



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

Minutes

**Thursday, November 6, 2014
9:00 a.m.**

**Watsonville City Council Chambers
275 Main St, 4th Floor
Watsonville, CA**

1. Roll call

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

Members present:

Brandy Rider (ex-officio)	Don Lane
Dennis Norton	Eduardo Montesino
Greg Caput	Neal Coonerty
Zach Friend	Bruce McPherson
Daniel Dodge	Lynn Robinson
Dave Reid (Alt.)	Randy Johnson
Dene Bustichi	

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Tegan Speiser	Yesenia Parra
Cory Caletti	

2. Oral communications –

Commissioner Caput asked about the status of the railroad crossing between Hwy 129/Riverside road and Walker Street in Watsonville and the timing of getting the pavement fixed. Staff noted that the rail road operator is currently working with the Caltrans for the traffic management permit.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

A handout for Item 19 and replacement page for Item 21 were distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Robinson moved and Commissioner McPherson seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioners Lane, Robinson, McPherson, Montesino, Caput, Coonerty, Friend, Dodge, Bustichi, Norton, Johnson, Reid (Alt.) voting "aye."

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the October 2, 2014 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the October 14, 2014 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory (E&DTAC) Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the October 16, 2014 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the October 20, 2014 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

8. Approved appointment of member to the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

9. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
10. Approved FY14-15 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for the RTC Administration, Planning and Operations (**Resolution 06-15**)
11. Approved Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 Allocation Requests from the County of Santa Cruz (**Resolution 05-15**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Approved rejection of claim from Lisa Wheeler

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

13. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
14. Accepted correspondence log
15. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies - *none*
16. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
17. Accepted information items
 - a. Joint letter from national organizations calling for federal transportation funding to meet local needs

REGULAR AGENDA

18. Commissioner reports– oral reports- none
19. Director's report – oral report

Director George Dondero presented his report. He discussed the adoption of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan (MBSSTN) by the City of Watsonville on October 14th. He noted that the RTC contributed \$1,040,000 and the Land Trust contributed \$260,000 to the City of Watsonville to construct a 4,000 foot segment of the MBSSTN trail from Lee road to their slough trail. He also noted that at the 2015 Transportation Research Board (TRB) Conference in Washington DC the Sustainable Transportation Analysis and Rating System (STARS) will be discussed, RTC Transportation Planner Ginger Dykaar will be presenting a white paper on performance measures and he will be part of a panel, he gave a status update on the La Selva Beach rail line bridge construction and noted a completion date of mid to late January 2015. Work also began on 2 other bridges, the timber trestle next to Sumner Avenue, and the burned out short bridge in Wilder Ranch.

Commissioner McPherson thanked the City of Watsonville for adopting the MBSSTN Master Plan he said that this was a great example of cooperative efforts between private entities and government agencies. Commissioners also discussed cost damages to the bridge construction consultants due to a later completion date. Staff noted that the RTC agreed to an extension without damages.

20. Appoint nominating committee for 2015 RTC Chair and Vice Chair

The Chair appointed Commissioners Friend, Coonerty and Montesino.

21. Caltrans report and consider action items

Brandy Rider noted that Caltrans will be hosting a workshop on November 18th from 3:30-5:30 in Salinas at the Cesar Chavez Library. The focus is the 2015 update to the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan. Caltrans encourages cities and counties with interregional projects to come and be part of the discussion. A webinar is also scheduled for Wednesday, November 12th from 1:30-2:30. Brandy will send webinar information to the RTC for distribution.

Commissioner Caput asked Caltrans to consider waiving the fee of \$500 for the Veterans Day parade that goes through Main Street in Watsonville for future years. He thanked Caltrans for waving this year's fee. He also asked for a fee waiver for the Lady of Fatima parade. Brandy will do research and contact Commissioner Caput directly.

22. Project Updates from City of Watsonville Public Works – oral presentation

Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Principle Engineer discussed several completed and planned projects in Watsonville including: reconstruction of roadway, increased safety for pedestrians and bicycle riders, roadway preservation, pedestrian improvements, traffic control, congestion relief and a rail trail.

23. Mural for railroad bridge abutment in Aptos

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed the challenges that came with the rail line ownership related to maintenance and graffiti abatement and concerns with road diversion on this busy intersection during the mural painting. Commissioners shared their excitement about having the community involvement with the rail line and the use of local artists. They also discussed the process for mural requests and agreed that all request should come before the Commission.

Brian Peoples, Aptos resident, fully supports this mural because this location is a center piece of Aptos. Thanked Steve Allen for his contribution and work for the community and that the rail line is a valuable piece of property and has potential for revenues.

Commissioner Friend moved and Commissioner Robinson seconded the staff recommendation to approve the request to paint a mural on the western abutment wall of the railroad bridge over Soquel Drive at Spreckles Drive in Aptos depicting apple crates with labels used for apples that were grown in Aptos over a background of apple orchards and packing houses. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioners Norton, Lane, Robinson, Montesino, Caput, Coonerty, Bustichi, Dodge, Johnson, McPherson, Friend and Reid (Alt.) voting "aye."

24. Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) - Private funding and volunteer labor

Senior Transportation Planner Cory Caletti presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed the need for uniformity, design standards, private funding for this type of project that could significantly reduce the amount of time to build certain segments or pieces of segments, the importance of access and liability agreements, guidelines for special events, handling of volunteer work, who will own the funds held at the Community Foundation if the full campaign is not successful, and concerns with the Land Trust's ability to follow through on this fundraising campaign.

Commissioner Bustichi moved and Commissioner Lane second to:

1. Approve a policy for receiving private funds for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSSTN);
2. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County;

Motion passed unanimously, with Commissioner Lane, Bustichi, McPherson, Friend, Coonerty, Caput, Montesino, Dodge, Robinson, Johnson, Norton and Reid (Alt.) voting "aye."

25. Update on Commute Solutions and Cruz511

Senior Transportation Planner Tegan Speiser presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed the opportunity to work with big technology companies over the hill that would be interested in park and ride lots, the need to continue to work with local schools to reduce congestion, using changeable signs to promote Cruz511 and the process for submitted hazard reports.

Commissioner Robinson moved and Commissioner Lane seconded the staff recommendation to accept the report on the Commute Solutions and the Cruz511 project. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioners Norton, Lane, Robinson, Montesino, Caput, Coonerty, Bustichi, Dodge, Johnson, McPherson, Friend and Reid (Alt.) voting "aye."

26. Adjourned to special meeting of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies at 10:53 am.
27. Adjourned SAFE meeting at 10:56 am
28. Reconvene to RTC meeting at 10:56 am
29. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 10:57 am

CLOSED SESSION

- 30. Conference with legal counsel—anticipated litigation. Significant Exposure to Litigation to be considered for one case pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(2).
- 31. Conference with Real Property Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8. Property: 1523 Pacific Ave. and 1101 Pacific Ave. Suite 320, Santa Cruz, CA.

Agency Negotiator:	George Dondero, Luis Mendez, Yesenia Parra
Negotiation Parties:	Louis Rittenhouse
Under Negotiation:	Lease Price and Terms

OPEN SESSION

- 32. Report on closed session

Commissioners reconvened to open session at 11:35 and there was no closed session report.

- 33. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 am. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 4, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisors 701 Ocean St., 5th floor Santa Cruz CA

The next meeting of the Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, November 20, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Alex Clifford	Santa Cruz METRO
Brian People	
Kelly McClendon	Caltrans
Brook Miller	County Counsel
Murray Fontes	City of Watsonville
Maria Esther Rodriguez	City of Watsonville