



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

---

### MINUTES

Thursday  
March 5, 2009  
9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean St Street, 5th Floor  
Santa Cruz, CA

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am.

Members Present:

Dene Bustichi	Kirby Nicol
Gustavo Gonzalez (Alt.)	Ellen Pirie
Neal Coonerty	David Koch (Alt.)
Randy Johnson	Mark Stone
Don Lane	Marcela Tavantzis
John Leopold	Aileen Loe (ex officio)

Staff Present:

George Dondero	Gini Pineda
Luis Mendez	Yesenia Parra
David Gartí	Rachel Moriconi
Grace Blakeslee	Karena Pushnik
Daniel Nikuna	

2. Oral communications

**Jack Nelson** said that he attended a presentation to the Board of Supervisors regarding climate change. He asked that when the Commission looks into the impact of transportation climate change that it not be biased by a desire to widen Highway 1.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Additional information was distributed for agenda items 21, 25 and 26.

**CONSENT AGENDA** (Pirie/Coonerty approved unanimously)

Commissioner John Leopold arrived

### **MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the February 5, 2009 regular SCCRTC meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the February 19, 2009 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the February 9, 2009 Bicycle Committee meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the February 10, 2009 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC) meeting
8. Accepted minutes of the January 22, 2009 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting
9. Accepted minutes of the February 19, 2009 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting
10. Accepted draft minutes of the February 12, 2009 Budget and Administration Personnel Committee meeting

### **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

### **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

11. Approved amendments to the *Regional Transportation Improvement Program* for delayed projects (Resolution 22-09)
12. Approved staff recommendation to submit a Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant application for Pedestrian/Safe Path of Travel Assessment between transit and priority origins and destinations (Resolution 23-09)

### **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

13. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues

### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

14. Approved Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommendation to prepare policies and procedures for potential new revenue stream
15. Accepted meeting schedules for SCCRTC Committees and invitation to Commissioners to participate

**INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

16. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
17. Accepted correspondence log
18. Accepted letters from SCCRTC committees and staff to other agencies
  - a. Letter to Cynthia Bryant, Director, California Office of Planning and Research regarding preliminary draft CEQA guideline amendments for greenhouse gas emissions.
19. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on SCCRTC projects and transportation issues

*No consent items*

20. Accepted information items
  - a. Article: The Top Ten Business Stories of 2008: The Good News in Santa Cruz: January 2009, Volume 7 Santa Cruz Chamber of Commerce News

**REGULAR AGENDA**

21. Adjourn to special meeting of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

The Commission adjourned to the SAFE meeting at 9:12 am.

22. Reconvene to the Santa Cruz Country Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

The Commission reconvened to the regular meeting at 9:20 am.

23. Accept commissioner reports – Oral reports - none
24. Appoint Commissioners to RTC Committees – Oral report

Deputy Director Luis Mendez read the names of the Commissioners interested in serving on the Budget and Administration/Personnel and Rail Acquisition Committees.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded to appoint Commissioners Stone, Pirie, Coonerty, Leopold, Campos and Rivas to the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commission Alternate Gonzalez seconded to appoint Commissioners Stone, Pirie, Coonerty, Campos, Nicol, Leopold and Bustichi to the Rail Acquisition Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

25. Accept director's report – Oral report

Executive Director George Dondero reported that the Safe on 17 Program 10-year anniversary event will be held on Monday, April 6, 2009 from 9:30 am – noon at the Summit Roadhouse. The program has been very effective in improving safety on Highway 17. Commissioner Stone noted that the program takes the cooperation of many agencies including two Caltrans districts and two California Highway Patrol offices. Mr. Dondero thanked Grace Blakeslee for her work on the task force.

Mr. Dondero said that he will be mailing evaluation forms to Commissioners for his annual review.

26. Accept Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, reported that Caltrans District 5 was recognized by the Transportation Agency of Monterey County for several projects including the Highway 1 Winter Preparation project near Big Sur and the Elkhorn Slough Early Mitigation project. The Caltrans Construction Projects Report on page 26-1 is up to date. Ms. Loe noted the semi-annual list of programmed or funded State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects on page 26-3. Responding to a question from Commissioner Coonerty, Ms. Loe said that the Scott Creek and Waddell Creek Bridge Replacement project is listed because it is programmed to receive funding for the environmental document in 2015. Such a long lead time is unusual but the project is environmentally sensitive.

The Commission recessed at 9:32 am to reconvene the SAFE meeting.

The Commission reconvened the SCCRTC meeting at 9:39 am and adjourned into closed session.

The Commission reconvened into open session at 10:30 am.

27. State Budget and Federal Economic Stimulus updates

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi reported that the state budget includes significant cuts to transit and deferment of gas tax payments to local jurisdictions. In addition, the state may be unable to sell the bonds approved in Proposition 1B resulting in the possibility that some projects could be deferred or unfunded. Projects at risk due to the economic crisis include Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes, Santa Cruz Branch Line Rail Acquisition and MetroBase.

Ms. Moriconi reported that it is likely that Santa Cruz county will only receive \$5.8 million of the \$6.5 million programmed in anticipation of federal economic stimulus funds. She listed the reduced amounts that would flow to the local jurisdictions.

Commissioners discussed funding for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes project, availability of Proposition 116 funds, and advocating for federal funding to be distributed directly to regions.

Responding to issues raised by Commissioners, Aileen Loe said that the City of Santa Cruz is likely to approve a permit for irrigation for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes landscaping project but that it is still unclear if the California Transportation Commission will vote to fund the final phase of this project.

Responding to a question from Commission Alternate Gonzalez, Ms. Moriconi said that negotiations are still underway on the best way to distribute federal funds.

Executive Director George Dondero said that it would be helpful for a sponsor in the legislature to introduce a new bill to determine funding formulas. He said that if the right bill is introduced staff will notify the Commission.

#### 28. FY 09-10 Budget and Work Program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented the staff report saying that the FY 09-10 budget faces a number of financial challenges including reduced Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds. The FY 09-10 budget proposes to reduce apportionments to all TDA recipients, including the RTC, by 2.49% and several cost reductions including cutting staff costs by 5% through unpaid time off to avoid layoffs. Staff will continue to explore sources of potential revenue including renting the RTC conference room and working on applications for several grant programs.

Commissioners discussed line items for the rail/trail authority budget and consultant services, the status of the Highway Construction Authority and incorporation of additional State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds for planning, programming and monitoring (PPM) activities, if approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

**Jack Nelson** asked if a Work Program item to "monitor and participate in local, state and federal efforts to address global warming" conflicted with the first element of the Work Program to continue oversight of the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project.

Mr. Mendez responded that part of updating the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for 2010 and 2012 is to address climate change through coordination of land use and transportation.

Commissioners discussed the role of the RTC in reducing greenhouse gas emissions in Santa Cruz County. Mr. Dondero reported that Ecology Action has asked that the RTC take over managing a grant from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District and that the RTC will be publishing a chapter in the 2010 RTP that will address greenhouse gas emissions.

Commissioner Stone moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) adopt a resolution approving the draft FY 09-10 Budget and Work Program with revisions as appropriate.

The motion (Resolution 27-09) passed unanimously.

29. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 9:39 am.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

30. 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

Agency Negotiator: Kirk Trost, Miller Owen & Trost

Negotiation Parties: SCCRTC, Union Pacific

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

#### **OPEN SESSION**

The Commission reconvened in open session at 10:30 am.

31. Report on closed session – N/A
32. Adjourn/Next Meetings

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 am.

The Transportation Policy Workshop meeting scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2009 **IS CANCELLED**.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 2, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St., 5<sup>th</sup> floor, Santa Cruz, CA

Respectfully submitted,

---

Gini Pineda, Staff

**ATTENDEES**

John Presleigh  
Ramona Turner  
Jack Nelson  
Katie LeBaron  
Mark Dettle  
Les White  
Sandra Coley  
Richard Masoner

Santa Cruz County DPW  
*Sentinel*  
HAS  
City of Santa Cruz DPW  
SCMTD  
PVTMA