



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, May 7, 2015

**Capitola City Council Chambers
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola, CA 95010**

1. Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Members Present:

Aileen Loe (ex-officio)
Andy Schiffrin (alt.)
Bruce McPherson
Cynthia Chase
Dennis Norton
Don Lane

Ed Bottorff
Greg Caput
Jimmy Dutra
John Leopold
Randy Johnson
Zach Friend

Staff Present:

George Dondero
Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra
Cory Caletti
Karena Pushnik

Rachel Moriconi
Kim Schultz
Jennifer Rodriguez

2. Oral Communications

Jack Nelson, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, questioned whether there is evidence that highway construction leads to congestion relief.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Replacement page for Item 12, and additional pages for Items 18, 21, and 22 were distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting "aye". Commissioner Friend and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin abstained from Item 4.

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the April 2, 2015 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the April 13, 2015 Bicycle Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the April 14, 2015 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. FY15-16 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 claims for the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, the Ride 'n' Stride program, and the Bike to work program (**Resolutions 22-15 and 23-15**)

Item pulled by Commissioner Johnson. Chair Leopold placed the item on the regular agenda as item 17.1

8. Received Monterey Bay Region 2015 Public Participation Plan
9. Approved consultant contract for federal transportation/legislative assistant (**Resolution 24-15**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

11. Approved appointment of members to the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

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

- a. Letter to the Honorable William Monning regarding Support for SB 344: Commercial Driver Safety Training
 - b. Letter to the Honorable Jean Fuller regarding Support for SB 516 Transportation: Motorist Aid Services
 - c. Letter to the Honorable Jim Frazier regarding Support for ACA 4, Local Government Transportation Projects: Special Taxes: Voter Approval
 - d. Letter to Caltrans regarding City of Santa Cruz Active Transportation Program Grant Application for Branciforte Creek Pedestrian and Bicycle Bridge from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
 - e. Letter to Caltrans regarding City of Scotts Valley Active Transportation Program Grant Application from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
15. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
16. Accepted information items
- a. Letter from the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC)
 - b. Local Groups MAP 21 Renewal letter
 - c. Central Coast Coalition letter
 - d. Grant Confirmation letter from CalTrans

Commissioner Norton pulled item 16a. Chair Leopold placed the item on the regular agenda as item 17.2

REGULAR AGENDA

17. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Norton welcomed all. He shared his vision for the future of transportation stating that 40 feet behind the Capitola chambers, the rail corridor would be built to allow bicycle and pedestrian access and an option for a trolley.

- 17.1 Previously Item 7. In response to questions, Deputy Director Luis Mendez explained the process for putting items on the consent agenda versus the regular agenda, and the invoicing and monitoring process for the projects requesting funding.

Commissioner Johnson moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded to adopt resolutions (**Resolutions 22-15 and 23-15**) approving claims for the FY 2015-16 TDA Article 8 funds for the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, Ride 'n Stride and Bike to Work programs. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioners Norton, Lane, Johnson, Dutra, Caput, Friend, Leopold, McPherson, Chase, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting "aye".

- 17.2 Previously Item 16a. Commissioner Norton asked staff to provide an update on the status of the Pajaro train station at a future meeting and directed staff to send a support letter for the Transportation Agency for Monterey County's Tiger Grant application.

Commissioner Caput asked for an update on the needed track crossing repairs at Riverside Drive in Watsonville. Executive George Dondero responded that there are discussions with Iowa Pacific, the City of Watsonville and Caltrans currently underway.

18. Director's Report – oral report

Executive Director George Dondero reported the following:

- The RTC was selected as a finalist for a \$5 million Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) grant award for a rail trail segment west of Santa Cruz. He thanked The Santa Cruz County Land Trust and the Coastal Conservancy for their contribution to the required grant match.
- The RTC received a \$230,000 Caltrans grant for community outreach using computer simulation and 3D software.
- Three agencies will receive Section 5310 grant funding thanks to the work of Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee on the applications.
- Governor Brown's new emission target will have an impact on RTC projects and impact other agencies.
- As part of Bike to Work Week, Ecology Action and Save- our- Shores sponsored a rail line clean up day with RTC staff participation.
- RTC provided funding for the Watsonville Open Streets event that will take place May 17, 2015;
- The RTC would be advertising for a paid intern for the summer

In addition, Mr. Dondero welcomed the RTC's new Administrative Assistant, Jennifer Rodriguez

Commissioners congratulated staff on seeking and receiving several grants.

19. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe noted the new issue of The Mile Marker Report: Caltrans Performance Report, 3rd edition was released. She noted the short fall in funding for projects under the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). She said the need is about \$8 billion dollars just to preserve the current transportation system. However, the allocation of funds to the SHOPP is only \$2 billion.

Commissioners thanked Caltrans for current safety projects in Ben Lomond; the process for median cleaning; City of Watsonville discussion on roundabouts; and crosswalks by St. Francis High School.

20. **9:30 PUBLIC HEARING** 2015 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs

Senior Transportation Planner Karena Pushnik presented the staff report. The RTC regularly solicits input to assess and prioritize the transportation needs of seniors, people with disabilities and low income individuals.

