepted SCCRTC Staff Comment Letters on Draft Environmental Documents and Plans Prepared by Other Agencies - None
15. Accepted Correspondence Log
16. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
 - a. Thank You Letter from the Bicycle Committee to Caltrans for a New Stencil for Cyclists Turning Left from Scotts Valley Drive on to Glenwood Drive
17. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
18. Accepted Handouts from Staff and Commissioners at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meetings
19. Accepted Information Items
 - a. Fall 2007 Bike to Work Day Announcement
 - b. Caltrans Announcement of Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) Application Deadline for Fiscal Year 07/08

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

20. Accepted Information Item Regarding Release of Request for Proposals for the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Towing Service on Highway 17
21. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding SAFE Funds Loan to the Freeway Service Patrol Program (Resolution 20-07)
22. Accepted 2005 "Safe on 17" Program Annual Report

REGULAR AGENDA

23. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Pirie announced that she would not be able to attend the next meeting.

24. Director's Report

Executive Director George Dondero noted that today is Bike to Work Day.

Mr. Dondero said that AMBAG requested letters of support for two grant applications. One is to produce a goods movement study which would help to update the traffic model. The other is to hire interns to work on transit related projects. The intern positions would be shared with other agencies including the SCCRTC. The RTC provided letters of recommendation for these two projects last year and staff plans to provide them again this year.

Commissioner Norton arrived.

Mr. Dondero reported on the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF) Funding Workshop 101 which was held on September 21 and the Highway 1 HOV Lanes Open House Meetings held in Aptos, Watsonville and Santa Cruz. He also said that Governor Schwarzenegger signed a bill that would implement a phase out of the discontinued Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) funds, providing some partial funding for projects affected by the cessation of CMAQ funds. He added that the date for SCCRTC autonomy had been delayed two weeks and that interviews for a state legislative assistant and a pre-proposal conference for prospective Freeway Service Patrol towing services were scheduled for the near future.

Bill Comfort said that he enjoyed the PowerPoint presentation at the TFTF workshop and asked if it will be available on the website. Staff confirmed that it will be available.

25. Caltrans Report

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, introduced Aileen Loe as the new Deputy Director for the District.

Mr. Krumholz referred to a handout that dealt with responses to questions raised at the last meeting.

Regarding the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project, Mr. Krumholz said that Fernside Street will be closed for two days to save a tree. He said that crews are focused on getting work done on Carbonera Creek which needs to be done

by mid October as required by the Fish and Game Permit.

In reply to a question from Commissioner Norton, Mr. Krumholz said that storm water devices to safeguard creek water would be used to deal with erosion in the Carbonera Creek area.

26. Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes Project - Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation: Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans

Senior Planner Kim Shultz explained that a Cooperative Agreement is required whenever a local agency initiates work on a state or federal facility and that the agreement determines the responsibilities of each party.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Rivas, Mr. Shultz confirmed that the Commission will pay for 100% of the production of the document but not for Caltrans oversight.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Rivas seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign a Cooperative Agreement with the State for the Project Approval/Environmental Documentation (PA/ED) phase of the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project.

The motion (Resolution 21-07) passed unanimously.

27. Transportation Related Propositions on November 7, 2006 Ballot

Executive Director George Dondero explained the staff recommendations supporting Propositions 1A, 1B, 1C and 87, noting that Proposition 1B, the transportation bond, did not indicate how the bond service would be paid. He added that although staff recommends supporting Proposition 87, which is intended to provide funding for alternative energy, there could be a loss of fuel taxes of up to \$10 million annually. Mr. Dondero said that staff recommended opposition to Proposition 90 because it would significantly increase projects costs and is overreaching.

Commissioner Keogh said he cannot support the staff recommendations because using bonds is the short road to

bankruptcy. He said that Propositions 87 and 90 are excellent examples of poorly drawn propositions.

Commissioner Wormhoudt suggested splitting the recommendations and moved to approve the first three staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission take the following positions on three Propositions that are on the November 7, 2006 statewide General Election Ballot:

1. Support Proposition 1A - Dedicates the sales tax on gasoline to transportation;
2. Support Proposition 1B - \$19.9 Billion Transportation Bond;
3. Support Proposition 1C - \$2.9 billion Housing Bond, includes funds for Transit Oriented Development (TOD);

Commissioner Keogh seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Rivas seconded to approve the last two staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission take the following positions on two Propositions that are on the November 7, 2006 statewide General Election Ballot:

4. Support Proposition 87 - Tax on oil producers; and
5. Oppose Proposition 90 - Limits government's ability to acquire private property.

The motion passed with Commissioner Keogh voting "no".

28. Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding CalCOG's 2007 Priority Actions

Executive Director George Dondero said that there was an error on page 28-3, Item 8, and that it should read: "Ensure that federal transportation planning funds are available to regional agencies throughout the year and are not suspended due to the state budget."

Mr. Dondero said that staff does not support CalCOG priorities 2 and 6 which tie the blueprint process to funding.

Commissioner Pirie asked for an explanation of transit spillover funds. Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi explained that in the event that the price of gas increases faster

than the price of other goods and services, the tax revenues generated by the disparity are supposed to "spillover" to transit purposes. Ms. Moriconi said that this has only happened two or three times because the revenues go to the General Fund first and are not always allocated to transit.

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

1. Review and suggest revisions as appropriate on the draft Priority Actions for 2007 proposed for the California Association of Councils of Governments (CalCOG); and
2. Support the draft Priority Actions for 2007, with the exception of Priority Actions #2 and #6.

The motion passed unanimously.

