

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

Minutes

Thursday,
January 11, 2007
9:00 a.m.

Santa Cruz City Council Chambers
809 Center Street
Santa Cruz CA 95060

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Jan Beautz Antonio Rivas
Tony Campos Dale Skillicorn (Alt.)
Neal Coonerty Pat Spence
Randy Johnson Mark Stone
Dennis Norton Marcela Tavantzis
Emily Reilly Ashley Winn (Alt.)
Aileen Loe (ex-officio Alt.)

Staff Present: George Dondero Gini Pineda
Luis Mendez Rachel Moriconi
Kim Shultz Grace Blakeslee
Cory Caletti Tegan Speiser

2. Oral Communications

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Executive Director George Dondero noted add-on pages for Item 18, handouts for Items 23 and 24c-1, replacement pages for Item 28 pages 28-9 and 28- 10 and Attachments 4 and 5 for Item 28.

Commissioner Spence asked to pull Item 6 from the Consent Agenda. Chair Campos said that the item would be discussed following the approval of the Consent Agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA (Reilly/Rivas)

4. Approved Draft Minutes of the December 7, 2006 Regular SCCRTC Meeting, as amended below.

Commissioner Tavantzis noted a mistake on the minutes of the December 7, 2006 Regional Transportation Commission

meeting and submitted a written clarification. Page 4, Item 21, paragraph 3 of the amended minutes will read "Ms. Tavantzis said that the Metro submitted an encroachment application ~~which was denied and is now working to Caltrans~~ and requests that it be expedited. The encroachment permit would then be used by Metro to contract with Granite for the improvements, in the event that no agreement can be reached between Metro and Caltrans. Metro is requesting that Caltrans get a change order with Granite Construction approved in order to expedite the work."

Commissioner Coonerty abstained from voting on the minutes.

POLICY

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

5. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Traffic Monitoring Program Agreement with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County for Regional Coordinated Traffic Counts (Resolution 36-07)
6. Approve Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) and Staff Recommendations Regarding Appointment to the E&D TAC - Moved to Item 21.1

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

7. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Request for Proposals for Triennial Performance Audits

ADMINISTRATION

8. Approved Consultant and Staff Recommendations Regarding Set-Aside of Social Security Funds Pending Agency Election on Social Security Participation
9. Accepted Staff Assignment List and Contact Phone Numbers

COMMITTEE MINUTES

10. Accepted Final Minutes of the November 13, 2006 Bicycle Committee Meeting
11. Accepted Draft Minutes of the December 12, 2006 Elderly and

Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

12. Accepted Draft Minutes of the December 14, 2006 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee Meeting
13. Accepted Draft Minutes of the December 21, 2006 Interagency Technical 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 - None
16. Accepted Correspondence Log
17. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
 - a. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to the City of Santa Cruz Regarding a Center Line on West Cliff Drive Bicycle/Pedestrian Path
 - b. Letter from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee to Santa Cruz Metro Transit District Regarding Bus Service to the La Posada Neighborhood
18. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues - None
19. Accepted Handouts from Staff and Commissioners Distributed at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meetings
20. Accepted Information Items
 - a. United Way's Community Assessment Project Goals and Solicitation of Organizations for Ecology Action
 - b. "Path Along Schwan Lake Offers a Link in the Scenic Trail" December 12, 2006 Mid-County Post Article

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

21. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding the Variable Tow Vehicle Fuel Price for the 2007 Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Contract
 - 21.1 Approved Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) and Staff Recommendations Regarding Appointment to the E&D TAC

Commissioner Spence said that it might be premature to put

a representative from the Metro Advisory Committee (MAC) on the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) explaining that MAC's bylaws say that all communications should go through the Metro board. She said that MAC does not want to be a permanent member of the E&D TAC at this time but would like to have a member attend and decide later if it wants to join the Committee.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson said that MAC has voted not to have membership in the E&D TAC twice before.

Commissioner Spence moved to postpone this item until there is further discussion with MAC regarding their desire to have a member on the E&D TAC. Commissioner Tavantzis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

22. Commissioner Reports - None

23. Director's Report

Executive Director George Dondero said that the voter registration information which was requested by the Commission at its last meeting was included in his written report. Mr. Dondero reported on the cost estimates for the two additional projects proposed for nomination to receive Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account funds and on the rail symposium held on December 13, 2006. He also highlighted key features of the Governor's Proposed 2007-08 Budget pertaining to transportation.

24. Caltrans Report

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, provided updates regarding the Glenwood Curve project saying that it will cost more than originally anticipated and will not go to construction until 2008.

