



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

FINAL MINUTES

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

Members present:

Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider-Persons of Limited Means

Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA (Lift Line)

Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)

Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)

Janet Edwards, Vice Chair, 1st District

Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3rd District

Patty Talbott, Social Service Provider – Seniors Alternate

Christina Witt, Social Services Provider Disabled (County)

Patricia Fohrman, 4th District Hernandez

Phil Kipnis, 1st District Alternate

Unexcused absences:

Alex Weske, Social Service Provider – Disabled

Paul Elerick, 2nd District

RTC staff present:

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner

Others present:

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

Patrice Theriot, City of Watsonville

Madilyn Jacobsen, Caltrans

Paul Guirguis, Caltrans

Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz

Ben Vernazza, Member of the Public

Bryan Ramos, Member of the Public

Becky Steinbruner, Member of the Public

2. Introductions
3. Consider AB2449 request(s) to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances (a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person)

A motion (Edwards, Fohrman) was made to approve committee member Jesus Bojorquez's request to participate remotely due to emergency circumstances. The motion passed unanimously with members Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Patty Talbott, Christina Witt, and Patricia Fohrman voting in favor.

4. Oral communications

Janet Edwards, Committee Member, stated that she is writing a letter to the City of Capitola to add the website link to the RTC Pedestrian Hazard Report Form to the City of Capitola's website.

Ben Vernazza, Member of the Public, communicated the need to have the Coastal Rail Trail wide enough for individuals with disabilities using mobility devices to reduce bicycle and pedestrian conflicts.

Russel Chen, County of Santa Cruz, provided an update to the committee on upcoming projects such as the Soquel Ave. buffered bike lanes and the Hwy 152 Complete Streets Intersection Improvements.

5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approve Minutes from April 11, 2023

A motion (Pisano/Edwards) was made to approve the minutes from April 11, 2023. The motion passed unanimously with members Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Patty Talbott, Christina Witt, Patricia Fohrman, and Jesus Bojorquez voting in favor.

7. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights
8. Receive Information Items

A motion (Lamb/Ireland) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Patty Talbott, Christina

Witt, Patricia Fohrman, and Jesus Bojorquez voting in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Receive Program Updates

a. Volunteer Center

Tara Ireland stated that the Volunteer Center has reached a total of 198 participants with 96 volunteers, and 4 volunteer dispatchers. The Volunteer Center is always looking for additional volunteers. For more information visit:

<https://scvolunteercenter.org/programs/volunteer/>

b. Community Bridges

Jesus Bojorquez announced that Community Bridges Lift Line purchased new electric vehicles for their transit fleet and are now fully staffed with dispatchers for the Lift Line program.

c. Santa Cruz METRO

No update, METRO committee member absent.

d. SCCRTC – Covid Public Meeting Rules and AB 2449

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, informed the committee that the TNC Access for All program application due date has been extended to July 7th to allow more time for transportation providers to submit applications to receive up to \$114,103 to increase wheelchair accessible on-demand transportation services in Santa Cruz County.

Ms. Marino notified the committee that the Santa Cruz County Parks Department requested a letter of support from the E&D TAC for Segments 10 and 11 (17th Ave to State Park Dr.) of the Coastal Rail Trail to apply for funds from the CPUC to add formal pedestrian crossings.

A motion (Lamb/Ireland) was made to approve the E&D TAC chair to write a letter of support for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 & 11 Formal Pedestrian Crossings CPUC grant application. The motion passed unanimously with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, and

Veronica Elsea voting in favor.

- e. Pedestrian Ad-Hoc Subcommittee
 - i. Pedestrian Hazard Report

Chair Veronica Elsea stated that the subcommittee is continuing to meet and discussing ways to improve response times in the pedestrian hazard report processes working with local jurisdictions. The subcommittee is continuing to monitor the public meetings and projects of local jurisdictions throughout Santa Cruz County. Ms. Elsea identified projects that they are monitoring, and the next subcommittee meeting will be on May 26th at 2:00 pm. Ms. Elsea also provided information on how the RTC is going to promote the Pedestrian Hazard Reports on RTC media outlets to report potholes or hazardous road conditions.

Vice Chair Janet Edwards informed the committee that Ms. Edwards met with City of Capitola Planner, Kailash Mozumder, and walked along 41st avenue identifying hazards for individuals using mobility devices.

10. Safer Access to Pajaro Valley High School and Beyond Project

Patrice Theriot, City of Watsonville staff presented the Safer Access to Pajaro Valley High School (PVHS) and Beyond Project including infrastructure improvements at the Highway 1/Harkins Slough Road overcrossing, other safety improvements in the vicinity of feeder schools, and non-infrastructure programming.

Committee members asked questions regarding safe pedestrian pathways during construction and community input to Spanish speaking communities.

No action taken.

11. Highway 129 Pavement Project

Madilyn Jacobsen and Paul Guirguis, Caltrans staff, gave a presentation on the Hwy 129 Pavement Project located in Watsonville. This project is on Route 129 between Route 1/129 Separation, Salsipuedes Creek Bridge, and on Route 152 between Main Street and Martinelli Street. The purpose of this project is to preserve and extend the life of the existing pavement, roadside safety, and multimodal access for pedestrian and bicycle users.

Committee members asked questions concerning the accessibility of bus stop facilities to allow space for individuals in wheelchairs. Members additionally made comments regarding the curb ramps and audible pedestrian signals. Caltrans staff stated that they will discuss with their staff to see if this project can include audible features with locator tones at pedestrian signals.

No action taken.

12. AMBAG Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan

Heather Adamson, AMBAG Staff, provided an overview of the 2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP). The Public Participation Plan is a comprehensive document that guides regional planning agencies and local jurisdictions in the public participation process for the tri-county Monterey Bay region that either receive federal funds or are subject to a federally required action.

Committee members provided feedback and asked questions regarding timeline and community outreach involved in the development of the 2023 Public Participation Plan.

No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:26 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 8, 2023 at 1:30 located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Marino, Staff