29. Accessibility of the RTC's Public Meeting Locations

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik said that because of concerns raised by Commissioner Spence regarding accessibility issues with meeting locations and her subsequent resignation as the Metro's representative to the Transportation Funding Task Force due to this lack of accessible venues, staff was asked to address this issue on the November agenda. Ms. Pushnik said that every effort is made to hold meetings in places that are accessible to people with disabilities, but that other factors, such as size, proximity to public transportation and parking pose problems for meeting locations, narrowing the choices.

Commissioner Norton said that he thought that the Jade Street Community Center was an excellent location but that it was considered to be too far from bus service. Commissioners discussed what the requirements should be for accessibility to transit service.

Commissioner Spence said it is important to know the criteria in order to determine if a building complies with American with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. She noted the difference between "accessible" and "usable".

Senior Planner Pushnik suggested a matrix of facilities to help in making choices for meeting locations.

Commissioners agreed that there seemed to be a need to determine which buildings were accessible and to notify property owners if they were not in compliance.

Commissioner Wormhoudt said she would like a document showing the status of various buildings. Commissioners discussed the best way to produce a document, agreeing that RTC staff should participate but may not be the most appropriate agency to be the repository of the list.

Commissioner Spence said that the Commission on Disabilities should be involved since they advise the Board of Supervisors and that the report needs to be done by someone with training and knowledge of the code. She asked for more information about meeting facilities at Cabrillo.

Commissioner Norton noted that the ADA changes its code requirements every six years, but that an inventory of accessible meeting places is a good idea. He added that it is the responsibility of local jurisdictions to enforce code compliance.

Commissioner Beautz said that it will be difficult to find meeting space that meets every criterion and suggested that redefining requirements could provide more location possibilities. She said that it was probably not necessary for a location to have the capacity to seat 150 people and that re-thinking the proximity to bus service could add accessible locations, such as the Jade Street Center.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) accept this information item regarding accessibility of Regional Transportation Commission's public meeting locations, with the added direction to notify property owners whose facilities are not fully accessible.

Commissioner Beautz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

29.1 Approve Commission Meeting Schedule for Next Calendar Year - Formerly item 8

Commission Alternate Gustavo Gonzalez suggested a second Commission meeting in Watsonville so that there would be more visibility in the south county area. He added that there is less traffic going southbound in the morning.

Commissioner Rivas supported the idea, saying that Watsonville is becoming more populated.

Commission Alternate Gonzalez moved and Commissioner Rivas seconded to approve the staff recommendation to: Approve the Commission Meeting Schedule for Next Calendar Year with the addition that a second meeting be held in Watsonville.

After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

29.2 Approve Staff Recommendation Regarding Adoption of Section 125 Pre-tax Plan Document - Formerly Item 11

Senior Planner Tegan Speiser explained that because the SCCRTC was beginning autonomy before the end of the year, it was necessary to have a premium only agreement with AFLAC so that there would be no lapse in employees' ability to pay health care premiums with pre-tax dollars. She said that the other two elements of the Section 125 Pre-Tax Plan Document, the flexible spending plan for un-reimbursed medical expenses and the flexible spending plan for dependent care, could not begin until January, since a short plan year for these two components is not available. Ms. Speiser asked the Commission to adopt the Section 125 Plan and authorize the Executive Director to amend the plan as needed.

In response to a question asked by Commissioner Keogh, Ms. Speiser said that the medical, dental and vision benefits are identical to the County's plan, but that AFLAC is offering other optional products that employees could elect to buy.

Commissioner Wormhoudt moved and Commissioner Rivas seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

Approve a resolution adopting a Plan Document to govern the RTC's Section 125 Plans allowing employees to pay for medical and dependent care expenses with pre-tax dollars and to authorize the Executive Director to amend the plan as needed.

The motion (Resolution 22-07) passed unanimously.

29.3 Approve Staff Recommendations Regarding RTC Autonomy - Organizational Chart, Salary Schedule and Job Descriptions - Formerly Item 10

Commissioner Spence commented on the job descriptions of the executive Director, Deputy Director, Fiscal Officer and Administrative Services Officer and asked that the responsibility for the budget be given to one specific person.

In response to further questions from Commissioner Spence, Senior Planner Tegan Speiser said that she would clarify language that the Commission will be contracting for services with the Auditor Controller's office.

Commissioners had other suggestions for changes in language within the job descriptions document and questions regarding the structure of the organizational chart and about specific duties assigned to specific jobs.

Commissioner Pirie asked if the staff recommendations could be postponed until the changes were made, but Senior Planner Speiser requested that at least the recommendations for the organizational chart and the salary schedule be adopted today, with revisions to the job descriptions to follow, in order to get into the County system and continue along the critical path to complete the autonomy process.

Commissioner Beautz cited several problems with the organizational chart including the appearance that the Fiscal Officer and the Administrative Services Officer were all Deputy Directors. Commissioner Stone commented that since the organization is so small, it would not be good to have too much of a vertical structure.

Commissioner Stone moved to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission adopt a revised resolution approving an Organizational Chart and Salary Schedule for the RTC as an autonomous public agency with an effective date of November 4, 2006. He added that the Commission would adopt the job descriptions at its next meeting.

Commissioner Rivas seconded.

After further discussion about the number of planners, their levels and responsibility for the budget, the motion (Resolution 23-07) passed unanimously.

CLOSED SESSION - Removed from Agenda

29. 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

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

OPEN SESSION

31. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:37 a.m.

Commissioner Norton announced that this was his last regular meeting.

The next **Transportation Policy Workshop**, which was scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA. **was cancelled.**

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 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

Jennifer Calate
John Presleigh
Aileen Loe
Les White
Bill Comfort
Donna Ziel
Manuel Osorio

Caltrans
Santa Cruz County DPW
Caltrans
SCMTD
Alternate for Mark Stone
Cabrillo College