



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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### MINUTES

Thursday  
May 7, 2009  
9:00 a.m.

Capitola City Council Chambers  
420 Capitola Ave  
Capitola CA 95010

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

Members Present:

Dene Bustichi	Kirby Nicol
Gustavo Gonzalez (Alt.)	Ellen Pirie
Donald Hagen (Alt.)	Antonio Rivas
Randy Johnson	Andy Schiffrin (Alt.)
Don Lane	Marcela Tavantzis
John Leopold	Donna Ziel (Alt.)
Dave Murray (ex officio)	

Staff Present:

George Dondero	Gini Pineda
Luis Mendez	Yesenia Parra
Tegan Speiser	Kim Shultz
Cory Caletti	Karena Pushnik
Grace Blakeslee	

2. Oral communications

**Bob Begun** asked when discussion about changing the public review period regarding the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Acquisition project would be put on an agenda. Executive Director George Dondero said that the issue would be addressed at the May 21, 2009 Transportation Policy Workshop.

**Jack Nelson** said that the Commission should consider greenhouse gas emissions in its decision-making for transportation planning since the Environmental Protection Act now identifies greenhouse gases as pollutants.

**Peter Scott** urged support for the transit district asking Commissioners to make use of their contacts in the legislature to secure funding for the transit district.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said that replacement pages for Item 13, add-on pages for Items 23 and 28 and hand-outs for Item 26 from Nolte Associates and for Item 29 from Lift Line were distributed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**  
(Schiffrin/Leopold) unanimously approved

**MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the April 2, 2009 regular SCCRTC meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the April 13 , 2009 Bicycle Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the April 14, 2009 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the April 9, 2009 Budget and Administration Personnel Committee meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the April 23, 2009 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

**POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

**PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

9. Accepted Quarterly Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Work Program Progress Report
10. Accepted AB2766 Grant Proposal

**BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

11. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
12. Accepted staff and Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee recommendations on Park-and-Ride lot insurance and related issues
13. Accepted amendments to the FY08-09 and 09-10 Budgets and Work Programs (Resolutions 31-09 and 32-09)

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
15. Accepted correspondence log
16. Accepted letters from SCCRTC committees and staff to other agencies
  - a. Letter to Michael Giuliano, District Local Assistance Engineer, California Department of Transportation, regarding City of Santa Cruz grant application to Safe Routes to School Program for sidewalks in Westlake neighborhood, from Daniel Kostalec, Chair of RTC Bicycle Committee
17. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on SCCRTC projects and transportation issues
18. Accepted information items
  - a. Street Smarts: Traffic calming, driver waking on the road

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

19. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commissioner Pirie arrived.

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 9:15 am.

## **CLOSED SESSION**

20. 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

The Commission reconvened into open session at 10:05 am.

## **OPEN SESSION**

21. Report on closed session

22. Commissioner reports - oral reports

Commissioner Nicol welcomed everyone to the City of Capitola.

23. Director's report – oral report

Executive Director George Dondero reported on the CalCOG Regional Issues Forum that he and Commissioner Stone attended earlier in the month. Among topics addressed were reducing greenhouse gas emissions, dilemmas facing public transit and the anticipated federal authorization bill for transportation.

Mr. Dondero also reported on the implementation process for AB32 and the upcoming *2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* minor update. Replying to a question from Commissioner Leopold, Mr. Dondero said that a chapter on greenhouse gas emissions will be included in the RTP update.

Mr. Dondero announced the 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Bike to Work Week scheduled for May 17-22. He also announced that a student documentary production titled *Emission Addiction* featuring SCCRTC staff would be shown Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup> at the Riverfront Theater as part of the 2009 Santa Cruz Film Festival.

Mr. Dondero added that the California Highway Patrol is working on a funding proposal for a program similar to the Safe on 17 program for Highway 129 and RTC staff will work to produce a letter of support from the Commission.

24. Caltrans report and consider action items

Dave Murray, Caltrans District 5, made a correction to the monthly construction report, saying that the San Lorenzo metal beam guardrail upgrade was not suspended due to funding but was suspended pending the relocation of PG&E utilities. He reported on additional projects and said that the California Transportation Commission will be voting to fund the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project landscaping next month, probably eliminating the need for Caltrans to apply for ARRA funding for this project. He added that Caltrans conducted its yearly litter removal awareness day and that it spends \$57 million annually on litter removal.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Leopold, Mr. Murray said that he would check into the soundwall possibility near the Habitat for Humanity homes near Morrissey Boulevard.

25. Presentation by the City of Capitola on past and upcoming transportation projects

Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works Director, provided an update on completed transportation projects within the City of Capitola that use funds secured by the RTC including a third southbound lane on the 41<sup>st</sup> Ave overpass and Bay Ave sidewalks. In addition, he discussed proposed projects for

anticipated federal stimulus American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds including road rehabilitation on 41<sup>st</sup> Ave, traffic calming modification to Capitola Rd and Clares St and sidewalk installation on Park Ave.

