

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

Minutes

Thursday,
June 7, 2007
9:00 a.m.

Watsonville City Council Chambers
215 Union St
Watsonville CA 95076

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Jan Beautz Ellen Pirie
Dene Bustichi Emily Reilly
Tony Campos Antonio Rivas
Neal Coonerty Pat Spence
Randy Johnson Mark Stone
Kirby Nicol Marcela Tavantzis
Rich Krumholz (ex-officio)

Staff Present: George Dondero Yesenia Parra
Luis Mendez Kim Shultz
Gini Pineda Cory Caletti
Grace Blakeslee Karena Pushnik

2. Oral Communications - None

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said that there were add on pages for Items 21 and 22 and copies of the PowerPoint presentation included in Item 23. He noted a correction in the title of Item 27, saying it should read "RSTP" and not "RSTIP". He added that there would be no Closed Session.

CONSENT AGENDA (Rivas/Pirie)

4. Approved Minutes of the May 3, 2007 Regular SCCRTC Meeting
5. Approved Minutes of the May 17, 2007 Transportation Policy Workshop Meeting

POLICY

6. Accepted Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendation to Remove from the RTC Regular Meeting

Agenda the item "Accept Handouts from Staff and Commissioners at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meeting"

PROJECTS and PLANNING

7. Accepted Information Regarding Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and other Planned Construction Projects
8. Approved Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD) Section 5311 Program of Projects and Approval Providing the Required Certifications and Assurances (Resolution 55-07)
9. Accepted Additional Information on Proposed Passenger Train Service for the Pajaro/Watsonville Junction and Approve Appointment of Commissioner Tony Campos to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council Policy Committee
10. Accepted Information on the 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Augmentation

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

No Consent Items

ADMINISTRATION

11. Accepted Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Committee Appointments

COMMITTEE MINUTES

12. Accepted Final Minutes of the April 9, 2007 Bicycle Committee Meeting
13. Accepted Draft Minutes of the May 3, 2007 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

14. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
15. Accepted Correspondence Log
16. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
 - a. Letter from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation

- Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) to Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission regarding discussions about policy changes affecting services.
- b. Letter from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) to Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District regarding inclusion in discussions about policy changes in the ParaCruz services Eligibility and Appeals Process.
 - c. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to the City of Santa Cruz Mayor, Emily Reilly regarding support for the Bicycle Traffic School.
 - d. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to Steve DiGrazia, Department of Transportation, regarding Bicycle Improvements on the Highway 152 Watsonville Rehab Project.
17. Accepted Handouts from Staff and Commissioners at Previous Regional Transportation Commission Meetings
 18. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
 19. Accepted Information Items
 - a. Letter from Executive Director, George Dondero to The Honorable Tom Torlakson requesting support for SB 184 (Alquist)
 - b. Letter from Executive Director, George Dondero to The Honorable Assemblymember Soto informing the Assemblymember of the RTC's support of AB 57.

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

No Consent Items

REGULAR AGENDA

20. Commissioner Reports - None
21. Director's Report - Oral Report

Executive Director George Dondero announced that Moore & Associates will present the Triennial Performance Audits of the RTC and the SCMTD at the Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) on June 21st. He noted that the meeting will start at 8:00 a.m. and will be held at the Board of Supervisors Chambers.

Mr. Dondero said that Carl Guardino of the California Transportation Commission will address the Commission at the August 20th TPW, and that the September 20th TPW will

feature a workshop on bonding for a sales tax measure with guest speakers from the Contra Costa Transportation Authority.

Commissioners Johnson and Bustichi arrived at 9:17 a.m.

Director Dondero gave a PowerPoint presentation highlighting elements of the newly released 2006 Annual Report which was distributed at the meeting.

22. Caltrans Report

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, reported that the Caltrans sponsored litter pickup day in May was very successful. He referred to a handout on the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project and said that although the Branciforte overcrossing structure demolition was delayed to July 23rd because the contractor had to assist with the emergency MacArthur Maze bridge reconstruction, the progress of the 1/17 project as a whole was not affected.