24.1 Temporary SCCRTC Committee Appointments for Unexpired Terms
- Oral Report by Commission Chair

Commissioner Campos recommended that Commissioners Coonerty and Stone fill two vacancies on the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee. Commissioner Reilly moved and Commissioner Beautz seconded to approve the recommendations. The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioner Campos recommended that Commissioner Coonerty fill the vacancy on the Rail Acquisition Committee. Commissioner Rivas moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded to approve the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Executive Director George Dondero introduced SCCRTC Planner Lisa Powell to discuss the regional traffic demand model and answer question raised by Commissioners during the quarterly report given at the September Commission meeting. Ms. Powell provided the Commission with AMBAG generated statistics in three areas: population, housing and employment. She said that AMBAG will update its model in 2008 and that the updated information from the UCSC development plan will be incorporated at that time. She added that AMBAG received a blueprint grant to help fund the model update scheduled for 2008.

Due to technical difficulties, Item 26 was taken out of order followed by the continuation of Item 25.

Nolte Associates consultant Chris Metzger continued the item with a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the Highway 1 HOV Lane PA/ED.

Following the presentation Commissioners discussed various aspects of the report and posed questions to Mr. Metzger.

Mr. Metzger said that the configuration at Morrissey Boulevard would eliminate pedestrians crossing at on or off ramps and that all freeway crossings will have bike and pedestrian lanes. He said that he will provide updates to the geometry next week and revised cost estimates. He said that the environmental work will probably be complete in 2009 and the final approval received in 2010. Mr. Metzger said that the cost for ramp metering doubled because the base calculations were taken from the Caltrans Project Study Report produced in the 1990's and that the number of ramps currently being considered has increased. He added that Nolte Associates received the notice to proceed with the auxiliary lanes project this morning and that it will take about two years for environmental review to be done with a completion date estimated at 2015 if funding comes through.

Charles Paulden noted a need for cloverleaf configurations at some interchanges on Highway 1 and a place for bike and pedestrian crossings at Morrissey Boulevard.

Caleb Verducci said that the auxiliary lanes project should go forward.

Kristen Phillips-Matson said she was disappointed that the Commission is considering the project and wants to preserve the high quality of life available in Santa Cruz.

Carrie Friedman asked when additional widening will be done.

Sylvia Mullen said that the population in the County has doubled since Highway 1 was built and that roads need improvement.

Commissioner Beautz moved and Commissioner Spence seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission accept the Quarterly Progress Report from the consultant for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Project, and receive a status report on other activities related to Highway 1 projects.

The motion passed unanimously.

26. Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Allocation Request from the County of Santa Cruz for Bicycle / Pedestrian Projects

Senior Planner Cory Caletti said that the two projects requesting Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding were approved by the Bicycle and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committees and were consistent with the *2005 Regional Transportation Plan*.

Commissioner Johnson asked for background information regarding the projects. John Presleigh, County Public Works, said that both projects would alleviate safety issues and reviewed specifics for each project.

Commissioner Spence requested that all Americans with Disabilities Act requirements be met.

Commissioner Rivas asked that the public be informed about where parking would be allowed after the bicycle lanes are

installed at the Calabasas Road site. Mr. Presleigh said that several public meetings were held to discuss the proposed changes and that another meeting will probably be held prior to construction.

Commissioner Johnson moved and Commissioner Beautz seconded to approve the Bicycle Committee, the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a resolution approving the County of Santa Cruz's FY 2006/2007 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 claim for \$187,382 for pedestrian and bicycle projects.

Charles Paulden suggested using more porous materials in place of concrete to build "pathways" rather than sidewalks. He said that more porous materials would decrease impermeable surfaces and storm water runoff.

Micah Posner spoke in favor of the projects.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 37-07) was approved unanimously.

The Commission returned to Item 25.

27. Proposed Nominations for Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) Funds

Executive Director George Dondero said that after considerable discussion, two additional projects were being presented to the Commission for its consideration as proposed nominations for CMIA funding. Mr. Dondero said that both the Park Avenue to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lane project and the 41st Avenue to Soquel Auxiliary Lane project are considered stand alone projects and have independent utility. He said that the time constraints imposed by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) require the Commission to take action today. Mr. Dondero added that these projects will not provide capacity since they are not travel lanes but will allow more time for merging.

Commissioner Spence asked what percentage of the total project costs would be matched with local funds. Mr. Dondero said that staff will send a letter to Caltrans requesting Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funds for up to 25% of the costs for these projects.

Commissioner Norton asked what the CTC considers as a

"project", why the CTC is pushing for such quick action, if there will be a second opportunity to apply for the CMIA funds, whether the project will result in three or four lanes in each direction, if HOV lanes will be required for future widening and if the projects require a coastal permit.

Executive Director Dondero said that the nature of the design of the Highway 1 Widening HOV Lanes Project allows subsections to be broken out and if these two projects are approved the environmental process for these sections would be accelerated. He said that the 60 day turn around time for project nomination was written into the legislation passed in November 2006 and that there is no indication that there will be another opportunity to apply for the funding. Mr. Dondero said that the projects under discussion call for adding auxiliary lanes resulting in two lanes for travel and one lane between ramps in each direction. He said that no right-of-way annexation is needed for the projects and that the CTC will not require that future widening consist of HOV lanes although the widening plan provides for them. Mr. Dondero added that the projects would comply with all state regulations.

The floor was opened for public comment.

Geoffrey Ellis said the auxiliary lanes are a step in the right direction.

Bill Malone opposed the widening because of costs and impacts to quality of life.

Paul Elerick opposed the widening.

Peter Scott, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, advised waiting until the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF) made its recommendations.

Carrie Friedman asked why frontage roads were not being explored to alleviate congestion.

Gail Levey, Cabrillo Estates Mobile Home Park, opposed the widening and suggested metering lights and school busses.

Micah Posner, People Power, said that the TFTF should finish its work before the Commission proceeded with requesting CMIA funding.

Eva Brunner opposed the widening and suggested waiting for the TFTF's report.

Leslie Lawrence opposed widening.

Christy Kurvin was disappointed that so few Commissioners attended the rail symposium in December and suggested that more freight traffic be diverted to trains.

Ed Oberweiser said that widening would diminish his quality of life due to pollution and requested that the Commission not go forward until the TFTF completes its report.

Mattie Hessler said that her community would be negatively impacted by the road bed being closer to homes.

Peter Weiser did not support the widening citing climate change worsening as a result of increased auto use.

Janine Canada said that light rail or a rail trail would help keep Santa Cruz beautiful.

Lois Robin said that adding auxiliary lanes affects the cohesion of the town and enables cars not people. She said the City of Curitiba, Brazil produced a DVD of how it created its urban transportation solutions.

Barbara Lawrence supported reducing congestion but said that widening does not work and that Portland and San Francisco were good models for successful public transportation.

Chair Campos announced that the meeting would adjourn for a break from 10:50 to 11:00 am. After reconvening, public comment continued.

Elissa Wagner said that going forward sidesteps the democratic process and ignores the TFTF.

John Eastman said that widening is not scalable and that the highway will not grow with the needs of community.

Schifra Penzia said that widening will be detrimental to Santa Cruz.

Barbara Mutti opposed the widening.

Vicky Campbell opposed the widening citing safety issues

for homes near the soundwall. She also asked what the City of Watsonville was doing to grow jobs to balance its growing population.

Reid Surlan spoke in favor of Personal rapid Transit

Brandon Yamasaki opposed the auxiliary lanes.

Sylvia Mullen said she was in favor of widening the highway and that many people voted against Measure J because of other projects that were on the ballot.

Mike Keogh said that all transportation suffers without adequate roadway systems and that due to a lack of parallel systems he supports widening Highway 1.

Bill Comfort sad that the auxiliary lanes are the right thing to do and that HOV lanes are also needed.

Debbie Bulger said that a balanced transportation system is needed and that traffic can be siphoned off the freeway with alternatives. She asked that the Commission wait until the TTF report is out before making a decision.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson said that the auxiliary lanes directly benefit the bus system.

Elaine Rohlfs voted against widening the highway when she voted against Measure J.

Commissioner Spence moved and Commissioner Beautz seconded to approve the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Nominate the Highway 1 Park Avenue to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lane Project, in addition to the Highway 1 Soquel Avenue to Morrissey Boulevard Auxiliary Lanes Project, to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funds;

and the staff recommendations that the RTC:

2. Nominate the Highway 1 41st Avenue to Soquel Avenue Auxiliary Lane Project for CMIA funding;
3. Approve a resolution approving the nominations; and,

4. Request that Caltrans program Interregional Transportation Improvement Program (ITIP) funds to the Park Avenue to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lane Project and the Soquel Avenue to Morrissey Boulevard Auxiliary Lanes Project.

Commissioner Reilly asked that it be read into the record that a motion was passed unanimously by the City of Santa Cruz opposing the Soquel to Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project. Ms. Reilly added that she was surprised to see the two additional projects nominated for CMIA funding and that to take STIP money for one project is very different than to constrain STIP funding for three projects.

Commissioner Stone expressed concern that when government moves quickly it makes mistakes and advised waiting for the TFTF report.

Commissioner Norton said that the method being used to obtain funding for the projects does not involve people in the public process, that the funding is questionable and the method has an undermining effect on the TFTF.

Commissioner Coonerty said that he opposed the widening south of Soquel because it is premature to request funding before the environmental analysis is completed and before the TFTF releases its reports.

Several Commissioners spoke in favor of obtaining funding for the auxiliary lanes, citing polls in favor of widening, the need to alleviate congestion in south county, support from the Central Fire District and the message that the Commission would send to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) if it did not apply for these funds.

Aileen Loe clarified that the CMIA money is part of the bond measure passed in November 2006 and that this is a one-time opportunity to obtain funding from this particular source.

Commissioners continued to discuss the proposed project nominations. Executive Director Dondero noted that all projects will have to go thru environmental review and public review and that the Commission did not have to accept the funding if it was granted.

Commissioner Spence called the question.

The motion (Resolution 38-07) passed with Commissioners Norton, Reilly, Coonerty and Stone voting "no".

28. Draft 2007 Legislative Agenda

Senior Planner Kim Shultz said that the Draft 2007 State Legislative Agenda has been amended to include a list of projects to be submitted for Corridor Management Improvement Account (CMIA) funding. He noted other minor changes to the preliminary Draft Legislative Agenda including language pertaining to transit-oriented development and to the Regional Blueprint Plan. Mr. Shultz also said that staff recommends clarifying concern that the Regional Blueprint Planning process becomes a prerequisite to receive funding for transportation capital improvements.

Regarding the Federal Legislative Agenda, Mr. Shultz said that minor amendments included language to add local streets and roads to the list of improvement categories for which increased federal funding is pursued. He also reported that federal appropriation earmarks previously included in the proposed FY 2007 Transportation Budget have been eliminated. Affected projects include the Pacific Station and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail.

Piet Canin spoke in support of a safe bicycling bill requiring 3 feet between bike lanes and vehicular traffic.

Commissioners discussed a CalCOG priority item regarding amendments to minimize California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) review for infill projects.

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

1. Adopt the Draft 2007 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 on development of the funding programs included in Proposition 1B Transportation Bond Measure and other associated legislative matters,

with the understanding that the Commission is not approving the CalCOG recommendations.

Commissioner Beautz seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

29. Amending the *2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* to Program Projected State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Improvement Program Phase-Out Funds

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi explained the proposed process to amend the *2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* (RTIP) in order to program \$19.5 million in projected State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Phase-Out Funds. This amount includes \$12.5 million for regionally significant transportation projects. Ms. Moriconi referred to a list of possible near term regional projects that may need funding from the upcoming RTIP amendment.

Commissioner Reilly moved and Commissioner Beautz seconded to approve the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Initiate the process for programming \$19.5 million in projected State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Phase-Out funds;
2. Indicate its intent to program \$4 million of these funds to local jurisdictions on a population-based formula for transportation projects of their choice, with a minimum distribution of \$200,000 to each jurisdiction;
3. Indicate its intent to program \$12.5 million of these funds to regionally significant transportation projects, including the Transportation Management Associations; and,
4. Indicate its intent to program the remaining \$3 million to regionally significant projects if needed at this time, otherwise, to program the remaining \$3 million to local jurisdictions by formula;

and staff recommendations that the RTC:

5. Identify and provide input on regional projects to be evaluated for these funds.

Commissioner Coonerty suggested that the Pajaro Station, Waddell Creek and Scott Creek bridges, and the design of the rail trail be added to the list of regional projects considered for funding.

The maker and second agreed to add these projects.

Micah Posner asked about starting to study trains and mentioned the need for pedestrian bridges over Highway 1. He added that money for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail be used to build trails and not for signs.

Carrie Friedman supported improvements to Scott Creek and funding for the Pajaro Station and pedestrian bridges over Highway 1.

Paul Marcelin-Sampson said that Caltrain is reluctant to extend service to the Pajaro Station.

Piet Canin thanked the Commission for recommending that the Transportation Management Agencies receive the CMAQ Phase-Out funds.

The motion passed unanimously.

Commissioners Spence, Stone and Johnson departed the meeting.

30. Caltrans Year in Review - Oral Presentation from Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5

Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5, gave a PowerPoint presentation on 2006 accomplishments in the district.

Commissioner Tavantzis asked if plantings along the median on Highway 1 in south county were going to be added as originally planned. Ms. Calate will provide an update on that project to the Commission at its next meeting.

CLOSED SESSION - Removed from Agenda

31. 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

32. 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

33. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.

The January Transportation Policy Workshop has been cancelled.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 1, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Mark Griffin	AMBAG
Colin Jones	Caltrans
Jennifer Calate	Caltrans
Bill Comfort	
Barbara Mutti	
Charles Paulden	
Janine Canada	
Carissa Yamasaki	
Vicky Campbell	
Jeff Beneke	
Genevieve Bookwalter	<i>Sentinel</i>
Peter Scott	CFST
John Easman	
Bonnie Morr	UTU Local 23
Elizabeth Woodbridge	UTU Local 23
Brandon Yamasaki	
Al Hoga	
Elaine Rohlfes	
Sandra Coley	PVTMA
Ed Oberweiser	People Power
Eva Brunner	People Power
Gail Levey	
Elissa Wagner	
Kristin Phillips-Matson	
E VanValkenburgh	