



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, November 7, 2024
9:00 a.m.**

In-Person Meeting

Scotts Valley City Council Chambers
1 Civic Center Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

1. Roll call. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present:

City of Capitola	Alexander Pedersen
City of Santa Cruz	Sandy Brown
City of Scotts Valley	Randy Johnson
City of Watsonville	Eduardo Montesino
County of Santa Cruz	Felipe Hernandez
County of Santa Cruz	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
County of Santa Cruz	Robert Quinn (Alt)
County of Santa Cruz	Manu Koenig
County of Santa Cruz	Bruce McPherson
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Kristen Brown
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Mike Rotkin
Caltrans (ex-officio)	Scott Eades (Remote)

Staff present:

Sarah Christensen	Rachel Moriconi
Grace Blakeslee	Shannon Munz
Cindy Convisser	Amy Naranjo
Krista Corwin	Tracy New
Max Friedman	Yesenia Parra
Riley Gerbrandt	Sierra Topp
Brianna Goodman	Tommy Travers
Amanda Marino	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)
Luis Mendez	

2. Considered AB 2449 Just Cause and Emergency Circumstances Requests
- *none*
3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra communicated that a staff report for item 15, attachment 4 for item 27, a replacement page for item 27, and handouts for items 10, 26, and 27 were posted to the website.

4. Oral communications

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer

Portia Ramer

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Michael Saint

CONSENT AGENDA

Item 10 was pulled from Consent and taken up as the first item on the regular agenda

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

MINUTES

5. Approved draft minutes of the October 03, 2024 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Accepted draft Committee Meeting Minutes
 - a. October 8, 2024 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting minutes
 - b. October 14, 2024 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting minutes
 - c. October 17, 2024 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes
7. Accepted meeting notes of the October 15, 2024 Transportation Equity Workgroup

POLICY ITEMS

8. Received state and federal legislative updates

PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS

9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute a consultant contract with Tribesy Consulting for accessibility, diversity, equity, and inclusion-focused services (**Resolution 16-25**)
10. Approve Targets, Project List, and Financial Element for the 2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – moved to first item under the regular agenda.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

11. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
12. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

13. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into the 2025 Memorandum of Understanding with the Central Coast Coalition (**Resolution 17-25**)
14. Approved authorizing entering into a master fund transfer agreement with Caltrans for transportation planning funds (**Resolution 18-25**)
15. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to award a contract for the 2025 compensation study (**Resolution 19-25**)
16. Approved contract award for recruiting services for Two Positions: Director of Internal Services and Director of Capital Projects (**Resolution 20-25**)
17. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to execute an agreement with Regional Analysis and Planning Services, Inc. to conduct an evaluation of the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's Administrative and Fiscal Policies & Procedures (**Resolution 21-25**)
18. Approved member appointment to the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

19. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

20. Accepted correspondence log
21. Accepted letters from committees and staff to other agencies - *none*
22. Accepted information items - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

10. Approve Targets, Project List, and Financial Element for the 2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)-moved from the consent agenda to the regular agenda

Director of Planning, Programming, and Transportation Services Luis Mendez delivered a staff report on item 10. Commissioners made suggestions of projects that could be added to the Regional Transportation Plan preliminary list.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner K. Brown seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations (items 1 to 5 below) with the addition of the three projects under items 6 to 8 below.

1. Identify any additional projects or gaps in the transportation system that should be considered for the *2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)*;
2. Approve the draft Performance Targets (Attachment 1) for the RTP;
3. Approve the draft Project List (Attachment 2) for the RTP.
4. Approve the draft Financial Element (Attachment 3) for the RTP.
5. Direct staff to submit the approved project list to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) for inclusion in the *2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS)*.
6. A specific project for the Coastal Rail Trail segments 13-17,
7. The reconstruction of a sidewalk on the east side of Highway 1, or Main Street from Highway 9 to the post office, and
8. Rehabilitation of Scotts Valley Drive and Mount Hermon Road.

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

Received public comment from:
Jim Helmer

23. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Rotkin requested that the Commission be updated on alignment decisions of major interest to the public in the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project.

Commissioner Johnson welcomed all to Scotts Valley and delivered comments on e-bicycle safety concerns and on visibility challenges for bicyclists and pedestrians after dark, suggesting reflective clothing to increase safety during travel at night.

24. Selection of RTC Chair Committee

Chair Brown solicited nominations and assembled a committee to select the new Chair and Vice-Chair for 2025. The committee will consist of Commissioners Sandy Brown, Mike Rotkin, Manu Koenig, and Kristen Brown.

25. Director's Report

Executive Director Sarah Christensen delivered updates on World Remembrance Day, to be held on Sunday November 17 at 2pm at Watsonville City Plaza; update on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Milestone 3 kick-off including two community workshops and a virtual workshop; Transportation Agency for Monterey County's scoping meeting and open house for the proposed Pajaro Multimodal Station; staffing updates including provisional appointments of Grace Blakeslee and Rachel Moriconi to the Supervising Transportation Planner roles; advertisement of Real Property Specialist, Real Property Technician, and Accountant positions; Rural Highways Safety Plan survey available online and open through December 6.