Mr. Krumholz introduced Jennifer Wilson, the project manager for the Highway 152 rehabilitation project, who described the project with a PowerPoint presentation. Ms. Wilson defined the purpose and need of the project and identified specific areas of work including pavement rehabilitation, shoulder widening, pedestrian access improvements, sidewalk upgrades, bulb out installations and drainage improvements. She emphasized that many curb, sidewalk and driveway areas were brought into compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) requirements. Ms. Wilson closed by saying that final grinding and paving at the intersection of Highway 152 and Green Valley Road would be completed this weekend and that striping and signal light work would be finished by the end of the month. She noted the road closure times along Green Valley Road.

23. Highway 1 Projects Status Report

Chris Metzger, Nolte Associates, said that the status report would mainly focus on the transit market analysis.

After briefly reviewing the mobility elements and studies performed to date, Mr. Metzger introduced Gui Scherin, Parsons Transportation Group, who continued the presentation regarding the results of the transit market analysis. He clarified that the analysis was not on transit use throughout the county but only on bus lines that used the Highway 1 corridor.

Mr. Scherin explained factors that affect transit use along the corridor and said that the report concluded that transit time, including frequency of service, service cuts and the length of time spent en route, affected ridership more than fare increases. He said that express routes have an unusually high demand for a suburbanized area and attributed the bulk of that demand to the numbers of low income people who rely on bus service along the Highway 1 corridor.

Commissioner Reilly asked if service cuts meant fewer busses along the route or the elimination of a route. Mr. Scherin said that the study did not include eliminated routes and only referred to routes that experienced decreased service.

Mr. Scherin said that the study concluded that transit travel time will be decreased by the HOV Lanes project and would most likely increase bus ridership. He added that the Highway 17 express service could extend to State Park Drive if travel time along the Highway 1 corridor was decreased. He said that the HOV lane is essential to capture latent demand for bus service.

Commissioners discussed assumptions regarding travel times.

Commissioner Coonerty asked for a 90 day review period for the environmental document when it is released this spring.

Commissioner Campos asked that this request be put on a future agenda to be brought back to the Commission for discussion.

24. FY07-08 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims from the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of the Volunteer Center

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik said that the City of Santa Cruz acts on behalf of the Volunteer Center as claimant for the TDA funds which were approved by the Commission in the budget presented in March. She introduced Lois Connell, Associate Director of the Volunteer Center, to give an overview of the Volunteer Center and its activities.

Ms. Connell said that the Volunteer Center has drivers throughout the county who provide rides to seniors and handicapped people who cannot be served by other agencies. She said that the Volunteer Center averages 6500 rides annually to about 290 clients. Rides are for essential

services such as doctor visits or grocery shopping. In addition to allowing clients to receive the care they need, the service also allows elderly or disabled people to remain in their own homes instead of being forced into nursing homes due to lack of transportation. She said that demand for rides has increased with the new stricter limits imposed on MediCal funded rides. Ms. Connell said that the Volunteer Center is involved in community outreach, not only to clients in need of service, but also to drivers who want to donate their time. People interested in becoming part of the Volunteer Center network can call 831 427 5070.

Commissioner Campos said he hoped there would be an increase of service in south county.

Commissioner Reilly moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

Approve by resolution the claim for FY 2007-08 Transportation Development Act funds from the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of the Volunteer Center to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 56-07) passed with Commissioners Beautz, Campos, Coonerty, Johnson, Nicol, Pirie, Reilly, Rivas and Stone voting "yes".

25. FY07-08 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims from the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (Community Bridges)

Commissioner Reilly departed the meeting.

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik said that the City of Santa Cruz acts on behalf of Community Bridges as claimant for that agency's TDA funds. She said that Community Bridges serves as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for our area and that it is their job to provide for many unmet transportation needs. She said that Community Bridges was also impacted by MediCal cutbacks.

