



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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### MINUTES

**Thursday, April 2, 2015  
9:00 a.m.**

**Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 am

Members present:

Tim Gubbins

Jimmy Dutra

Greg Caput

Ryan Coonerty

Patrick Mulhearn (Alt.)

Don Lane

John Leopold

Bruce McPherson

Karina Cervantez

Randy Johnson

Ed Bottorff

Cynthia Chase

Staff Present:

George Dondero

Rachel Moriconi

Luis Mendez

Yesenia Parra

Rachel Moriconi

Grace Blakeslee

Karena Pushnik

Ginger Dykaar

2. Oral communications

**Jack Nelson**, member of the Campaign for Sensible Transportation, said common sense and transportation planning must be joined with science to better address impacts to the environment.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Additional and /or add-on pages for items 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 15b, 17, 18, 23 and 24 were distributed. A brochure from Caltrans regarding the California Transportation Plan was also distributed. Item 25 was pulled from the agenda and will be rescheduled for another meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Caput asked about the funding for the Holohan road project (Item 15a.) Tim Gubbins, Caltrans noted that the County of Santa Cruz is the lead agency for the project, and added that the funding is in place and the project is moving along.

Commissioner McPherson noted that Santa Cruz METRO fair increases have been discussed but no decisions have been made (Item 15b.)

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

## **MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the March 5, 2015 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the March 11, 2015 Safe on 17/TOS Task Force meeting
6. Approved corrected minutes of the January 15, 2015 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

7. Accepted information on the development of the 2015 Unmet Para transit needs list and public hearing scheduled for May 7, 2015.

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

8. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
9. Accepted FY14-15 SCCRTC Semi-Annual Internal Financial Statements

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

10. Approved appointment of members to the Bicycle Committee

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

11. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
12. Accepted correspondence log
13. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
  - a. Letter to Santa Cruz Metro from RTC Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee regarding Santa Cruz Metro Structural Deficit and ParaCruz service
  - b. Letter to the California State Transportation Agency in Support for Rail Extension to Monterey County Project
14. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
15. Accepted information items
  - a. Highway 152/Holohan Road project updates: 1) County Department of Public Work's Highway 152/Holohan Road/College Road Intersection Improvements Status Report and 2) summary of Caltrans Projects near Highway 152 at Holohan Road
  - b. Stand Up for Transportation Day flyer

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

16. Commissioner reports – oral reports
17. Director's Report – oral report

Executive Director George Dondero noted his participation in the historic rail walk of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line led by Sandy Lydon with a group of 40 local residents; his reappointment for a three-year term to the Committee on Sustainability of the Transportation Research Board (TRB); a public workshop scheduled for April 16 at 6:30pm at the Mid County Senior Center to discuss the Unified Corridors Plan and receive public input; RTC staff's participation in local business fairs in an effort to keep the community informed about the RTC; a request for proposals issued for a Washington, D.C. Legislative Assistant; and a call for projects for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) for which applications are due June 1, 2015. He reported that the Pippin Apartment affordable Housing Development project made the short list for the state Strategic Growth Council-Cap & Trade Affordable Housing Sustainable Communities program grant. Funding for the project is coming from a variety of sources including the City of Watsonville and County of Santa Cruz.

Commissioner Leopold noted that LAFCO approved the application for extraterritorial water and sanitary sewer services for the project.

18. Appoint an ad-hoc committee for the performance review of the Executive Director

Chair Leopold appointed Commissioners McPherson, Lane and himself to the adhoc committee.

Commissioner Caput moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded Chair Leopold's appointments to the adhoc committee. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Leopold, Johnson, Coonerty, Dutra, Caput, Friend, McPherson, Cervantez, Chase and Bottorff voting "aye."

19. Presentation of American Planning Association award to Congressman Sam Farr

Item postponed

20. Federal Legislative Update

Item postponed

21. Caltrans report and consider action items

Tim Gubbins, Caltrans District 5 Director, noted that the public comment period for the California Transportation Plan (CTP) 2040 is open until April 17, 2015. The Plan is a State Wide Long Range Transportation Plan to meet future mobility needs and reduce green house gases for the next 25 years. Mr. Gubbins said that the State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP) funds are used for Highway maintenance and the information was included so that Commissioners were aware of what projects were on the list to receive SHOPP funds.

Commissioner Leopold thanked Caltrans for the outreach efforts related to the Highway 17 access plan.

