

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION
Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee

Draft MINUTES

Thursday, February 14, 2008
3:30 pm

CAO Conference Room, 5th Floor
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz

Meeting called to order by acting Chair Commissioner Mark Stone at 3:46 pm.

PRESENT: Gustavo Gonzales, Mark Stone, Jan Beautz, Antonio Rivas

STAFF PRESENT: Yesenia Parra, Luis Mendez, Grace Blakeslee, Daniel Nikuna,
George Dondero

1. Introductions - None
2. Additions/Changes to Agenda: Deputy Director Luis Mendez distributed a Replacement page for item number 9.
3. Oral Communications - None

CONSENT AGENDA

(Beautz, Gonzales)
Approved Unanimously

4. Approved Minutes of December 13, 2007 Meeting
5. Accepted Monthly TDA Report

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Freeway Service Patrol Program on Highway 1 Contract Amendment

Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report stating that staff recommends extending the Freeway Service Patrol Program (FSP) contract for an additional year making it a 4 year contract to be consistent with current practices statewide, coincide with the San Francisco Bay Area's FSP procurement cycle, and minimize staff time for contract procurements.

In response to questions from Commissioners, RTC staff members gave a brief summary of the FSP program, provided information on public acceptance of the program, explained the competitive contract procurement process and communicated funding breakdowns, requirements and constraints.

A motion was made (Beautz/Rivas) to approve the staff recommendation:

That the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), serving as the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE), authorize the Executive Director to amend the agreement with Ladd's Autobody and Towing to extend the Highway 1 FSP contract for 1 year until July 3, 2009 and increase the contract by \$106,000 to cover the additional year of service

The motion passed unanimously.

7. SAFE/FSP 10 Year Budget Update

Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report providing information on the RTC's call box, Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) and Safe on 17 programs. Ms. Blakeslee explained the services provided by the programs and reviewed their funding sources and operations costs. She reported that if Fiscal Year 08/09 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds are not programmed to the FSP program by the California Transportation Commission (CTC), it would have an impact on the services provided. She explained that SAFE reserves can be used to fund FSP and that there are currently sufficient reserves to fund the program for a short period of time but not indefinitely. It may be necessary to increase the amount of SAFE funds being used for the Safe on 17 Program to maintain a consistent level of extra CHP enforcement. SAFE funds may also be used to fund other motorist aid programs such as 511 and changeable message signs.

Executive Director George Dondero arrived at 3:56 PM.

Commissioners and staff discussed the decline in call box usage, the increase in cellular phone usage, the need to continue the call box program, the cost to maintain a call box in operation, and the location of call boxes.

8. Amendments to the FY 07-08 Budget and Work Program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented the staff report stating that the amendments would recognize unforeseen funds and make adjustments.

He also reported that TDA revenues are about 3% below the estimate for this fiscal year. He commented that the Commission may need to use TDA reserves to meet the allocations that have already been approved.

A motion was made (Beautz/Gonzalez) to approve staff recommendation to recommend to the Regional Transportation Commission that they approve a resolution amending the FY 07-08 Budget and work Program to:

1. Add \$2,600 to the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) budget to reflect miscellaneous revenues for payment of call box damages due to collisions;
2. Reduce the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Planning (PL) funds by \$3,858 to reflect the final funds figures for FY 05-06 and FY 06-07;
3. Add \$70,000 for a new Agricultural Worker Transportation Program (AWTP) planning grant to be passed through to Community Bridges; and
4. Redistribute funds for staff resources between the Planning and Rail/Trail Authority budgets to reflect work trends.

The motion passed unanimously.

9. Draft Fiscal Year (FY) 08-09 RTC Budget and Work Program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented the staff report, stating that this annual process establishes a budget for the up coming fiscal year, provides Transportation Development Act (TDA) recipients an estimate for their budget preparation, and ensures work program coordination with the Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). He reiterated that the TDA revenues are coming in lower than estimated and that this has an impact on the estimate for the FY 08-09 budget.

Mr. Mendez reviewed the distribution of TDA revenues and state of TDA reserves, and reported that the State Controller's estimate for State Transit Assistance (STA) funds is significantly higher than the estimate for FY 07-08.

Les White clarified that the increase in STA funds is due to recent legislative changes which divert 50% of the Public Transportation Account (PTA) spillover to the state general fund and revised the allocation formula to transit agencies from 50% to 75%. He noted that the figure given to the RTC is based on the Governors proposed budget and the final amount will be known when the budget is adopted.

Commissioners and staff discussed some details of the proposed budget. Mr. Mendez reported that one significant difference from the FY 07-08 budget is the elimination of the temporary planner position which had been budgeted in the past due to the additional work created by the Transportation Funding

Task Force and efforts towards preparing a measure for the November 2008 ballot..

A motion was made (Rivas/Beautz) to approve the staff recommendation that the B&A/P Committee review and recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the draft FY08-09 Budget and Work Program as shown on Attachments 1 and 2 of the staff report.

The motion passed unanimously.

The Committee adjourned to closed session at 4:27 pm

CLOSED SESSION
(Government Code Section 54957)

10. Annual Performance Review for Executive Director - discussion

OPEN SESSION

11. Adjournment at 4:29 pm

The next Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 10, 2008 at 3:30 p.m. in the CAO Conference Room, 5th Floor, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz

Respectfully submitted



Yesenia Parra, Staff

ATTENDEES

Les White
Piet Canin
Theresa Rogerson

METRO
Ecology Action
Community Traffic Safety
Coalition