

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

Minutes

Thursday, March 6 2008
9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean St
Santa Cruz CA 95060

The meeting convened at 9:10 am.

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
Aileen Loe (ex-officio)

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

2. Oral Communications

Jack Nelson brought his bike to demonstrate that cycling is a practical mode of transportation. He advocated for a rail trail, saying it would help to decongest the freeway.

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Commissioner Beautz asked to pull Item 5. Chair Campos designated the Item as 23.1.

Commissioner Bustichi arrived.

CONSENT AGENDA (Rivas/Pirie, as amended)

4. Approved Minutes of the February 7, 2008 Regular SCCRTC Meeting

POLICY

No Consent Items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

5. Authorize a Federal Appropriation Request for the Pajaro/Watsonville Junction Rail Station - Moved to Regular Agenda as Item 23.1

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

6. Accepted Status Report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) Revenues
7. Approved Amendments to the FY 07 -08 Budget and Work Program (Resolution 15-08)

ADMINISTRATION

No Consent Items

COMMITTEE MINUTES

8. Accepted Draft Minutes of the February 11, 2008 Bicycle Committee Meeting
9. Accepted Draft Minutes of the February 12, 2008 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Committee Meeting
10. Accepted Draft Minutes of the February 14, 2008 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

11. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
12. Accepted Correspondence Log
13. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
 - a. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to the County Redevelopment Agency Regarding Bicycle Access to 9th Avenue from east Cliff Drive

- b. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to the City of Santa Cruz Regarding Appreciation for Soquel Avenue Bike Lanes and Soquel Avenue/Capitola Road Intersection Improvement
 - c. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department Regarding Highway 9 Bicycle Safety Improvement Project in Bicycle Plan
 - d. Letter from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Regarding METRO Request for input on ParaCruz Same Day Service Change Policy
 - e. Letter from SCCRTC to the Department of Planning and Community Development Regarding Notice of Intent to Issue a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Monterey Bay Marine Sanctuary Visitor Center
14. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
15. Accepted Information Items - None

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

16. Accepted Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Freeway Service Patrol Program on Highway 1 Contract Amendment (Resolution 16-08)

REGULAR AGENDA

17. Commissioner Reports - None
18. Director's Report

Executive Director George Dondero noted that the Rail Acquisition Committee Meeting will be held on March 17, 2008 and not on March 10th as stated on page 11-1.

Mr. Dondero said that he and staff have scheduled 11 presentations with groups or agencies to present information on the Highway 1 HOV Lanes project and that two of them were completed. He said that anyone interested in scheduling a presentation should contact the SCCRTC at 460 3200.

Mr. Dondero reported on a meeting held on February 28th with officers and the Executive Director of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) to discuss issues of mutual interest. More meetings will be planned in the future.

Director Dondero announced that he will be meeting with the RTC's legislative assistants in Sacramento on March 17th and that the SCCRTC will participate in the Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce's annual Business Fair on March 19th.

Commissioner Nicol complimented Mr. Dondero and staff on an "exceedingly well done presentation" at the Capitola City Council last week.

19. Caltrans Report - Taken Out of Order after Item 20

Jennifer Calate gave a PowerPoint presentation which highlighted activities completed in 2007 and anticipated projects for 2008.

Among the projects that made significant progress in 2007 was the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project which is funded with State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. Work on that project includes bridge reconstruction, installation of concrete median barriers, soundwalls, and additional cameras within the scope of the project.

Projects designated as those that preserve and protect the state highway system are funded with State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) funds. Completed projects for 2007 include improvements to Highway 17 at Laurel Curve and improvements to Highway 152/Main Street in Watsonville.

Caltrans also completed maintenance projects throughout the county.

Ms. Calate listed work on Highway 17 at Glenwood Curve and the Highway 129 Chittendon Pass Realignment Project as safety projects anticipated for 2008.

Commissioners discussed the off-ramp at Pasatiempo Drive saying that the closure affects both residents of the area and patrons of the Peachwood's restaurant. It was noted that the Pasatiempo off-ramp will not be closed until the Emeline off-ramp is reopened and that there will be signage regarding the detour. Commissioner Reilly said that the signage needs to be in place before motorists reach the ramp closure.

In response to a question from Commissioner Coonerty, it was confirmed that all work on the Highway 17 Glenwood Curves project will take place at night.

20. Highway 1 HOV Lanes Project - On-Call Right-of-Way Consultant Contract - Taken Out of Order after Item 18

Senior Planner Kim Shultz gave the staff report saying that Caltrans requires that a certified right-of-way consultant, knowledgeable of state regulations, perform the right-of-way data research and valuation to be included in the Project Report accompanying the environmental document. Mr. Shultz added that public meetings and informational open houses are part of the proposed scope of work.

Commissioner Beautz moved and Commissioner Nicol seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute an on-call consultant contract with Bender Rosenthal, Inc., in the amount of \$106,000 for right-of-way support services associated with the Highway 1 HOV Lanes Project.

The motion (Resolution 17-08) passed unanimously.

21. Review of Items to be Discussed in Closed Session - N/A

Mr. Dondero announced that there was no Closed Session.

Chair Campos re-designated Item 5 as Item 21.1.

- 21.1 Authorize a Federal Appropriation Request for the Pajaro/Watsonville Junction Rail Station - Formerly Item 5

Commissioner Beautz asked why this item was on the agenda.

Executive Director George Dondero said that the RTC planned to submit a federal appropriation request for a 511 program, but could not because the Commission did not have sufficient information to apply. He said that the Transportation Agency for Monterey County has asked repeatedly in the past for support for the rail station since it is estimated that about 80% of the ridership would come from Santa Cruz County. He said that the rail station received strong support from the Transportation Funding Task Force. He added that the deadline to apply for the federal appropriation was before the RTC meeting and that

staff only had three days to prepare the application. He added that the application could be withdrawn at the Commission's direction.

Commissioners discussed the amount requested and the specific purpose for the funding.

Commissioner Rivas moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the staff recommendation that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) authorize the Executive Director to request a federal appropriation for the Pajaro/Watsonville Rail Station.

Commissioner Beautz said that one reason that she asked to pull the item is that the appropriation request may conflict with requests made by the SCMTD.

Les White, SCMTD, explained the earmark process saying that this request would not compete with Metro's three requests from the bus side of the program. He added that there could be indirect implications because transportation funding was very constrained across the board. He advised that the Commission ask as many legislators as possible to support its request.

The motion passed unanimously.

22. Oral and Written Communications Regarding Closed Session-
N/A

CLOSED SESSION - Removed from Agenda

Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 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

23. Report on Closed Session - N/A

24. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:54 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, March 20, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 3, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisor Chambers, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, CA

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Jack Nelson	
John Presleigh	
Peter Scott	CFST
Les White	SCMTD
Cliff Walters	Sierra Railroad