The Public Hearing was opened at 10:03 a.m. There were no public comments. Public hearing was closed at 10:04 a.m.

Commissioners discussed crossings at bus stops and analysis to compare previous years unmet needs.

Commissioner Friend moved and Commissioner Schiffrin seconded to adopt the 2015 Unmet Paratransit and Transit needs report and to consider unmet paratransit and transit needs as funding becomes available. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Norton, Lane, Johnson, Dutra, Caput, Friend, Leopold, McPherson, Chase, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting "aye".

21. Bicycle Route Signage Program

Senior Transportation Planner Cory Caletti presented the staff report. Public outreach will be scheduled after phase 1 has been implemented.

Commissioners discussed the fine line between signs that serve as information and visual pollution; sign color requirements; total cost for sign implementation; including parallel routes; number of riders Santa Cruz County serves; changes to the proposed signs and presenting information to the Commission about the proposed grant application.

Eric Child, Santa Cruz pedestrian, said that the report seemed to ignore pedestrian needs and requested that the report make it clear that bicycle paths can and should be shared with pedestrians. He asked that funding be allocated for education so that the rules of the road would be better followed.

Jack Nelson, experienced bike rider, said that good signage would serve both bicycle riders and motorist. He also shared a letter from Amelia Conlen of Bike Santa Cruz County supporting the final report.

Dan Attema, asked if any of the signs would have to be redone once the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail was completed.

Commissioner Friend motioned and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin second to adopt the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Route Signage program-2015 Implementation Plan. Staff recommendation to adopt a resolution was delayed for the next upcoming RTC meeting.

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

22. Fiscal Year 2015-16 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claims for the Volunteer Center, Community Bridges and Santa Cruz Metro

Senior Transportation Planner Karena Pushnik presented the staff report.

Kirk Ance, Community Bridges, Program Director said Lift Line provides 80 thousands rides per year.

Debbie Brooks, Volunteer Center Transportation Program, said that the program runs on volunteers who use their own vehicles. The service offers door to door rides for the most vulnerable seniors.

Alex Clifford, CEO of Metro, and **Tom Hiltner**, Grants/Legislative Analyst for METRO thanked the RTC for continued support and funding.

Commissioners discussed the effects on riders due to the METRO budget deficit; possible service cuts; sales tax measure to help with budget deficit; labor cost increases, concern for burdening the most vulnerable in the community and appreciation for the service that METRO provides.

Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Friend seconded to adopt resolutions (**Resolutions 24-15, 25-15, 26-15**) to approve the FY 2015-16 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 funds claim in the amount of \$626,561 from Community Bridges to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, contingent on approval from the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant; and approving the FY 2015-16 TDA Article 8 funds claim in the amount of \$74,591 from the Volunteer Center to administer the volunteer driver transportation program primarily serving seniors, contingent on approval from the City of Santa Cruz to acts as the claimant. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Norton, Lane, Johnson, Dutra, Caput, Friend, Leopold, McPherson, Chase, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting "aye".

23. Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing Project

Executive Director George Dondero presented the staff report. He noted that Highway 17 traffic will not be disrupted as the tunneling will be done underneath the highway. Caltrans is working on the project initiation document while the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County is committed to raise \$1 million dollars to complete the project.

Commissioner Caput departed the meeting.

Commissioners discussed the importance of making safe passages for wildlife and thanked the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for their leadership on the project.

Commissioner Lane moved and Commissioner Schiffrin seconded to direct staff to send a letter of support to Caltrans to include the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing project on the 2016 State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP) project list.

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

24. Federal Legislative Update

Commissioner Johnson departed the meeting.

Executive Director Dondero introduced Chris Giglio of Capital Edge. Mr. Giglio indicated that this is a critical time for transportation in Washington DC. He gave an update on legislation related to transportation and noted that having staff in Washington helps move projects forward.

25. Fiscal Year 2015-16 Overall Work Program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented the staff report.

Commissioner Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Lane seconded to approve the FY 2015-16 RTC Work Program and authorize the Executive Director to make revisions in response to comments from Caltrans consistent with the approved RTC budget. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Norton, Lane, Dutra, Caput, Friend, Leopold, McPherson, Chase, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting "aye".

26. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 10:45 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

27. 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).

28. Public Employee Performance Review: Executive Director pursuant to Government Code Section 54957(b)

OPEN SESSION

29. Report on closed session

Commissioners reconvened to open session at 11:30 a.m. and there was no closed session report.

30. Meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 4, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Suite 400, Watsonville, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Staff

Attendees:

Eric Child

Tom Hiltner

Ray Cancino

Dan Medeiros

Lynn Lauridsen

Kirk Ance

Jack Nelson

Theresa Rogerson

Selena Garcia

Brian Peoples

Alex Clifford

Debbie Brooks

Dan Attema

METRO

Community Bridges

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County

Health Services Agency

Community Bridges/CTSA

Campaign for Sensible Transportation

County of Santa Cruz HSA/CTSC

County of Santa Cruz HAS/CTCS

METRO

Volunteer Center