



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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### Minutes

**Thursday, February 5, 2015**

**Watsonville City Council Chambers  
275 Main Street, Suite 400  
Watsonville, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members present:

Aileen Loe (ex-officio)  
Michael Termini (alt.)  
Ryan Coonerty  
Don Lane  
Virginia Johnson (alt.)  
Randy Johnson

Jimmy Dutra  
Greg Caput  
Zach Friend  
John Leopold  
Karina Cervantez (alt.)

Staff Present:

George Dondero  
Luis Mendez  
Yesenia Parra

Rachel Moriconi  
Maggie Miller Bardacke  
Ginger Dykaar

2. Oral communications

**Norm Hagen**, resident of Watsonville, thanked the Commission for holding the meeting in Watsonville.

**Lowell Hurst, Alternate Commissioner**, asked the Commission not to be discouraged by any negative talk about county transportation projects.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

An attachment to Item 19 and the Director's Report were distributed.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Lane moved and Commissioner Caput seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Leopold, V. Johnson, Coonerty, Termini, Cervantez, Caput, Dutra, Friend, and R. Johnson, voting "aye."

### **MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the January 15, 2015 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the January 6, 2015 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the January 15, 2015 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting

### **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

### **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

*No consent items*

### **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

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

### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

8. Approved appointment of members to the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC)

### **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

9. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
10. Accepted correspondence log
11. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
  - a. Letter of support from the Bicycle Advisory Committee for the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency 2016 Office of Traffic Safety grant
12. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues

13. Accepted information items-*none*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

14. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Commissioner Leopold expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Johnson for sharing his photos from the Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail Project ribbon cutting event that took place on January 14.

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

Executive Director George Dondero reported on the major progress on the railroad bridge rehabilitation project. He noted that work was completed on the La Selva Beach steel trestle, the Hidden Beach timber trestle and the bridge improvements at Wilder Creek, that permits for the Harkins Slough bridge have been secured and work had started that week and is expected to last three weeks. Mr. Dondero also thanked Commissioner Johnson for the photos and book that Commissioner Randy Johnson made to record the Arana Gulch trail ribbon cutting event, providing the link to the book online and showing Commissioners the professional book that was made. He showed a slideshow of photos documenting the railroad bridge work. He announced that RTC is planning a completion ceremony in February at the La Selva Beach trestle and that the MBSST master plan won another award.

Commissioners discussed the successful completion of the Arana Gulch Multi-Use trail and the ribbon cutting event; and the storage of rail cars on the rail line in regards to public views of the water.

Executive Director George Dondero told Commissioners about the current art exhibit at the RTC offices that was made by students with the theme of transportation and views of outdoor Santa Cruz.

16. Caltrans report and consider action items – oral report

Aileen Loe, Deputy Director of Caltrans Region 5, reported that the California Transportation Agency (CTA) released their 2015 report that outlines CTA's goals and projections and said that the link to the report is available online. Responding to a question from the January RTC meeting, she noted that the RTC does not need to have a staff engineer to be a lead agency for federally funded construction projects but rather must have one of its full time employees be responsible for the project.

Commissioners discussed the rail line crossing in Watsonville; the road closures on Hwy 9 and the impacts of the San Lorenzo water project and the

Safe Routes to School grants.

#### 17. Committee Appointments

Executive Director Dondero presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed the roles of the Budget & Administrative/Personnel Committee members and the meetings locations.

Commissioner Caput moved, and Commissioner Lane seconded to accept the staff recommendation to make at least one interim appointment (Commissioner Coonerty) to the B&A/P Committee to ensure a quorum for its Feb 12, 2015 meeting; and to communicate their individual preferences regarding serving on the B&A/P Committee to the RTC Chair or Executive Director by February 17, 2015. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioners Coonerty, Friend, R. Johnson, V. Johnson (alt.), Caput, Termini (alt.), Lane, Leopold, Dutra, and Cervantez (alt.) voting "aye."

#### 18. 2015 Legislative Priorities and Legislative Updates

Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi presented her staff report.

Commissioners discussed efforts to secure additional cap and trade projects and the likelihood of potential alternative forms of revenue for State and County transportation projects such as higher gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, and sales tax for transportation projects.

**Lowell Hurst, Alternate Commissioner**, stated his support for the staff recommendation and encouraged the Commission and staff to continue to think ahead to look at alternative sources of revenue and the need to raise public awareness that funding for transportation might have to change.

Commissioner Lane moved, and Commissioner Caput seconded to accept the staff recommendation to approve State and Federal Legislative Priorities for 2015 to assist in analyzing the transportation impacts of legislative activities.

The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioners Coonerty, Friend, R. Johnson, V. Johnson (alt.), Caput, Termini (alt.), Lane, Leopold, Dutra, and Cervantez (alt.) voting "aye."

#### 19. Unified Corridors Plan: Santa Cruz County Transportation Modeling Tools

Transportation Planner Ginger Dykaar presented her staff report.

Commissioners discussed citizen support for the use of data in transportation planning.

**Lowell Hurst, Alternate Commissioner**, stated his support for the staff recommendation and asked that the Commission think about the County's perpendicular corridors in addition to the three north-south corridors.

Commissioner Friend moved, and Commissioner Coonerty seconded to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with the consulting firm Fehr and Peers to develop Santa Cruz County transportation modeling tools for an amount not to exceed \$250,000.

The motion passed (**Resolution 15-15**) with Commissioners Coonerty, Friend, V. Johnson (alt.), Caput, Termini (alt.), Lane, Leopold, Dutra, and Cervantez (alt.) voting "aye," and Commissioner R. Johnson voting "no."

20. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The regular meeting adjourned to closed session at 10:07 a.m.

#### **CLOSED SESSION**

21. 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).
22. Conference with Labor Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

Commission Negotiators: George Dondero and Yesenia Parra  
Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit and General Representation Unit

#### **OPEN SESSION**

23. Report on closed session – *none*

Commissioners reconvened to open session at 11:15 and there was no closed session report.

24. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 5, 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 19, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,  
Maggie Miller Bardacke, Staff

**Attendees**

Murray Fontes	City of Watsonville
Maria Esther Rodriguez	City of Watsonville
Lowell Hurst	City of Watsonville
Heather Adamson	AMBAG

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