26. Highway 1 Projects – Progress Report

Senior Planner Kim Shultz gave the staff report saying that the completion of the draft environmental document for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project is scheduled to be released in mid August 2009, that delay in the final design phase is due to funding constraints, and that staff received six construction management proposals in response to the Request for Proposals released last month. Staff will review the proposals and bring the recommendations to the June meeting.

Nolte Associates environmental and engineering consultants Steve Hiatt and Parag Mehta delivered status reports on both the Highway 1 HOV Lanes project and the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes projects. Included was information about the draft EIR document review by federal and state environmental agencies, key engineering issues, special studies, outreach to stakeholders, and timelines to complete the review of documents and begin construction.

Commissioner Leopold asked to see a report on the bike path element of the HOV Lanes project.

Commissioners discussed the project timelines, reviewing and responding to comments on the environmental document for the Auxiliary Lanes, and funding allocation.

**Jack Nelson** said that the two projects should be viewed as one widening project and to present them as two projects opened the RTC to segmentation charges.

27. FY 08/09 Article 8 Transportation Development Act allocation request from the City of Santa Cruz for bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects

Senior Planner Cory Caletti reviewed the request from the City of Santa Cruz for Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds in the amount of \$46,000 for bikeway striping, a bicycle parking program and pedestrian crossing improvements within the City of Santa Cruz.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the Bicycle Committee, the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations to adopt a resolution approving the City of Santa Cruz FY 08/09 Transportation Development Act Article 8 allocation claim for \$46,000 for the following projects:

- 1) Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements (\$20,000),
- 2) Bicycle Parking Program (\$1,000), and

- 3) Ocean Street Pedestrian Crossing Improvements (\$25,000).
- 4) Return \$7,274.62 to the City of Santa Cruz unallocated balance.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 33-09) passed unanimously.

28. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD) FY 09/10 Claim for Article 4 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Funds

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave the staff report and a brief summary explaining the funding sources for the SCMTD. The SCMTD's claim for \$5,666,625 for regular fixed route and ADA paratransit services is consistent with the RTC's adopted FY 09/10 budget.

SCMTD General Manager Les White delivered the annual report highlighting the increases in ridership and in farebox recovery for regular service. He also highlighted the Highway 17 Express service and the status of the conversion of 40 buses to CNG fuel. He discussed the impact of the diversion of Public Transit Account spillover funds to the state general fund and an anticipated 50% reduction in State Transit Act funding which the transit district depends upon for bus and paratransit vehicle replacements.

Commissioners acknowledged the SCMTD's role in providing additional transportation for dialysis patients who had lost their Medical aid rides. Commissioners also discussed whether free bus passes for economically disadvantaged school children would still be available. It was suggested that students at the UCSC campus be encouraged to take the UCSC shuttles when traveling on campus and free up seats for students traveling off campus. Mr. White said that Metro has been working with UCSC to encourage this practice...

Commission Alternate Schiffrin said that the state's position on the value of transit service is shocking. He said that the RTC needs to take action and moved to approve the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) adopt a resolution approving the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's FY 09/10 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim, with the added direction that staff invite legislators, legislative analysts and the governor's office to an RTC meeting for a discussion on public transportation funding. Commissioners Leopold and Hagen simultaneously seconded.

Commissioner Pirie asked that Caltrans be invited also and Commission Alternate Schiffrin added this request to his motion.

The motion (Resolution 34-09) passed unanimously.

29. FY 09/10 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for Community Bridges

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik said that Community Bridges, as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency for the Santa Cruz County area, received Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds according to a formula allocation as stated in the RTC Rules and Regulations and consistent with the Public Utilities Code section pertaining to special transportation assistance claims.

Catherine Patterson-Valdez reported on Lift Line and said that TDA funds are used to leverage other funds. She said that Community Bridges is working with the Red Cross to provide medical rides that the Red Cross can no longer provide.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commission Alternate Schiffirin 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 \$556,721 in FY 2009-10 Transportation Development Act (TDA) 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 the motion (Resolution 35-09) passed unanimously.

30. FY 09/10 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for the Volunteer Center

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik introduced Debbie Brooks, Volunteer Center. Ms. Brooks said that the center has been providing transportation services for 30 years. The center runs entirely by volunteers and that it's a very efficient operation.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Rivas 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 \$66,276 in FY 2009-10 Transportation Development Act (TDA) 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 and the motion (Resolution 36-09) passed unanimously.

31. The Commission adjourned into the meeting of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies at 11.44 am.

The Commission reconvened the regular RTC meeting at 11:45 am

32. Next Meetings

Executive Director George Dondero acknowledged Grace Blakeslee for her work on the Safe on 17 10 year anniversary event.

The meeting adjourned 11:47 am.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC office, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St, Watsonville, CA

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

**ATTENDEES**

Cliff Walters	Sierra Railroad
Jack Nelson	
Peter Scott	
Catherine Patterson-Valdez	Community Bridges
Les White	SCMTD
Debbie Brooks	Volunteer Center
Steve Hiatt	Nolte
Parag Mehta	Nolte
Sam Storey	Community Bridges
Chris Schneider	City of Santa Cruz