Ms. Pushnik said that the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) reviewed the Community Bridges claim and requested additional information regarding Community Bridges' proposal to refine

their TDA funded transportation programs. Changes proposed by Community Bridges include increased number of medical rides for low income individuals affected by MediCal's stricter regulations; new service for travel between the Homeless Shelter and the Interfaith Satellite centers; and reinstatement of service to Elderday.

Commissioner Beautz noted that information regarding Community Bridges' overhead and budget issues should be presented directly to the Commission.

Sam Storey, CEO of Community Bridges, said that Lift Line, a Community Bridges program, tries to maximize the efficiencies of capacities of rides given by directing clients to the most appropriate service available. He said that their rides focus on medical trips for low income clients. Mr. Storey said that in addition to delivering service, Community Bridges identifies unmet needs, including after school rides. He said that 35% of their services are provided in south county and that the agency's administrative services information is included in the Commission packet.

Commissioner Spence said that she had requested detailed information on the Taxi Scrip program and that to date she had not received it. Mr. Storey said a detailed report was already provided to the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee but that he would be happy to also provide it to the RTC.

Commissioner Spence also asked if advance reservations were required for rides and if Lift Line vehicles are used for chartered services.

Enriqueta Rojas, representing the Watsonville Senior Center, spoke in support of Community Bridges' services and thanked the RTC for providing the funding.

Judith Ain said that the medical voucher rides are very important especially after the MediCal cutbacks and that for many people with multiple disabilities, the cap of one ride per week did not meet their needs.

Catherine Patterson Valdez, Lift Line Division Director, said that Lift Line reaches those under the poverty level; that additional taxis were added to participate in the Taxi Scrip program; that rides to additional senior dining facilities were planned; and that lifting the restriction of one ride per week for the medical voucher program was critical for some clients.

Commissioners discussed the funding request, the increase in transportation to the senior dining centers and the costs of the Elderday rides.

Commissioner Spence departed the meeting at 11:13 a.m.

Commissioner Beautz requested that a quarterly report be submitted to the Commission and not only to the E&D TAC.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Nicol seconded to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

Approve by resolution the claim for FY 2007-08 Transportation Development Act funds from the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of Community Bridges to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 57-07) passed with Commissioners Beautz, Campos, Coonerty, Johnson, Nicol, Pirie, Rivas and Stone voting "yes".

26. FY 07-08 Claim for Transportation Development Act (TDA) and Other Funds from the SCCRTC
Commissioner Coonerty departed the meeting.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez said that there were two resolutions: an Article 3 Claim for RTC Administration and Planning Services and an Article 8 Claim for RTC Planning Services.

Commissioner Rivas moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the Article 3 Claim for RTC Administration and Planning Services. The motion (Resolution 58-07) passed unanimously.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Stone seconded to approve the Article 8 Claim for RTC Planning Services. A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 59-07) passed with Commissioners Beautz, Campos, Johnson, Nicol, Pirie, Rivas and Stone voting "yes".

27. FY 06-07 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Program and Amendments to the FY 07-08 Budget

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Rivas seconded to approve staff recommendations that the Regional

Transportation Commission (RTC) approve a resolution to:

1. Exchange \$2,978,000 in federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds programmed to seven projects for state RSTP Exchange funds; and
2. Amend the *Regional Transportation Improvement Program* (RTIP) and the RTC's fiscal year (FY) 2007/08 budget to reflect the exchange.

The motion (Resolution 60-07) passed unanimously.

28. Review of Items to be Discussed in Closed Session - None
29. Oral and Written Communications Regarding Closed Session
None

CLOSED SESSION - Removed from Agenda

30. 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

31. 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

32. Report on Closed Session - None

OPEN SESSION

33. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12.15 pm.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 21, 2007 at 8:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 2, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers, One Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Respectfully submitted

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Les White	SCMTD
Judith Ain	
Sam Storey	Community Bridges
Catherine Patterson-Valdez	Lift Line
Genevieve Bookwalter	Sentinel
Sandra Coley	PVTMA
Mike Keogh	