



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, August 6, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

**Scotts Valley City Council Chambers
1 Civic Center Drive
Scotts Valley, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Members present:

John Leopold	Dennis Norton
Randy Johnson	Don Lane
Ed Bottorff	Jimmy Dutra
Cynthia Chase	Greg Caput
Bruce McPherson	Ryan Coonerty
Zach Friend	Aileen Loe (ex-officio)

Staff present:

George Dondero	Jennifer Rodriguez
Luis Mendez	Cory Caletti
Yesenia Parra	Kim Shultz

2. Oral communications

None

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

A handout for Item 22 was distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Norton moved and Commissioner McPherson seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Johnson, Lane, Friend, Coonerty, Caput, McPherson, Dutra, Norton, Chase, and Bottorff voting "aye."

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the June 4, 2015 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the June 4, 2015 Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the June 8, 2015 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the June 9, 2015 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the June 18, 2015 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting
9. Approved draft minutes of the June 25, 2015 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

No consent items

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

10. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
11. Approved Amendment #3 of the Central Coast Coalition MOU

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Approved Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) Appointments
13. Approve out of state travel authorization – *Moved to regular agenda as Item 19.1 at the request of Commissioner Johnson*

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
15. Accepted correspondence log
16. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies

- a. Letter to the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department regarding the County of Santa Cruz's rail-with-trail grant application from the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee
 - b. Letter to Caltrans District 5 regarding the City of Santa Cruz grant application for the Bay Street Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Project from the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee
 - c. Letter to RTC Commissioners regarding the recommendation for the development of a Santa Cruz Yacht Harbor Transportation Plan from the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee
 - d. Letter to RTC Commissioners regarding the request for the Bicycle Advisory Committee's 40th year anniversary celebration from the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee
17. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
18. Accept information items
- None

REGULAR AGENDA

19. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Commissioner Johnson welcomed everyone to Scotts Valley.

Commissioner Caput inquired about the railroad tracks on Walker Street and Riverside.

In response to Commissioner Caput's question, Commissioner Friend stated that bids for the project have been solicited and are due soon. Brett Wallace, General Manager for Iowa Pacific, said that the main line was taken care of and the siding will be taken care of by the end of next week.

- 19.1 Approve out of state travel – *Formerly Item 13 on the consent agenda.*

Commissioners asked several questions about the request for out of state travel that included: the need to send 2 staff members, whether this type of training was available on-line and the benefits to the RTC. They also noted that payroll was a significant function for the agency.

George Dondero, Executive Director, stated that the payroll function is a necessary function for the agency and that having 2 staff members trained was important to ensure payroll was processed efficiently and correctly.

Commissioner Johnson moved and Commissioner Friend seconded to authorize out-of-state travel for 2 RTC staff members to attend the Paylocity Client Conference on October 21-23, 2015 in Rosemont, Illinois. The motion passed

with Commissioners Leopold, Johnson, Lane, Friend, Coonerty, McPherson, Dutra, Norton, Chase, and Bottorff voting "aye" and Commissioner Caput voting "nay."

20. Director's Report – oral report
(*George Dondero, Executive Director*)

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported on the Passenger Rail Feasibility Study and the over 3 thousand responses that were received during the comment period: staff will provide a summary at the September or October RTC meeting. He also noted that staff received requests to explore "trail only" alternatives and said the research process would require funding and time and that the commission would receive reports regularly on the request for "trail only."

Mr. Dondero said that the Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM) had secured donated materials and equipment, which are currently being stored on the rail line property. RTC staff is still negotiating a lease agreement with GGRM.

Mr. Dondero also reported that he participated in the July 28th Aspiring Counties meeting in Sacramento and relayed information received on several bills affecting transportation.

Commissioners discussed the fact that the RTC has already voted not to include a "trail only" option; the difficulty in securing funding for the original purchase; and the cost of the research. They also discussed the need to become a self-help county to be competitive for grants, given the current funding situation.

21. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe distributed the 2015 *Mile Marker report*. She also reported that the Americans with Disability Act was celebrating 25 years and that Caltrans received a 1.1 billion dollar grant to spend over 30 years for upgrades to pedestrian facilities and to remove barriers for people with disabilities. Ms. Loe announced that Caltrans is currently accepting nominations for their newly formed State Wide Technical Advisory Committee "Active Transportation Program (ATP).

22. Federal Land Grants Application (FLAP) for a north coast rail trail segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network
(*Cory Caletti and Ginger Dykaar, Senior Transportation Planner*)

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner, presented her staff report. She reported that the RTC was awarded a 6.3 million dollar grant from the California Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) for the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) project's 5-mile segment in the north coast. In order to receive the award, the RTC must commit to an additional match of \$300,000. The RTC secured this grant thanks to the contributions made by both the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the California Coastal Conservancy who provided a total match of \$3,950,000. If the RTC accepts the grant a review committee would need to be established to ensure proper oversight and ensure all requirements are met. Ms. Caletti noted that the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County would be taking a request to their board asking for funding to assist the RTC with the required \$300,000 match.

Commissioners thanked RTC staff, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the Coastal Conservancy for their work and funding allocation to secure this grant. They discussed options for funding other segments and the need for on-going maintenance for each segment.

Amelia Conlen, Bike Santa Cruz County, urged the commission to approve the resolution and thanked the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the Coastal Conservancy for their contributions.

Piet Canin, Ecology Action, said the trail is a great asset for Santa Cruz County and a safe alternative along Highway 1 for cyclists. He would like the City of Santa Cruz to accelerate permits and noted that the proposed sales tax measure is important to have funding for transportation needs.

Stephen Slade, Deputy Director of Land Trust for Santa Cruz County, confirmed that the request for additional funding will be discussed at the next board meeting.

Commissioner Coonerty moved and Commissioner Chase seconded to approve the resolution (**Resolution 32-15**):

1. Authorizing the Executive Director to accept the grant award of \$6.3 million in FLAP grant funds from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Central Federal Lands (CFL) Division for design, environmental review and construction of a 5-mile segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in the north coast; and
2. Committing the RTC to provide an additional \$300,000 in matching funds for the 5-mile segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail in the north coast to complete the funding need for the \$10,550,000 project; and
3. Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into any necessary agreements to fund and implement the project.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Johnson, Lane, Friend, Coonerty, Caput, McPherson, Dutra, Norton, Chase, and Bottorff voting "aye."

23. State Legislative Update

George Dondero, Executive Director, presented his staff report on several state legislative actions impacting transportation, including: no new funding this year through the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and the impact due to the reduction on the excise tax on gasoline. The RTC continues to closely monitor other legislation that could potentially impact transportation funding, which includes Senate Bill X1-1.

Commissioners discussed the importance of becoming a self-help county and the need to write to legislators communicating the transportation concerns in Santa Cruz County.

24. Commuter Committee

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented his staff report.

Commissioner Johnson expressed his concern that motorist needs and concerns are not being heard and that his request for a commuter committee would have addressed this.

Commissioners also discussed the additional staff time and associated cost needed for another committee; the fact that existing committees have the ability to incorporate a member to represent motorists; and the difficulty staff already faces in maintaining members on existing committees.

Aileen Loe, Caltrans stated that the RTC addresses all forms of transportation needs and that the current Caltrans grant awarded to the RTC for public outreach would be a good tool to ensure all concerns are heard.

Commissioner Caput moved and Commissioner Lane seconded to accept the report. The motion passed with Commissioners Leopold, Caput, Lane, Friend, Coonerty, McPherson, Dutra, Norton, Chase, and Bottorff voting "aye" and Commissioner Johnson voting "nay."

25. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 10:53 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

26. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case
27. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9: one case

OPEN SESSION

28. Report on closed session

Commissioners reconvened to open session at 11:40 a.m. and there was no closed session report.

29. Next meeting

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Staff

Attendees:

Heather Adamson
Piet Canin
Stephen Slade
Amelia Conlen
Gine Johnson
Brett Wallace
Mark Westerfield
Alex Clifford

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Ecology Action
Land Trust
Bike Santa Cruz County
County of Santa Cruz
Iowa Pacific
Iowa Pacific
Metro