

**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC)  
Transportation Policy Workshop**

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, June 21, 2007**

**8:00 am**

**Board of Supervisors Chambers  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

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

1. Introductions

Self introductions were made.

2. Oral Communications – Taken out of order after approval of the Consent Agenda.

Executive Director George Dondero said that the *2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* (RTIP), which was distributed to the Commissioners, reflected the amended RTIP as adopted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and that an item was on the Consent Agenda for the RTC to approve the document.

Mr. Dondero said that there would be two Closed Session items and that the Closed Session would take place before continuing with the Regular Agenda.

3. Additions/Deletions to the Agenda - None

**Consent Agenda (Stone/Reilly)**

4. Item Deleted

5. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Updating Funding Recipient's Name for the Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association Grants and Contracts (Resolution 61-07)

6. Approved Staff Recommendation to Amend the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Consistent with the Adopted 2006 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Augmentation (Resolution 62-07)

7. Approved Staff Recommendations Regarding Amendments to the FY 07-08 Budget (Resolution 63-07)

Commissioners Beautz, Pirie, Rivas and Commission Alternate Schiffrin arrived.

**Closed Session**

The Commission adjourned into Closed Session to discuss Item 12 at 8:20 a.m.

The Commission reconvened into Open Session at 8:35 a.m.

**Open Session**

**Regular Agenda**

8. Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Project Annual Report

SCCRTC Planner Grace Blakeslee gave an overview of the Safe on 17 Program and identified the agencies which participate in the Safe on 17 Task Force. She described strategies developed by the Task Force to reduce collisions which include extra enforcement by the California Highway Patrol (CHP) on Highway 17; road improvements such as those recently completed at Laurel Curve; and public education efforts. Ms. Blakeslee provided information regarding the funding of the program and the results of the safety campaign.

In response to a question from Commissioner Rivas, Ms. Blakeslee said that there was not a trend to explain the increase in collisions during March and April but that spring break and rainy weather could be factors.

Ms. Blakeslee introduced Lt. Wood, CHP, who also addressed the ebb and flow of the collision statistics, saying that weather could be a factor but is not always a predictor. He said that enforcement makes a big difference in keeping the highway safe and thanked the Commission for supporting the CHP's extra enforcement efforts on Highway 17. He added that having a Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) vehicle on Highway 17 assists in keeping lanes clear, often preventing accidents when a vehicle has encountered trouble while on the highway.

Commissioners suggested ways to enhance the safety program, including the use of changeable message signs warning drivers that tailgaters would be ticketed, decoy patrol cars and public education regarding proper braking techniques when entering a curve.

Commissioner Rivas moved and Commission Alternate Barrett seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission/Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) accept the 2006

Annual Report for the Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Project. The motion was approved unanimously.

9. 2007 Triennial Performance Audit – Taken Out of Order after Item 11

Executive Director George Dondero said that agencies receiving Transportation Development Act (TDA) funding were mandated to undergo Triennial Performance Audits. In compliance with this requirement, audits were performed for both the RTC and the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District (SCMTD) by Moore and Associates. Copies of the audits were provided to the Commissioners. Mr. Dondero introduced Jim Moore, of Moore and Associates, to review the highlights and recommendations of both audits.

Mr. Moore said that the purpose of the audits is to assess compliance with TDA requirements and that they are not fiscal audits. He described the methodology used and said that the audits presented five recommendations for the RTC and three for the SCMTD.

Commissioners discussed the scope of the performance audits. Commissioners and Mr. Moore discussed whether all TDA recipients should be included in these performance audits.

Mr. Moore clarified that the function of the audits is to determine the performance of transit providers and not to determine how TDA funds are used by local jurisdictions for road improvements. He noted that one of the recommendations is that all future audits include the paratransit function regardless of contractual approach.

Other recommendations for the RTC were to establish a process to review the SCMTD's operation and implementation of potential changes to make operations more efficient; complete a Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan to coordinate specialized transportation services; complete a classification and compensation study of RTC staff that compares technical staff with like-peers; and to assess the need for two "regular" RTC meetings each month.

Commissioner Beautz expressed concern that having only one regular Commission meeting per month would make the meetings too long and not allow for enough public participation.

Mr. Moore suggested that instead of eliminating the Transportation Policy Workshop entirely, it might suffice to make this second meeting less frequent.

Mr. Moore summarized the recommendations for the SCMTD as follows: participate in the process established by the RTC to review the SCMTD's operation for possible implementation of changes to make the operation more efficient; participate in the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning Process; and consider a strategic marketing plan to increase ridership, focusing

on the community Transportation Demand Model realm by participating in region-wide mobility plans. It was noted that the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Planning process would be initiated by AMBAG.

Mr. Moore concluded that there were no fatal flaws for either agency, that many of the recommendations were already underway and that there were no issues of non-compliance.

Commissioners asked questions about the methods used to obtain the data and the role of the RTC in providing oversight to the SCMTD, discrepancies in factual reporting, and the complementary nature of the RTC's marketing of transportation alternatives and the recommendation that SCMTD should consider implementing a marketing plan to increase ridership. Mr. Moore agreed that marketing at the RTC and at the SCMTD are complimentary and would add wording to show that and that the agencies should work together.

Mr. Moore said he will include details in the SCMTD audit that could have contributed to ridership reduction, but reiterated that the audit is a numbers driven report, not a situational driven report. He said that inaccuracies would be corrected. Mr. Dondero added that staff would receive notations made by Commissioner Spence to incorporate any needed corrections. It was emphasized that these discrepancies did not affect the overall audit report and did not imply non-compliance for either the RTC or the SCMTD.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Accept the Triennial Performance Audit Reports of the RTC and the SCMTD;
2. Direct staff to work with the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee to develop recommendations responding to the findings in the RTC Triennial Performance Audit; and
3. Request that SCMTD provide a response to the findings in the SCMTD Triennial Performance Audit.

with the added direction that a paragraph be added on the coordination of marketing efforts of the two agencies, that RTC staff work with SCMTD staff and the consultant to resolve any inaccuracies in the SCMTD performance audit as pointed out by Commissioners and others, that a list of all recipients of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds be provided to the RTC at its August meeting and that a letter to be presented to the SCMTD the following day be included with the SCMTD performance audit.

The motion passed unanimously.

10. Oral and Written Communications Regarding Closed Sessions – Taken Out of Order following Item 8

Senior Transportation Planner Kim Shultz spoke to the Commission on behalf of the general staff regarding Labor Negotiations, Item 11 on the Closed Session Agenda. Mr. Shultz said that together with the Board and management, the staff worked diligently and faithfully during the autonomy process and grew stronger as a team. Although improvements are already visible due to autonomy, staff is concerned that labor negotiations could affect the cohesiveness of the RTC organization. While previously the role that RTC staff played in labor negotiations was very small, now it is more immediate. As one of the first items, the general staff asked management to defer voting on the method used to resolve the Social Security issue, saying that staff is confident that they can address the concerns raised by the Commission and avoid what could be a very divisive action. On behalf of the staff, Mr. Shultz pledged to work positively towards the resolution of a contract that preserves the cohesive team culture of the RTC organization.

**Closed Session**

11. Conference with Labor Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

- a. Commission Negotiators: Ellen Aldridge and George Dondero
- b. Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit and General Representation Unit

The Commission adjourned into Closed Session at 9:00 a.m.

**Reconvene to Open Session**

The Commission reconvened to Open Session at 9:30 a.m.

**Closed Session**

12. 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 – Taken Out of Order after Oral Communications

The Commission adjourned into Closed Session to discuss Item 12 at 8:20 a.m.

- a. Agency Negotiator: Kirk Trost, Miller, Owen & Trost
- b. Negotiation Parties: SCCRTC, Union Pacific
- c. Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

**Reconvene to Open Session**

The Commission reconvened into Open Session at 8:35 a.m.

13. Report on Closed Session – No Items to Report

Chair Campos allowed Oral Communication from Lynn Lawson to speak in favor of Personal Rapid Transport (PRT). Ms. Lawson presented a handout to the Commission.

Commissioner Beautz said there was a group of citizens interested in PRT.

14. Next Meetings / Adjournment

The meeting adjourned 10:35 a.m.

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 Dr, Scotts Valley, CA

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, August 16, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

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Gini Pineda, Staff

**ATTENDEES**

Marc Adato	SCA TMA
Les White	SCMTD
Scott Wood	SHP
Donna Ziel	Alternate for Mark Stone
Lynn Lawson	The Keep Foundation