



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 MEETING MINUTES**

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

**Tuesday, October 8, 2024**

**1. Roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 1:37

***Members present:***

Tara Ireland, Social Services Provider - Persons of Limited Means  
Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)  
Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)  
Janet Edwards, Vice Chair, First District  
Wells Shoemaker, Second District  
Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA Lift Line  
Nadia Noriega, CTSA Lift Line Alternate  
Portia Ramer, Fifth District  
Elizabeth Byrd, Social Services Provider- Seniors (County)

***Members Remote, voting under Just Cause or Emergency:***

None

***Members Remote, Not Voting:***

Katie Nunez, Fourth District

***Unexcused Absences:***

Alex Weske, Social Services Provider – Disabled  
Jesse Leyva, SC METRO

***RTC staff present:***

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner  
Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician  
Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner  
Brianna Goodman, Transportation Planner

***Guests present:***

Stephanie, In House Support Services (IHSS) Santa Cruz County  
Marc Yellin, Member of the Public

## 2. Introductions

3. Consider AB 2449 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

The committee discussed construction obstructions in the right of way (ROW) and the safety hazards for individuals using mobility devices. Ideas were shared on how to enhance safety for individuals with disabilities and pedestrians navigating streets undergoing construction. The committee requested an item on the next E&D TAC meeting agenda to discuss these topics.

Committee member Micheal Pisano posed a question to the committee inquiring about the B-Cycle e-bike share docking stations closed for the public due to theft and damage.

## 5. Additions or deletions to the consent or regular agenda

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, announced a handout to item 7. Approve Minutes from June 11, 2024 to include the May 14, 2024 meeting minutes due to a lack of quorum at the June 11 meeting.

Ms. Marino also announced a handout for item 10. E&D TAC Committee Membership appointments to include Katie Nunez's committee appointment application to serve as the District 4 representative.

Tommy Travers, RTC Transportation Planner, announced a handout for item 13. Measure D 5-year plan.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### 6. Received Information Items

- E&D TAC Letter of Support for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 - 12 Reconnecting Communities Grant Application

### 7. Approved Minutes of June 11, 2024 (*and May 14, 2024, Handout*)

*A motion (Byrd/Edwards) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Wells Shoemaker, Jesus Bojorquez, Nadia Noriega, Portia Ramer, Elizabeth Byrd voting "aye".*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

## 8. Receive Program Updates

- Volunteer Center

Committee Member Tara Ireland updated the committee about reallocation of funding for the Volunteer Center projects. Ms. Ireland indicated that she will be receiving more information regarding this at the end of the month and will share with the committee.

- Community Bridges

Committee Member Jesus Bojorquez announced new Lift Line drivers were hired, and trainings were completed opening two new routes. This was an effort to meet increased demand for paratransit rides. He reminded the committee of the TNC Access for All program offering on-demand paratransit service as well as scheduled rides. There are currently 17 vehicles in total used for the TNC Access for All program.

- Santa Cruz METRO

Representative absent.

- SCCRTC

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, announced she has returned to full-time work at the RTC. Ms. Marino introduced Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician, as she will be joining the committee meetings supporting staffing the committee.

- Ped Ad-hoc Subcommittee

Committee member Janet Edwards stated that the ad-hoc subcommittee has not met recently, but will work to schedule a future meeting in the coming months. Ms. Edwards brought attention to large housing projects that are being constructed throughout the county. She also discussed safety concerns for pedestrians and bicyclists at intersections and construction zones.

## 9. E&D TAC Chair and Vice Chair Elections

*A motion (Pisano/Bojorquez) was made to elect Veronica Elsea as Chair for a term effective until March 26. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Wells Shoemaker, Jesus Bojorquez, Nadia Noriega, Portia Ramer, Elizabeth Byrd voting "aye".*

*A motion (Pisano/Bojorquez) was made to elect Janet Edwards as Vice Chair for a term effective until March 26. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Wells Shoemaker, Jesus Bojorquez, Nadia Noriega, Portia Ramer, Elizabeth Byrd voting "aye".*

#### **10. E&D TAC Committee Membership Appointments**

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the applicants expressing interest in filling vacancies and commissioner appointments on the E&D TAC shown in the October membership roster.

*A motion (Lamb/Pisano) was made to approve the committee membership appointments and recommend commission approval. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Wells Shoemaker, Jesus Bojorquez, Nadia Noriega, Portia Ramer, Elizabeth Byrd voting "aye".*

#### **11. Rural Highway Safety Plan (RHSP)**

Brianna Goodman, RTC Transportation Planner, presented on the Rural Highway Safety Plan. This is an extension and expansion of the SLV complete streets program. The RHSP seeks to enhance safety for all users of the County's six conventional highways: specifically, Highway 1 north of the City of Santa Cruz city limits, Highway 9, Highway 236, Highway 35, and Highways 129 and 152 outside the City of Watsonville city limits, which collectively function as main streets, intercommunity connectors, and rural highways.

Ms. Goodman reviewed the projects goals and objectives and asked for feedback on where people feel unsafe on these highways or have observed accidents/near-accidents.

Committee members made comments relating to enhancing pedestrian safety in construction zones, identified intersections difficult to navigate as a pedestrian with disabilities, and intersections that need increased lighting and rapid flashing beacons.

*A motion (Pisano/Noriega) was made to approve the Rural Highway Safety Plan. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Wells Shoemaker, Jesus Bojorquez, Nadia Noriega, Portia Ramer, Elizabeth Byrd voting "aye".*

#### **12. Title VI Civil Rights Program & Language Assistance Plan Update**

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, presented an overview of elements included in the Title VI Plan Update and the timeline.

Committee members will be informed once the draft plan is ready for review. The draft will integrate feedback from the RTC Public Participation Plan and AMBAG Title VI plans to ensure strategies remain relevant and inclusive.

If you have any suggestions or comments, you are welcome to send an email to Rachel Moriconi, RTC Senior Transportation Planner, at [rmoriconi@scrtc.org](mailto:rmoriconi@scrtc.org).

A comment was made by Janet Edwards, E&D TAC Vice Chair, to add additional language to include opportunities to file complaints for discrimination against people with disabilities.

*No action taken.*

### **13. Measure D 5-year Plan**

Tommy Travers, RTC Transportation Planner, presented a summary of the proposed updates for the Measure D five-year program of projects for regional investment categories. The 5-Year plans have been updated to reflect proposed investments of Measure D FY24/25-FY28/29 funds. The program of projects for the regional transportation categories include Highway Corridors, Active Transportation, the Rail Corridor, San Lorenzo Valley Highway 9 Corridor Improvements, and the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing.

*A motion (Pisano/Ramer) was made to approve the Measure D 5-year Plan. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Wells Shoemaker, Jesus Bojorquez, Nadia Noriega, Portia Ramer, Elizabeth Byrd voting "aye". Committee Member Tara Ireland was not present for the motion.*

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:36 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 1:30 pm located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Minutes respectfully submitted by Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner.