

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

Minutes

Thursday, June 5, 2008

9:00 a.m.

Watsonville City Council Chambers
275 Main Street
Watsonville CA 95076

1. Roll Call

Members Present:	Jan Beautz	Emily Reilly
	Bob Begun (Alt.)	Antonio Rivas
	Tony Campos	Dale Skillicorn (Alt.)
	Neal Coonerty	Pat Spence
	Randy Johnson	Marcela Tavantzis
	Ellen Pirie	Donna Ziel (Alt.)
	Rich Krumholz (ex-officio)	

Staff Present:	George Dondero	Yesenia Parra
	Luis Mendez	Kim Shultz
	Gini Pineda	Karena Pushnik
	Rachel Moriconi	

2. Oral Communications

Commissioner Rivas welcomed everyone to the new Watsonville Civic Center and City Council Chambers. He announced that there will be a panel on educational reform featuring Assemblymember Ana Caballero and State Senator Gloria Romero on Thursday, June 5th at 6pm at the Watsonville Civic Center.

Debbie Bulger and **Chris Bell**, representing Mission Pedestrian, presented a "Golden Sneaker Award" to Commissioner Reilly for contributions to improvements for pedestrian safety above and beyond the ordinary. Ms. Bulger recounted that in August 2007 a section of sidewalk on Mission Street was torn apart for undergrounding of utilities. This section of sidewalk was not Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant and the sidewalk was replaced in the same non-compliant condition. Commissioner Reilly worked with the City of Santa Cruz, the property owner and Caltrans to make the sidewalk compliant with current ADA standards.

John Daugherty said that a route has been added to service between Watsonville and Santa Cruz that includes a stop at the new City Hall Civic Center. Mr. Daugherty distributed a letter to the *Sentinel* from Satellite Dialysis praising the

efforts of the SCMTD, Lift Line and Karena Pushnik of the SCCRTC staff for working to provide transportation for those dialysis patients whose transportation funding had been cut by the Central Coast Alliance for Health in response to the recently imposed stricter interpretation of MediCal Title 22 ride eligibility.

Jack Nelson called attention to a letter he wrote to the Commission regarding global warming and said that he hopes that this issue is on a future Transportation Policy Workshop agenda.

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said that there were add-on pages for Items 24 and 26 and replacement pages for Items 28, 29 and 31. He announced that today's meeting is being translated into Spanish.

CONSENT AGENDA (Skillicorn/Rivas)

4. Approved Minutes of the May 1, 2008 Regular SCCRTC Meeting

5. Approved Minutes of the May 15, 2008 Transportation Policy Workshop Meeting

POLICY

No Consent Items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

6. Approved Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD) Section 5311 Program of Projects and Application (Resolution 29-08)

7. Accepted the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee 2007 Annual Report

8. Accepted AB 2766 Grant Applications Updated Recommendations (Resolution 30-08)

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

9. Approved Fiscal Audit Contract Recommendation (Resolution 31-08)

10. Accepted Status Report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) Revenues

11. Approved FY 07-08 Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange Program and Amendments to the SCCRTC Budget (Resolution 32-08) with a correction to the lead agency designation for projects CO 44 and CO 45 listed on page 11-5 to the County of Santa Cruz.

ADMINISTRATION

12. Accepted Staff Recommendations Regarding Amending the RTC Technical Support Consultant Contract (Resolution 33-08)
13. Approved Payment of Social Security Funds Held in Trust to Employees Separating from RTC Service prior to Social Security Divisional Election
14. Approved Out-Of-State Travel for RTC Staff

COMMITTEE MINUTES

15. Accepted Draft Minutes of the May 12, 2008 Bicycle Committee Meeting
16. Accepted Draft Minutes of the May 13, 2008 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

17. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
18. Accepted Correspondence Log
19. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies
 - a. Letter from SCCRTC Bicycle Committee Chair to Mayor Ryan Coonerty and City of Santa Cruz Council Members Regarding Mission Street Bicycle Safety Signage
 - b. Letter from RTC Staff to the Honorable Dianne Feinstein Regarding Opposition to the Suspension of the Federal Gas Tax
 - c. Letter from RTC Staff to City of Santa Cruz Regarding Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the 2120 Delaware Mixed Use Project
 - d. Letter from RTC Staff to the City of Scotts Valley Planning Department Regarding Comments on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the Proposed Gateway South Retail Store in the City of Scotts Valley
20. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
 - a. Letter from the Chair of the Highway 1 Construction Authority Regarding Support for the Highway 1 HOV Lane Project 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program Funding
 - b. Letter from Jack Nelson Regarding Climate Change Information
21. Accepted Information Items
 - a. "Project Monitors HOV Lane Operations" September 9, 2006 Texas Transportation Institute Project Summary Report 3942-5

- b. Letters of Response from Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District General Manger Regarding an Incident on Highway 17 Express Bus

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

22. Approved Staff Recommendation to Change the Assignment of Santa Cruz County Call Box Maintenance Contract to Case Systems, Inc. (Resolution 34-08)

REGULAR AGENDA

23. Commissioner Reports – None
24. Director's Report

Executive Director George Dondero reported on the state budget, the California Transportation Commission meeting he attended in May, the Holohan Road/Hwy 152 intersection, and a statewide committee on local roads needs assessments. He added that the June Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) meeting will include an item regarding the RTC's potential role as construction manager for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project.

25. Caltrans Report

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, said that the major work on the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project should be finished in fall 2008 and landscaping completed in the spring. He said that Caltrans is conducting a public hearing on a guardrail project along the southbound shoulder of Highway 17 in Scotts Valley. Mr. Krumholz said that Caltrans is continuing to work with the City of Santa Cruz regarding signage on Mission Street to enhance bicycle safety, noting that the department received approval for experimental warning signage with the condition that the California Bicycling Committee and the Federal Highway Administration support it. He said the approval may only take a few weeks but that the manufacture of the signs may take months because there are no pre-existing signs of this type. Responding to a question from Commissioner Reilly, Mr. Krumholz said that the final distance between the soundwall and travel lanes on Highway 1 through the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project would be consistent with design standards, which is 10 feet.

26. **9:30 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING:** 2008 Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave the staff report saying that the RTC reviews unmet specialized transportation needs annually. She said that last year's list was used as a base and that minimal changes were made to this year's list. She noted that a request was made by UCSC to revise Item "General #2" as described in the add-on page 26-9. Ms. Pushnik recommended that the Commission adopt the list with the amendment on page 26-9.

Commissioner Spence asked that providing transportation to dialysis patients whose transportation funding has been cut be added to the list.

The Public Hearing was held.

Sam Storey, Director of Community Bridges, said that he supports adding more medical related transportation to the list. He said that Community Bridges is applying for a 5317 Grant to provide services that were lost when the Central Coast Alliance for Health cut transportation services. He described the difficulties of running a transportation service during this time of higher fuel costs and increasing demand. He said that it is critical that providers work together to find solutions to these problems.

Helen Sesser, Satellite Dialysis, said that since the change in MediCal coverage, only seven out of 40 patients meet the current guidelines for transportation. She said that dialysis is a life preserving necessity. She added that she has contacted the Volunteer Center and a church group for help.

Commissioner Pirie moved to adopt the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Consider public input on Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs;
2. Adopt the Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs List for 2008 with revisions as appropriate;
3. Forward the adopted 2008 Unmet Needs List to the Association for Monterey Bay Area Governments for inclusion in the appendix of the *Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan*; and
4. Consider the list of Unmet Needs as funding becomes available; with the addition that
5. The language in Item General #2 be changed to reflect the request made by UCSC;
6. That language be added to recognize the need of transportation for dialysis patients and other medical transportation as a high priority; and
7. That a typo on Item Transit #30 be corrected by changing the words "place 30 1998 fixed route buses" to "replace 30" fixed route buses.

Commissioner Beautz seconded.

After discussion about the number of trips that are unmet annually, the ways ParaCruz and Lift Line coordinate and the role of taxi service in providing specialized rides, the motion carried unanimously.

27. FY08-09 Claims from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD) for Transportation Development Act (TDA) Funds and State Transit Assistance (STA) Funds And Annual Report

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi reviewed the RTC Rules and Regulations which dictate how Transportation Development Act (TDA) and State Transit Assistance

(STA) funds are distributed. She said that STA "spillover funds", although designated by statute for public transportation programs, have been, in recent years, re-directed to the General Fund. Ms. Moriconi said that the SCMTD claim is consistent with the RTC budget and that if the available amount of TDA and STA funds changes, the RTC will amend its budget to reflect the changes and that the Metro will not have to revise its claim. She said that RTC staff evaluated the SCMTD claim and strongly endorses the productivity improvements identified.

Les White, SCMTD General Manager, described Metro's plans for the proposed funds which include finding ways for ParaCruz to absorb the increased rides for dialysis patients who lost their transportation funding due to MediCal cuts and an amended capital plan which provides that everything above base level will go to replacing ParaCruz vans and the replacement of 30 diesel buses. He said that ridership is up, with standing room only common on the Highway 17 Express, and that Metro needs additional equipment as it is currently using buses that it intended to retire. Mr. White said that Metro will be occupying the first half of the maintenance facility this fall. He said that a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study is underway cooperatively with UCSC.

Commissioners discussed increasing ridership with UCSC and Cabrillo College students as well as the proposed negotiated fares with San Jose State University. It was noted that ParaCruz provides about 400 rides a day on weekdays.

Commission Alternate Begun moved and Commissioner Rivas seconded to approve the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Adopt resolutions approving the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's FY 08/09 Transportation Development Act (TDA) and State Transit Assistance (STA) claim.

Marilyn Garrett said that oil companies need to be nationalized and that cell phones and wireless internet use expose people to second hand radiation and should be banned from buses.

The motion (Resolutions 35-08 and 36-08) passed unanimously.