22. State Legislative Update and Positions

Executive Director George Dondero presented the staff report. He noted that there has been a lot of movement in Sacramento related to transportation. Staff will continue to follow transportation related legislation and will keep the Commission informed once the two houses begin conversations.

Commissioners Lane and Leopold joined Executive Director Dondero on the Legislative day trip and noted that the visit was an excellent opportunity and it was a good example of the power of working together.

Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Lane seconded to approve staff recommended positions on State bills. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Leopold, Johnson, Coonerty, Dutra, Caput, Friend, McPherson, Cervantez, Chase and Bottorff voting "aye."

23. Rail Corridor Update

Senior Transportation Planner, Karena Pushnik presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed funding for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network; crossing concerns on Beach st., in Watsonville; planned projects at the Pajaro train station; extended service by the Coast Daylight train; impact on local traffic by train service; the RTC commitment for a passenger rail study; over 2,000 responses to the passenger rail study survey; community safety; forming a community committee to determine the feasibility of the rail property; and information on how many train trips are done by the rail operator.

**Jack Nelson**, said that climate scientists support carbon fees and dividends. He also said that using train freight rather than trucks is a great way to reduce carbon. The community is screaming for carbon reductions.

**Piet Canin**, Ecology Action staff and board member of Friends of the Rail and Trail (FORT), thanked staff for working with them on the rail line clean up scheduled for May 3<sup>rd</sup>. He said that FORT will be at community events to promote the Rail Trail and work with private funding sources for support. He noted that the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network will be viewed as a legacy project.

**Brian Peoples**, Aptos Rail Trail, said that passenger train service does not make sense. Vehicle to Vehicle communication systems are coming and will make Hwy 1 more efficient. He also said a fixed rail system is too expensive for this community. A bike path would have more benefits to the community and would be worth having to pay back money to the California Transportation Commission (CTC). The rail property has more potential than train service.

**Michael McBride**, Local resident said that the rail property should be used for the greater good. He said that he is disappointed that the passenger rail study has not been released. If there was a public trail opened, the issues of graffiti and other concerns would be taken care of.

24. Rail Motorcar Excursion on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented the staff report. The excursion will take place on the weekend of April 25th and 26th.

**Michael McBride**, local resident, asked how many of the participants are Santa Cruz County residents and how this excursion benefited the community.

**Eric Child**, Santa Cruz Resident and former member of NARCOA, said that NARCOA does a great job on their safety training. He also said that this excursion brings in lots of people that will use hotels and restaurants.

**Brian Peoples**, support's a future tax measure. It seems that this excursion is using the rail property as an amusement park ride. He also said it creates more traffic and more pollution.

Responding to questions, Deputy Director Luis Mendez said that Santa Cruz residents are part of NARCOA and people from all over the country do come to participate in the excursion and generate economic activity. The RTC does coordinate with other agencies like the Seaside Company on potential impacts. The language in the agreement for the funds to purchase the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line does allow for recreational rail service.

Commissioner Coonerty moved and Commissioner Lane seconded to approve a rail motorcar excursion on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line for April 25 and 26, 2015 organized by the North American Railcar Operators Association (NARCOA) with the Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay (SC&MB) Railway for a fee of \$500.00. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Leopold, Johnson, Coonerty, Dutra, Caput, Friend, McPherson, Cervantez, Chase and Bottorff voting "aye."

25. Artwork for Railroad Crossing Signal Box

Item removed from the agenda

26. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

**Eric Child**, member of the Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM), said that GGRM has been around for over 40 years. He noted that the proposal from GGRM is to have a static museum that serves as another attraction bringing in more tourist interest and will compliment other tourist attractions in the county specifically rail attractions. He also noted that GGRM is interested in providing some sort of rail excursions.

The regular meeting adjourned to closed session at 11:06 a.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

27. Conference with Real Property Negotiator pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 for lease of Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line property within the Santa Cruz wye

Agency Negotiator: George Dondero and Luis Pavel Mendez  
Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC, Golden Gate Railroad Museum  
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

## OPEN SESSION

The RTC reconvened in open session at 11:35 am.

28. Report on closed session

There was no report from closed session. The meeting adjourned at 11:36 am.

29. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 7, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Capitola City Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Ave, Capitola, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 16, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

### Attendees

Jack Nelson	Campaign for Sensible Transportation
Eric Child	Golden Gate Rail Museum
Amelia Conlen	People Power
Piet Canin	Ecology Action
Brian Peoples	Aptos Rail Trail
Michael McBride	Local resident
Heather Anderson	AMBAG