



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 2, 2024  
9:00 a.m.**

**In-Person Meeting**

Capitola City Council Chambers  
420 Capitola Avenue  
Capitola, CA 95062

**Remote Location**

628 Crown Road  
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

1. Roll call. The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members present:

City of Capitola

City of Santa Cruz

City of Scotts Valley

City of Watsonville

County of Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Caltrans (ex-officio)

Alexander Pedersen

Sandy Brown

Randy Johnson

Eduardo Montesino

Felipe Hernandez

Andy Schiffrin (Alt)

Robert Quinn (Alt)

Manu Koenig

Bruce McPherson

Kristen Brown

Larry Pageler

Mike Rotkin

Brandy Rider (Alt)

Staff present:

Mitch Weiss

Grace Blakeslee

Sarah Christensen

Cindy Convisser

Krista Corwin

Riley Gerbrandt

Max Friedman

Luis Mendez

Shannon Munz

Amy Naranjo

Tracy New

Yesenia Parra

Tommy Travers

Brian Zamora

Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)

2. Considered AB 2449 "Just Cause" requests - *none*
3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

Administrative Assistant Krista Corwin communicated that handouts for items 15 and 29 and replacement pages for item 16 were posted to the website.

4. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas provided a brief overview of the items to be discussed in closed session.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

5. Conference with Labor Negotiators  
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)  
Agency Designated Representatives: Tony Harris and Jesse Lad  
Employee Organizations: CORE and RAMM
6. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation  
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))  
Campaign for Sustainable Transportation v. California Department of  
Transportation et. al.  
Case No. 24VVM000051

### **OPEN SESSION**

7. Report on items discussed in closed session

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there was no reportable action from closed session.

8. Oral Communications

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin responded to comments raised during oral communications stating that he has no economic interest in Roaring Camp Railroads.

Received public comment from:

Ted Frank Rimdi  
Katherine Berger  
Suzanna Lena  
Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Ben Vernazza  
Michael Saint

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, S. Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Hernandez, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Pageler, Rotkin and Commissioner Alternates Quinn and Schiffrin voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer

### **MINUTES**

9. Accepted draft minutes of the March 4, 2024 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
10. Approved draft minutes of the April 4, 2024 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
11. Approved draft minutes of the April 18, 2024 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

### **POLICY ITEMS**

12. Approved updates to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Conflict of Interest Code
13. Accepted Legislative Updates

### **PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS**

14. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to reject the bid and authorize staff to make changes to the bid package and readvertise the ditch and culvert maintenance 2024 project along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor
15. Approved a resolution supporting reducing speed limits in the business districts of Brookdale, Ben Lomond, and Felton and Highway 9/SLV Complete Streets Corridor Plan (**Resolution 31-24**)
16. Accepted the North Coast Facilities Management Plan and receive information about the North Coast Transportation Demand Management Plan

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

17. Accepted status reports on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
18. Accepted status reports on Measure D revenues

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

19. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to program FY2024 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds and interest earned on prior Lift Line LCTOP balances, amend the budget and work program, and execute documents as may be required (**Resolution 32-24**)
20. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with User Friendly Computing to extend term through June 2025 and add funding (**Resolution 33-24**)

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

21. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
22. Accepted correspondence log
23. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
  - a. April 15, 2024 Letter to Marlon Flournoy, Division Chief of Transportation Planning, RE: Central Coast Coalition Comment Letter on CSIS 2.0
24. Accepted information items - *none*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

25. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Randy Johnson delivered comments regarding decorum at RTC meetings.

26. Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Mitch Weiss delivered comments encouraging decorum at RTC meetings; the Federal Highway Administration awarded a contract for construction of Segment 5 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, including parking lots at Davenport and Yellowbank/ Panther Beach; the vote by the County Board of Supervisors to enter into a baseline agreement with Caltrans for the Final Design for Segments 10 and 11 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail; kickoff of Santa Cruz County Bike

Month on May 1; impacts of the state agency funding freeze; proclamations of recognition for Deputy Director Luis Mendez and Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi for their years of service.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion to approve the proclamations for Deputy Director Luis Mendez and Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi, and Commissioner Montesino seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, S. Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Hernandez, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Pageler, Rotkin and Commissioner Alternates Quinn and Schiffrin voting "aye."

Commissioners appreciated staff for their work on the contract award for construction of Segment 5 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Grace Blakeslee, SCCRTC Staff

## 27. Caltrans Report

Deputy Director for Planning and Local Assistance for Caltrans District 5 Brandy Rider delivered the Santa Cruz County Project Updates and delivered updates on the scheduled convoys through Highway 1 at the Rocky Creek slip-out and annual memorial ceremony to honor fallen Caltrans highway workers.

Received public comment from:

Ben Vernazza

## 28. Presentation from Capitola Public Works

Project Manager Kailash Mozumder delivered a presentation on completed and upcoming transportation projects in Capitola.

In response to concerns raised by a member of the public, Commissioners provided information on the availability of e-bike safety training resources.

Received public comment from:

Terrie Thomas  
Michael Saint  
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

## 29. Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Update, Alignment Horizontal Clearances, and Right of Way Setbacks

Associate Engineer Riley Gerbrandt delivered the staff report. Mark McLaren and Chris O’Gara from HDR Consulting delivered a presentation.

Staff responded to Commissioner questions regarding: impact of vehicle speeds on concept development; potential cost savings with lighter vehicles; collaboration with landowners and jurisdictions on land use impacts; and how today’s decision will influence the conceptual alignment.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that establishing setbacks does not constitute a legal taking.

Commissioners discussed priorities for both rail and trail.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Receive an update on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Concept development;
2. Adopt typical cross section guidelines for preferred, constrained, and unconstrained scenarios of rail and trail facilities; and
3. Adopt horizontal setback guidelines from the Branch Line right-of-way.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, S. Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Hernandez, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Pageler, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Quinn voting “aye.”

Received public comment from:

Barry Scott  
Terrie Thomas  
Saladin Sale  
Jacob Wysocki  
Johanna Lighthill  
Peter Innan  
Tina Andreatta  
Joan  
Sally Arnold  
Ben Vernazza  
Michael Saint  
Brian Peoples  
Faina Segal

30. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, located at 275 Main Street, Fourth Floor, Watsonville, CA 95076.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) is scheduled for Thursday, May 16, 2024 at a location TBD.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Jim Helmer	Nadene Thorne
Johanna Lighthill	Brandon Freeman
Susana Glina	Bruce Werder
Katharine Parker	Rosemary Sarka
Barbara Fabbro	Rebecca Downing
Dennis Cartin	Bruce Sawhill
Paul Hierling	Faina Segal
Molly Ordery	Derek Toups
Tina Andreatta	Ben Vernazza
Mark McLaren	Jessica Kahn
Chris O'Gara	Jacob Wysocki
BobFi	Jim MacKenzie
Ramon	Kristina
Jean Brocklebank	Paula Bradley
Michael Lewis	Carla Christensen
David <3 Public Transit	Crystal Wallace
Patricia Lordan	Dianne D
Rob Tidmore	Ellie R
Jesus Bojorquez	Jaime Renteria
Pat L	Sean Sesanto
Mike	Brian
Michael Saint	Tammy Teurn
Paul Guirguis	Alissa Guther
Tony Gura	Joni Steele
Brian Peoples	Jeanette Guire RC RR
Christina Watson	(831)-***-6833
Sean	(831)-***-6000