28. FY08-09 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for the Volunteer Center

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave the staff report and introduced John McGuire from the Volunteer Center who recapped the Center's activities. He distributed a handout which included testimonial notes from recipients of the Center's services. He added that the Volunteer Center is looking for south county drivers.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Tavantzis, Mr. McGuire said that some obstacles to providing more rides for medical needs are (1) that the Volunteer Center does not provide out-of-county rides and (2) that its

insurance company will not allow drivers to sign out patients who have received anesthesia. He said that he would investigate whether this applies to dialysis patients. Commissioner Tavantzis said that neither of these issues applies to dialysis patients and suggested targeted Spanish outreach to dialysis patients. It was noted that their Watsonville office is at 12 Carr St.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Reilly seconded to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission approve by resolution a claim for \$69,924 in FY 2008-09 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 with Commissioners Beautz, Begun, Coonerty, Johnson, Pirie, Reilly, Rivas and Ziel voting to approve the recommendation (Resolution 37-08). Commissioner Campos was absent for the vote.

29. FY08-09 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for Community Bridges

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave the staff report saying that the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee requested that Community Bridges increase the priority of medical rides, especially for rides provided to dialysis patients. She said that Community Bridges is trying to get a New Freedom Grant to provide additional funding.

Catherine Patterson Valdez described the Community Bridges mission saying that it is a paratransit service that meets transportation needs in the community. She said that Community Bridges manages the taxi scrip program as well as coordinates with the Red Cross and is currently working with veterans groups. She said that all goals for FY07-08 were met and exceeded.

Commissioners discussed the administrative costs for the agency. It was noted that the administrative rate of 14.5% has remained the same for the last four years. Responding to a question from Commissioner Spence, Sam Storey said that although some funding was transferred from taxi scrip to cover alliance expenses, the taxi scrip program has not been negatively impacted and has added about 20 new clients.

Commissioner Rivas asked for a report from veteran services offices in Santa Cruz and Watsonville to determine how many military service personnel are receiving transportation services to Monterey.

Commissioner Johnson 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 a claim for \$587,358 in FY 2008-09 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 Commissioners Beautz, Begun, Campos, Coonerty, Johnson, Pirie, Reilly, Rivas and Ziel voted to approve the recommendation (Resolution 38-08).

30. 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program Update

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff recommended only funding 32% of the project funding requested by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding. The RTC's Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) and Commute Solutions Rideshare programs did not receive any funding. She said that the CTC is recommending that the Rail Right-of-Way Acquisition project and the Metro's Transit Trip Planner project be shifted to FY 09-10 and has postponed its decision regarding funding for the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project. Among the projects requested by the Commission and recommended for approval by CTC staff are the San Lorenzo River Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge project and the Highway 1/Harkins Slough Road Interchange. It was noted that the CTC agreed with the RTC and City of Watsonville's request to change the lead agency for this project from Caltrans to the City of Watsonville.

Executive Director George Dondero said that this report underscores the need for a new local revenue source.

31. Highway 1 Projects: Public Hearings Approach/Format for the Draft Environmental Documents - Revised

Senior Planner Kim Shultz gave an overview of proposed approaches and formats for the public to participate in the review of the environmental documents for the Highway 1 projects. Mr. Shultz said that the item was revised at Caltrans' request in order for the roles that Caltrans and the RTC play in delivering these projects be clear to the public with respect to the California Environmental Quality Act. Since Caltrans is the lead agency and the RTC is the sponsoring agency, Caltrans requested that the formal hearings be convened by a Caltrans representative and that the hearings be held in neutral locations.

Commissioner Spence said that two of the proposed sites were not fully handicapped accessible and asked staff to check on the accessibility of the proposed Santa Cruz site.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Beautz seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission approve, with revisions as appropriate, the proposed approach and format of the public hearings for the draft environmental documents for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes and Highway 1 HOV Lanes project.

Jack Nelson asked about the format of the public hearings and expressed concern about the amount of document review time prior to the public hearings. He asked for extended review time.

Marilyn Garret said that Highway 1 was once a scenic highway and now is a blighted highway and that statistics show that widened highways fill up with cars.

The motion carried unanimously.

32. Amendments to the FY 08-09 Budget & Work Program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez said that because Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues were not meeting expectations, the FY 08-09 Budget and Work Program needed to be amended.

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

1. Approve a resolution amending the FY 08-09 Budget and Work Program to accommodate a reduced Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenue allocation; and
2. Direct staff to continue investigating and implementing potential cost cutting measures to reduce operations costs for FY 08-09.

The motion (Resolution 39-08) passed unanimously.

33. Review of Items to be Discussed in Closed Session – One item will be discussed in closed session as shown below

34. Oral and Written Communications Regarding Closed Session - None

CLOSED SESSION

The Commission recessed into closed session at 11:35 am.

35. 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

The Commission reconvened into Open session at 12:25 pm.

OPEN SESSION

36. Report on Closed Session – None
37. Next Meetings/Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:27 pm.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 19, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 7, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Scotts Valley Council Chambers, 1 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Les White	SCMTD
Jack Nelson	
Sandra Coley	PVTMA
Catherine Patterson Valdez	Lift Line/CTSA
Sam Storey	Community Bridges
Debbie Bulger	Mission Pedestrian
Chris Bell	Mission Pedestrian
Marilyn Garrett	
Ilia Bulaich	