



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, December 12, 2023

1. Roll call

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

Members present:

Elizabeth Byrd, Social Services Provider- Seniors (County)
Christina Witt, Social Services Provider - Disabled (County)
Tara Ireland, Social Services Provider - Persons of Limited Means
Nadia Noriega, CTSA (Community Bridges)
Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA (Lift Line)
Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)
Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
Janet Edwards, Vice Chair, First District
Rina Solorio Gomez, SCMTD (METRO)

Members Remote, voting under Just Cause or Emergency:

None

Members Remote, Not Voting:

None

Unexcused Absences:

None

Excused Absences:

Clay Kempf, Social Services Provider – Seniors
Alex Weske, Social Services Provider – Disabled
Paul Elerick, Second District (Friend)
Veronica Elsea, Chair, Third District
Patricia Forhrman, Fourth District
Ed Hutton, Fifth District
Patty Talbott, Social Services Provider-Seniors
Alicia Morales, Social Services Provider-Seniors
Phil Kipnis, First District

RTC staff present:

Luis Mendez, Interim Executive Director
Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning Tech
Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner

Guests present:

Matt Starkey, Transportation Manager, City of Santa Cruz
Kailash Mozumder, Public Works Project Manager, City of Capitola
Jessie Leyva, Santa Cruz METRO
Ben Vernazza, 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) - none****4. Oral communications**

- Ben Vernazza raised concerns about the trail's classification as a class 1 trail, emphasizing that segments 9 and 11 have an 8 ft bicycle and pedestrian area, and 10 ft would be preferable.
- Mike Pisano shared a safety concern following an incident involving a family acquaintance in downtown Boulder Creek. He proposed adding a stop sign near the hardware store and possibly another one by Foster's Freeze to address safety issues.
- Janet Edwards suggested a traffic calming change at Bay Avenue and Hill, due to a fatality near the intersection before Thanksgiving 2023. She recommended involving a blind person for consultation on potential changes, expressing concerns about visibility for pedestrians, especially blind individuals.

5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

None.

CONSENT AGENDA**6. Approve Minutes from November 14, 2023**

- A motion to approve the minutes was made by (Tara Ireland/Michael Pisano). Elizabeth Byrd, Christina Witt, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Rina Solorio Gomez voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

7. Received November 2023 E&D TAC Calendar

- A motion to approve the consent agenda was made by (Michael Pisano/Jesus Bojorquez). Elizabeth Byrd, Christina Witt, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Rina Solorio Gomez voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Receive Program Updates

- Volunteer Center
 - None
- Community Bridges
 - The year ended with over 45,000 rides and all program goals were successfully achieved except for same-day rides. This was due to limited capacity with 6 drivers at the beginning of the year but Community Bridges now has 15 drivers. The operating cost per passenger trip is \$45.94, factoring in driver-related expenses. The aim is to expand to underserved areas in both the Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. The \$5 rides for the "Access for All" program are gaining popularity, and the potential expansion of METRO's free service presents a promising opportunity.
- Santa Cruz METRO
 - Announced the initiation of Phase One for their Reimagine Metro program that began on December 21, 2023. This will be accompanied by a temporary two-week period of free fares to assist riders in adjusting to these changes. Additionally, the retirement of ticket vending machines was scheduled for December 20th.
- SCCRTC
 - The Pedestrian Ad-Hoc Subcommittee received the RTC's pedestrian hazard reports but has not convened for a meeting. The subcommittee continues to monitor hazard reports and plans to meet soon to address concerns. They will focus on studying potholes and their impact on pedestrians.

9. RTC Legislative Program Updates, Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner, RTC

Staff shared that they are working on updates to the legislative program that include wording changes. They are open to receiving ideas and suggestions from Committee members on possible improvements. The deadline for input is the February 1st RTC meeting.

- The Committee would like to see legislative changes to enable Lift Line to be direct recipients of transportation funds, preventing a loss of 8% to the City of Santa Cruz.

10. City of Capitola Pedestrian Pathway from the Upper Beach and Village Parking Lot to Monterey Avenue

- Kailash Mozumder presented the design for City of Capitola pedestrian pathway from the upper beach and village parking lot to Monterey Avenue. After questions and comments from the Committee, Mr. Mozumder said that the design would be modified to include ladder crosswalks at all four crossings at Monterey and Park Avenues.
- A motion to approve the project design was made by (Tara Ireland/Christina Witt). Elizabeth Byrd, Christina Witt, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Rina Solorio Gomez voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

11. City of Santa Cruz Transportation Demand Management Claims – Matt Starkey, Transportation Manager, City of Santa Cruz

- Matt Starkey presented the City of Santa Cruz's request for TDA funding for the Neighborhood Traffic Calming Program. Mr. Starky provided information on the components of the project and criteria for selecting eligible streets for the traffic calming program. Residents may suggest streets for the program through an online form. Mr. Starky also provided information on the City of Santa Cruz request to de-allocate TDA funds from the Bay Drive Protected Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Path project.
- The Committee communicated equity concerns, emphasizing the need for a bilingual form and the inclusion of an equity lens in the project. The importance of prioritizing low-income communities for economic development was stressed, particularly in historically underinvested areas.
- A motion to recommend approval of the TDA claim was made by (Michael Pisano/Jesus Bojorquez). Elizabeth Byrd, Christina Witt, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Rina Solorio Gomez voted in favor. The motion passed unanimously.

12. Regional Transportation Plan Goals, Policies, and Targets

- Staff presented an overview of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The draft goals and policies have been made simpler and more focused, adding new goals that more or less existed in the previous version of the RTP but were contained within other goals. The updated goals are now: Access, Safety, Cost-effectiveness, Climate resilience, and Equity. The revisions should help to show a clearer connection between goals/policies and project funding choices later in the development of the RTP.

- **Committee Feedback:**
 - There is a need for a comprehensive strategy (potentially under 1.2) to address and fill gaps in the pedestrian network.
 - The Committee expressed concerns regarding the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of projects, emphasizing the importance of a policy to guide decision-making. The suggestion is to prioritize projects based on the number of people benefiting by a project and focus on essential needs (groceries, schools, hospitals) over recreational wants.
 - Focus on person-centered design approach that is not focused on vehicles

- RTC Staff requests comments within a month, but there's flexibility in submitting feedback. If you have any comments, please e-mail Tommy: ttravers@scrtc.org.

13. Meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 13, 2024 at 1:30 located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning Tech