



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's  
**Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee**  
(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

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**FINAL MINUTES**

**1:30pm - 3:30pm**

**Tuesday, October 10, 2023**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

***Members present:***

Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider-Persons of Limited Means  
Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA (Lift Line)  
Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)  
Janet Edwards, Vice Chair, 1<sup>st</sup> District  
Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Christina Witt, Social Services Provider Disabled (County)  
Patricia Fohrman, 4<sup>th</sup> District Hernandez

***Unexcused absences:***

Alex Weske, Social Service Provider – Disabled  
Paul Elerick, 2<sup>nd</sup> District

***RTC staff present:***

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner  
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner  
Brianna Goodman, Transportation Planner

***Others present:***

Elizabeth Byrd, Santa Cruz County Adult and Long-Term Care

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)

4. Oral communications

Committee member Michael Pisano requested that the E&D TAC invite the local jurisdictions to present at a future meeting on the efforts that have been made to expand Bicycle Bike Share in Santa Cruz County.

Rachel Moriconi, RTC Senior Transportation Planner announced that the RTC is accepting applications for members of the community to apply to be on its new Transportation Equity Workgroup. The Transportation Equity Workgroup will help guide the development of a Transportation Equity Action Plan and support the implementation of quality transportation infrastructure, services, and solutions that more equitably meet the diverse needs of community members. A fact sheet on the workgroup is available [online](#) in English and Español.

Applications will be welcomed on an ongoing basis, but with the first workgroup meeting anticipated to be held in October 2023. Interested parties can submit an application to [rmoriconi@scrtc.org](mailto:rmoriconi@scrtc.org).

5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

Item 14. Reimagine METRO Service Changes was deleted from the agenda due to METRO staff experiencing an emergency circumstance resulting in the inability to present. The item will be brought to the next E&D TAC meeting.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

6. Approve Minutes from June 16, 2023

*A motion (Edwards/Fohrman) was made to approve the minutes from June 16, 2023. The motion passed unanimously with members Tara Ireland, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Christina Witt, and Patricia Fohrman voting in favor.*

7. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights

8. Receive Information Items

- a. Santa Cruz County Local Road Safety Plan
- b. Lift Line Access for All

*A motion (Pisano/Fohrman) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members Tara Ireland, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Christina Witt, and Patricia Fohrman voting in favor.*

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

## 9. Receive Program Updates

### a. Volunteer Center

Tara Ireland stated that the Volunteer Center is continuing their Grocery Shopper and Transportation Programs and does not have anything new to report on.

### b. Community Bridges

Jesus Bojorquez announced that Community Bridges "Lift Line Access for All" begun on September 18th providing on-demand WAV rides county wide for a flat fee of \$5. All residents with disabilities in Santa Cruz County can access Lift Line's door-to-door transportation, regardless of income level. For more information to schedule a ride visit: <https://communitybridges.org/liftline/>

Community Bridges Lift Line is also starting an Emergency Transportation program providing free WAV rides for qualified residents between 6 am – 10 pm 7 days a week.

### c. Santa Cruz METRO

No update, METRO committee member absent.

### d. SCCRTC

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, reported to the committee that the TNC Access for All Program is administered by the RTC, and is funded by the CPUC for Community Bridges Lift Line to provide on-demand WAV rides.

Ms. Marino encouraged the committee to provide input on the Santa Cruz County Local Road Safety Plan that is in the beginning stages of development.

Additionally, she announced that the committee will have a special meeting on November 14<sup>th</sup> to review projects for the Regional Transportation Improvement Program. Ms. Marino also informed the committee that she will no longer be able to staff the committee due to an adjustment in her work schedule.

### e. Pedestrian Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

- i. Pedestrian Hazard Report
- ii. Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way

Chair Veronica Elsea stated that the subcommittee is continuing to meet to discuss ways to improve response times in the pedestrian hazard report processes with Jason Thompson, RTC Planning Technician. Ms. Elsea also gave a synopsis of the "Accessibility Guidelines for Pedestrian Facilities in the Public Right-of-Way" including the significant updates made for pedestrian crossings.

Ms. Elsea also distributed "What Pedestrians and Bicyclists Want Each Other To Know" and "What Motorists and Pedestrians Want Each Other To Know" brochures that the Pedestrian Subcommittee created, as well as cards with the Pedestrian Hazard Report information. She encouraged committee members to distribute the brochures and cards to their networks. The committee discussed bringing these materials to schools, senior centers, and libraries.

Ms. Elsea additionally informed the committee of a Letter of Support written on behalf of the E&D TAC for the City of Watsonville's "Strengthening Watsonville Neighborhoods: Feasibility Study for Equitable, Just, Safe and Prosperous Future for All" grant application.

#### 10. E&D TAC New Member Appointments

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the two applicants expressing interest to fill vacancies on the E&D TAC shown in the October 2023 membership roster. The applicants introduced themselves and provided a statement of why they are applying to serve on the committee.

*A motion (Pisano/Edwards) was made to recommend approval to the RTC to appoint new members to the E&D TAC. The motion passed unanimously with members Tara Ireland, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Christina Witt, and Patricia Fohrman voting in favor.*

#### 11. Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Priorities Report (CAVA) Prioritization Framework

Brianna Goodman, RTC Transportation Planner, presented an overview of

the Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Priorities Report (CAVA) to the committee. Ms. Goodman requested input on what hazards should be evaluated, what transportation assets should be considered, and what metrics will be used to assess and prioritize transportation assets for future actions to enhance climate resilience. She also encouraged broader input on the structure of the Framework.

The committee members comments included prioritizing fallen debris blocking pedestrian facilities, drainage systems, power to road facilities, sinkholes, and access to emergency services. The committee emphasized the need to include pedestrian facilities in assets to be considered in the analysis.

*No action taken.*

12. Measure D: Five Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects and Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) Update

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner provided an overview of the proposed updates to the five-year programs of projects and long-range Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) for the regional transportation categories -- Highway Corridors, Active Transportation, and the Rail Corridor, as well as San Lorenzo Valley Highway 9 Corridor Improvements, the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing.

Committee members asked questions concerning the timeline for the construction of rail trail segments. Additional questions were asked regarding funding opportunities for increased on-demand transportation and incentivizing remote work for the Go Santa Cruz County Program.

*No action taken.*

13. Measure D: Community Bridges/Lift Line Five Year Plan

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner and Jesus Bojorquez, Lift Line staff, summarized Community Bridges Lift Line's five-year program of projects, identifying how Lift Line will plan to spend its formula share of Measure D funds.

*A motion (Ireland/Edwards) was made to recommend that the RTC approve the Community Bridges-Lift Line 5-Year Program of Projects for FY23/24-27/28. The motion passed unanimously with members Tara Ireland, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Christina Witt, and Patricia Fohrman voting in favor.*

14. Reimage METRO Service Changes

This item will be brought to the next E&D TAC meeting.

*No action taken.*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:52 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 14, 2023 at 1:30 located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Marino, Staff