

**Transportation Policy Workshop
DRAFT Minutes**

Thursday, February 15, 2007

9:00 a.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room

1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

Members Present: Tony Campos Ellen Pirie
 Marcela Tavantzis Emily Reilly
 Pat Spence Jan Beautz
 Andy Schiffrin (Alt.) Mark Stone
 Aileen Loe (Alt.) Dene Bustichi
 Antonio Rivas Kirby Nicol
 Randy Johnson

1. Introductions-Self introductions were made
2. Oral Communications- None
3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - None

Consent Agenda

(Schiffrin/Reilly) Passed Unanimously

4. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Consultant Selection for 2006 Triennial Performance Audit (Resolution) – Commissioner Spence asked how it is determined that the RTC and SCMTD be audited and whether other TDA recipients also get audited. George Dondero responded that State law requires the audit of the RTC and the transit district and that there is no requirement to any of the other TDA recipients.
5. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Regional Coordinated Traffic Counts Program-Agreement with Transportation Agency for Monterey County (Resolution)
6. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Request from the Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association for Public Agency Sponsorship for their RTSP/CMAQ Funding Application (Resolution)
7. Accepted “Capitol Highlights” Weekly Report

Regular Agenda

8. Welcome New Commissioners and Solicit Committee Preferences

George Dondero welcomed Dene Bustichi and Kirby Nicol the two new commissioners and asked that if they needed any information or clarification as to the responsibilities of serving as a commissioner, please contact George Dondero or any commission staff.

Luis Mendez requested that any Commissioner interested in sitting on either the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee or the Rail Acquisition Committee, including those currently serving, please inform Commissioner Campos, the current RTC chair, or George Dondero no later than February 28. The RTC committee chairs will make appointments at the March 1, 2007 Commission meeting.

9. Freeway Service Patrol Proposal Review Committee Recommendation for Tow Service Contract on Highway 17 – Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin asked about the termination procedure and if any formal evaluations are prepared. Grace Blackeslee responded that the termination procedure is a 30 day notice and that there was no formal evaluation process but that she monitors the service on a monthly basis.

The staff recommendation and Resolution were approved unanimously (Schiffrin, Campos).

10. Transportation, Community and System Preservation (TCSP) Program Funding Application for the Rail Acquisition Project – Luis Mendez Presented the staff report

Commissioner Bustichi asked if the RTC would need to refund any used funding if the rail line is not purchased. Luis Mendez responded that according to the information available, that would not be case.. George Dondero also clarified that the funds are issued on a reimbursement basis so the RTC would not have the full funding on hand. Commissioner Bustichi also asked if there were any other projects considered for this source of funding. Luis Mendez stated that the project was discussed with the RTC Washington Assistant and based on the criteria and the need to obligate the funds in this Federal Fiscal Year the Rail Acquisition Project seems to be the best fit for these funds. He also stated that the RTC staff just became aware of the availability of funds under this program. The application will be completed in house in collaboration with CalTrans and the RTC's Washington DC assistant.

The staff recommendation and Resolution were approved unanimously (Rivas, Schiffrin)

11. Transportation Funding Task Force – Draft Plan, Meeting Schedule and Appointment of a New Commissioner to the Task Force – Karena Pushnik presented the staff report.

Commissioner Beautz expressed concern about the possibility of removing members of the task force without a process given that in assigning members an involved process was followed. She also stated that it seems unreasonable to expect all members to attend every single meeting. She stated that members probably did not realize how many meetings this would require.

Rahn Garcia, County Counsel stated that the discussion on the composition of the committee is not part of this agenda and that this discussion is not appropriate at this time. He recommended that the topic be put on the agenda for the next meeting. Andy stated that the recommendation from staff also asked for a discussion on how to improve attendance and so the discussion would be appropriate; however, he agrees with Rahn to put this discussion on hold for the next meeting.

Staff recommendation for Item 1 & 2 was accepted unanimously (Stone/Schiffirin)

Commissioner Pirie nominated Tony Campos as the RTC representative on the Transportation Funding Task Force (Schiffirin second). The nomination was passed unanimously.

To address the concerns regarding attendance and committee composition, staff was directed to include the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF) Committee composition discussion on the March 1 2007 RTC agenda. Staff was also directed to clearly state the recommendation to include the discussion on TFTF meeting attendance and the proposal to include alternates as part of the committee composition.

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 9:55 am.

Closed Session

12. 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

13. 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 in open session at 11:05 am

14. Next Meetings / Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:06 am

The next regular RTC meeting will be held **Thursday, March 1, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.** at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop will be held **Thursday, March 15, 2007 at 9:00 a.m.** at the RTC Office, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer