

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

MINUTES

**Thursday
August 7, 2008**

The Meeting was called to order by Chair Tony Campos at 9:03 am.

1. Roll Call

Members Present:	Jan Beautz	Emily Reilly
	Antonio Rivas	Dene Bustichi
	Tony Campos	Dale Skillicorn (Alt.)
	Andy Schiffrin (Alt.)	Emily Reilly
	Randy Johnson	Donald Hagen (Alt.)
	Ellen Pirie	Mark Stone
	Dave Murray (Alt.)	

Staff Present:	George Dondero	Yesenia Parra
	Luis Mendez	Kim Shultz
	Grace Blakeslee	Cory Caletti
	Rachel Moriconi	Tegan Speiser

2. Oral Communications

Commissioner Rivas announced that the Harkins Slough Bridge is now open. He also thanked the commission for its funding for this project.

Commissioner Johnson welcomed everyone to Scotts Valley.

Jack Nelson shared that he recently visited Minneapolis and was able to enjoy a bike ride on the newly developed Greenway Bike Trail. He encouraged the Commission to use this new development as a benchmark for future developments in Santa Cruz County.

3. Additions or Deletions to Consent and Regular Agendas

Executive Director George Dondero announced that there would be a Closed Session to discuss the Rail Acquisition project. He also stated that there were hand-outs for Items 19 and 20 and additional pages for Item 23.

CONSENT AGENDA
(Approved Unanimously Schiffrin/Rivas)

4. Approved Draft Minutes of the June 5, 2008 Regular SCCRTC Meeting
5. Approved Draft Minutes of the June 19, 2008 Transportation Policy Workshop Meeting

POLICY

No Consent Items

PROJECTS and PLANNING

6. Accepted FY 07-08 Fourth Quarter SCCRTC Work Program Report
7. Approved Bicycle Committee and Staff Recommendations Regarding Appointments to the SCCRTC Bicycle Committee

COMMISSION BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES

8. Accepted Status Report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) Revenues
9. Approved Out of State Travel for Staff

ADMINISTRATION

10. Approved Staff Recommendation Regarding Lease Negotiations for the RTC Offices Located at 1523 Pacific Ave.

COMMITTEE MINUTES

11. Accepted Draft Minutes of the June 10, 2008 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Committee Meeting
12. Accepted Draft Minutes of the June 12, 2008 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee Meeting

INFORMATION/OTHER

13. Accepted Monthly Meeting Schedule
14. Accepted Correspondence Log
15. Accepted Letters from SCCRTC Committees and Staff to Other Agencies

- a. Letter to Don Lauritson, City of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency Regarding the Initial Study on the Proposed Courtyard Marriot Hotel.
 - b. Letter to Mathew Johnston, County of Santa Cruz Regarding Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Proposed Santa Cruz Medical Foundation Office Building on Chanticleer Avenue in Santa Cruz County
 - c. Letter to Don Lauritson, City of Santa Cruz Redevelopment Agency Regarding Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the La Bahia Hotel
16. Accepted Miscellaneous Written Comments from the Public on SCCRTC Projects and Transportation Issues
17. Accepted Information Items
- a. Caltrans News Release Regarding the Reopening of Branciforte Ave Over crossing on July 24, 2008
 - b. Letter from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Regarding Support of the Community Bridges Application for Funding under Section 5317- New Freedom Program
 - c. US Department of Transportation News Release Regarding the Bush Administration's New Approach for America's Transportation Future

SERVING AS THE SERVICE AUTHORITY FOR FREEWAY EMERGENCIES (SAFE)

No Agenda Items

REGULAR AGENDA

18. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Johnson announced that the Scotts Valley Art and Wine festival is happening over the weekend at Sky Park.

19. Director's Report

Executive Director George Dondero stated that to-date staff has made 27 presentations as part of the Speakers Bureau outreach and two more are planned for early September which will conclude the presentations for the first phase. He said that staff is working with local radio and community TV as a way to keep the public informed about the RTC's programs and projects. He reported that Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) has asked the RTC to join their outreach effort to get public reaction to a possible restructuring of METRO's fixed route service. He noted that recent hikes in fuel cost have increased interest in ridesharing, vanpools and other transportation alternatives.

He announced Rideshare Week and Bike to Work/School Day which are both scheduled for October and noted that staff will be actively involved in Rideshare Week along with two other counties. He also noted the rotational art display in the RTC office and encouraged commissioners to take a look at the display when they are in the office.

20. Caltrans Report

David Murray stated that the hand-out was a press release announcing that guide signs would be installed along Highways 1 and 17 in Santa Cruz and that this work would require some road closures. He also gave an update on the Mission Street bicycle signage stating that the order has been delayed due to state budget uncertainties. He said that once the budget is finalized, the signage order would probably go through.

21. Hwy 1 Projects - Status Report

Senior Planner Kim Shultz presented the staff report. He reiterated the Executive Director's comments on the Speakers Bureau presentations. He reported that a more detailed update on Hwy 1 projects would be presented at the September 4th Commission meeting. Staff was asked to include clarification on what legal role the RTC will play on the Highway 1 HOV Lanes project.

22. Draft Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network Master Plan and Program Level Environmental Analysis

Senior Planner Cory Caletti presented the staff report giving a brief project summary. She reminded the Commissioners that this project is envisioned to be a multi-use recreational, interpretive and transportation pathway for bicyclist and pedestrians that will span the coast of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary in Santa Cruz County. She also reviewed the funding available for this project noting \$4.24 million in federal appropriations and a commitment from the RTC of \$2.24 million of locally controlled funds. She reported that staff has been working with the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee since May 2006 on the preparation of the Request for Proposals (RFP). She stated that the RFP was reviewed by the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and that their comments were incorporated in the proposal.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions regarding funding stating that the \$250,000 would cover the plan and that the plan would come back to the Commission for approval. Commission Alternate Schiffirin commented that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee spent a lot of time reviewing the RFP to ensure that all interested parties were given the opportunity to review and comment.

Jack Nelson shared that Minneapolis traffic counts showed 435,000 bicycle trips on a 5.5 mile corridor for a two month period. He urged the Commission's support for this project.

Commission Alternate Schiffirin moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommendation to release the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Monterey

Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network Master Plan and Program Level Environmental Review.

23. State and Federal Legislation and State Budget

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi presented the staff report giving an update on state and federal legislation. She discussed SB 375 stating that Senator Steinberg released several amendments to the bill. She reported that many of the RTC concerns were addressed with these amendments but that there are items that still need to be considered, including the concern regarding sales tax measures. The RTC proposed that these measures not be impacted until 2020 and Senator Steinberg is proposing implementing the requirements outlined in the bill as soon as 2010.

Ms. Moriconi discussed AB 32 and stated that some of the concerns identified are similar to those listed for SB 375 in that there are several unfunded mandates.

Ms. Moriconi stated that the state budget is still no where near being resolved. She reported that borrowing money from Proposition 42 is still on the table. However, the Governor is trying to avoid this by proposing a one-cent sales tax measure. She also reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) would be unable to meet their AB 3090 obligations if the Proposition 42 money is not allocated.

On the federal level, Ms. Moriconi reported that the highway trust fund would be depleted by the end of 2008. However, the House has approved an \$8 million dollar transfer from the general fund to the highway trust fund.

Ms. Moriconi responded to Commissioner questions regarding the development of a blueprint and stated that AMBAG is the lead agency and would be working with Santa Cruz County community members in the development of the blueprint.

Staff was asked to update the Commission on the developments of SB 375 at the August 21, 2008 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting.

24. Review of Items to be Discussed in Closed Session

Executive Director George Dondero reported that the Closed Session item was a discussion on the Branch Rail Line Acquisition.

25. Oral and Written Communications Regarding Closed Session -None

The RTC adjourned to closed session at 10:58 am

CLOSED SESSION

26. 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

The RTC reconvened to open session at 12:03.

27. Report on Closed Session

Chair Tony Campos reported that the Commission has come to an agreement in principle with Union Pacific for the purchase of the Branch Rail Line in the amount of \$14.2 million dollars. He also reported that the Commission is preparing a news release announcing this agreement.

28. Next Meetings/Adjournment at 12:15

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2008 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisor Chambers, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, CA

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Staff

ATTENDEES

Mark Dorfman
Randy DeShazo
Jack Nelson
Cliff Walters
Catherine Patterson Valdes

SCMTD
AMBAG
Community Member
Sierra Railway
LiftLine/CTSA