



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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### Minutes

**Thursday, January 15, 2015**

**Santa Cruz City Council Chambers  
809 Center St.  
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Roll call

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

Members present:

Aileen Loe (ex-officio)  
Dennis Norton  
Greg Caput  
Zach Friend  
Lowell Hurst (alt.)  
Tony Gregorio (alt.)

Don Lane  
Randy Johnson  
Ryan Coonerty  
Bruce McPherson  
John Leopold

Staff present:

Luis Mendez  
Rachel Moriconi  
Maggie Bardacke

Grace Blakeslee  
Cory Caletti

2. Oral Communications – *none*

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Two replacement pages of the agenda, a handout for Item 18, a handout for Item 19 and the Director's Report were distributed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

from voting on the draft minutes but voted 'aye' on the rest of the consent agenda.

## **MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the December 4, 2014 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the December 4, 2014 Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)
6. Accepted draft minutes of the December 4, 2014 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the November 20, 2014 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the December 8, 2014 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

9. Approved City of Santa Cruz FY 14-15 Article 8 Transportation Development Act Claim for \$25,000 for Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements  
**(Resolution 11-15)**
10. Approved designating FY2015 Proposition 1B Transit Security funds to Santa Cruz METRO **(Resolution 12-15)**

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

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

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

12. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
13. Accepted correspondence log

14. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies – *None*
15. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
16. Accepted information items

*"Despite Falling Gas Prices, Amtrak California Sets Ridership Records"* – Caltrans Press Release, Dec. 24, 2015

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

17. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Commissioner Leopold reported that he attended the ribbon cutting for the Arana Gulch Multi-Use Trail and said that it was a great event with 300-400 people in attendance. He congratulated all staff on the completion of the project and praised its connection to the ongoing Safe Route to Schools program.

18. Director's report – oral report  
(*Luis Mendez, Deputy Director*)

Deputy Director Luis Mendez updated the Commission on RTC staff's participation at the annual Transportation Research Board (TRB) conference in Washington, DC. He also spoke about Governor Jerry Brown's recently released FY 15/16 State Budget proposal and the need for expanded financing for the transportation system. He also reported that the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County met their fundraising goal for the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing, a project that will help wildlife safely cross the highway and improve highway travel for motorists. He also announced the completion of the Arana Gulch Multiuse Trail and the Vine Hill School Road and Tabor Drive bike lanes and sidewalks in Scotts Valley.

Commissioners congratulated the Land Trust on the fundraising for the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing and stated their appreciation for projects already being used by many people.

19. Caltrans report and consider action items - oral report

Aileen Loe, Caltrans, presented the Caltrans report. Aileen Low announced that Caltrans and the California State Transportation Agency are working on new guidelines to fund a program on cap and trade (called the Transit and Inter City Rail Capital Program). She said that three workshops will be held and that these projects will modernize the transit system to reduce green house gas emissions. She also reminded the Commission that a full closure of Highway 9 will begin on February 9th and closures are expected to last 6 months.

Commissioner Caput left the meeting and Alternate Commissioner Tony Gregorio took his place.

**Amelia Conlen, Director of People Power**, stated that cyclists report that freeway on-ramps are the most dangerous part of cycling and asked if Caltrans could provide local jurisdictions with guidelines on how to proceed with taking action to address freeway issues.

Aileen Loe, Caltrans, said that there are guidelines and that she would follow up to share them.

20. Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant Applications

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report.

**Raymond Cancino, CEO of Community Bridges**, explained how important these vans would be to their program and appreciated RTC on their support.

**Claire Fliesler, Metro**, stated that if granted funding for four para-transit vehicles it would make an immediate positive impact to the disabled and elderly population.

Commissioners discussed the eligibility of programs that provide services outside the county, why there weren't more applicants, the need for more transportation funding, and the amount of people served by each program.

Commissioner Friend moved, and Commissioner McPherson seconded to certify Santa Cruz County's score for the Traditional Section 5310 grant application, confirm the receipt of Expanded Section 5310 grant application, and certify that the applications meet federal statutory and program regulations. The motion passed (**Resolution 13-15**) with Commissioners Coonerty, Friend, Gregorio, Johnson, Lane, Leopold, McPherson, and Hurst voting "aye" and Commissioner Norton voting "no."

21. Federal Lands Access Program grant submission for a North Coast Section of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network

Cory Caletti presented the staff report.

Commissioners thanked RTC staff for looking at creative funding sources to support this project, congratulated staff on the application, discussed the importance of the matching funds, the construction management of the project, how the RTC could do some of the preliminary work on the project without having an engineer on staff, how to meet federal requirements to be eligible for grant funds, and how best to partner with the jurisdictions.

Aileen Loe, Caltrans, stated she did not have a definitive answer to Commissioners questions about meeting federal requirements but would look into it and let the Commissioners know the answers.

**Piet Canin, Ecology Action and board member of the Friends of the Rail and Trail (FORT)**, urged Commissioners to support the RTC staff recommendation stating that Ecology Action and FORT completely support this project. A handout was given on FORT's 2014 accomplishments.

**Amelia Conlen, People Power**, stated her strong support for this project, particularly with the goal to keep cyclists off of Highway 1.

**Maura Noel, President, Santa Cruz Cycling Club**, expressed support for this project and stated that the local cycling and tourism communities are very excited about this project.

**Stephen Slade, Deputy Director of the Land Trust**, thanked the RTC for all their work on this project and for making the RTC's application competitive.

Commissioners discussed how jurisdictions can help with the project.

Commissioner Coonerty motioned and Commissioner McPherson seconded to authorize the Executive Director to apply for funding and execute agreements with the Federal Highway Administration for Federal Lands Access Program funds and with partner agencies and non-profits for matching funds. The motion passed unanimously (**Resolution 14-15**), with Commissioners Coonerty, Friend, Gregorio, Johnson, Lane, Leopold, McPherson, Hurst, and Norton voting "aye."

The meeting adjourned at 10:42 am.

## 22. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St, Suite 400, Watsonville, CA.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Maggie Bardacke, Staff

## Attendees

Erich Friedrich

Santa Cruz Metro

Claire Fliesler  
Stephen Slade  
Rachel Moriconi  
Grace Blakeslee  
Cory Caletti  
Heather Adamson  
Amelia Conlen  
Maura Noel,  
Piet Canin  
Raymond Cancino

Santa Cruz Metro  
Land Trust of Santa Cruz County  
RTC Staff  
RTC Staff  
RTC Staff  
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments  
People Power  
President, Santa Cruz Cycling Club  
Ecology Action  
Community Bridges