26. Caltrans Report

Scott Eades, Caltrans District 5 Director, welcomed Executive Director Christensen to her new role and delivered updates on annual winter preparations on the state roadway system; replacement of damaged bridge girders on the "Fishhook" ramp at the merger of Highway 1 and Highway 17; tree work on Highway 17; and continuing construction on Highway 1 for the auxiliary lane project.

Mr. Eades also highlighted the Customer Service Report form available online at csr.dot.ca.gov; the Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program call for projects with an upcoming deadline of January 21, 2025; the Felton Pavement Project and an upcoming open house with a date to be determined.

Mr. Eades and Executive Director Sarah Christensen responded to Commissioners' questions about the timeline of phases of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder project.

Commissioners expressed appreciation for the cooperative effort of Caltrans on addressing the needs in the San Lorenzo Valley along Highway 9, including Complete Streets improvements and repairs following slides.

Commissioner Koenig responded to a Commissioner's question regarding the timeline for construction of a County-led project to synchronize lights on Soquel Drive at the Robertson intersection.

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer
Ben Lomond resident
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

27. Public Hearing: Measure D: Five-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects and Lift Line and Senate Bill 1 Cycle 4 Project Update

Transportation Planner Tommy Travers delivered the staff report. Executive Director Sarah Christensen and Caltrans District 5 Director Scott Eades responded to Commissioners' questions regarding the details, background, and funding structure of the proposed split of the Highway 1 Phase 3 Freedom to State Park Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project and the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project; the Senate Bill (SB) 1 Cycle 4 grant deadline; the proposed replacement of railroad bridges returning in their capacity to accommodate freight and passenger rail service; effectiveness of the agencies to implement portions of the project.

Commissioners discussed Measure D funding categories and concerns for trail projects going over budget and depletion of Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds.

Ms. Christensen provided information on the funds requested through the SB 1 Cycle 4 grant program, details about the grant application process, and the railroad bridges that are included in the scope of work of the project.

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee responded to a Commissioner's question regarding debt service on borrowing in the Active Transportation category of the Measure D program.

Chair Brown opened the public hearing at 10:43 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer
Saladin Sale
Matt Farrell, Friends of the Rail and Trail
Sally Arnold
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Johanna Lighthill
Faina Segal
Rick Longinotti

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Chair Brown closed the public hearing at 11:04 a.m.

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

1. Approve the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024/2025-2028/2029 Measure D five-year programs of projects (5-Year Plans) for regional investment categories and projects: Highway Corridors, Active Transportation, Rail Corridor, the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing and San Lorenzo Valley-Highway 9 Corridor Improvements) Attachment 1: Exhibits A through E) and Community Bridges Lift Line (Exhibit F);
2. Approve splitting the Highway 1 Freedom to State Park Auxiliary Lanes & Bus on Shoulder Project and the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project into two separate stand-alone projects;
3. Commit to implementing the construction component of the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project.

Commissioner Rotkin proposed a friendly amendment to the motion to make reference to the fact that the railroad bridges are included in the project. Commissioners discussed the proposed amendment and concerns about funding for road repair. The maker of the motion and the seconder accepted the friendly amendment.

The motion passed with Commissioners Pedersen, S. Brown, K. Brown, Hernandez, Johnson, Koenig, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Quinn and Schiffrin, voting "aye" and Commissioner McPherson voting "no."

28. Amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 RTC Budget & Work Program and Measure D Budget

The RTC Director of Finance and Budget, Tracy New, delivered the staff report.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to adopt a resolution:

1. Amending the FY 2024-25 Budget and Work Program for the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) and FY2024-25 Budget for Measure D as shown in Exhibits A and B;
2. Amending the FY 2024-25 RTC Budget and Work Program to include Work Program Element 414 (Exhibit C), which was added to incorporate a recently secured Climate Adaptation Planning grant in

the amount of \$1,369,780 from the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program; and

3. Authorizing the Executive Director to make amendments and modifications to the RTC's FY 2024-25 Overall Work Program as required by Caltrans to ensure receipt of grant funds if such modifications are consistent with the approved budget.

The motion passed unanimously with Pedersen, S. Brown, K. Brown, Hernandez, Johnson, Koenig, Rotkin, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternates Quinn and Schiffrin, voting "aye"

29. Review of items to be discussed in closed session.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas reviewed the item to be discussed in closed session and communicated that no reportable action was anticipated from the closed session.

The open session adjourned and the Commission entered closed session at 11:10 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

30. Conference with Labor Negotiators
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency Designated Representatives: Sarah Christensen and Jesse Lad
Employee Organizations: CORE and RAMM

Closed session ended at 11:25

31. Report on items discussed in closed session- there was no reportable action
32. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, located at 275 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Joni S.

Brian Peoples (Trail Now)
BobFi
Larry Pageler
Heather Adamson (AMBAG)
Michael Saint
Paula Bradley
Paul Hierling (AMBAG)
Santino Cattaneo
Sally Munro
Aaron Hernandez
Johanna Lighthill
Paul Guirguis (Caltrans)
Nadene Thorne
Jeanette Guire
Lana Martinez Davis
Paul P
Linda Wilshusen
Faina Segal
Nick
KK Glavis
Barry Scott
Frank Rimicci Jr.
Lani Faulkner (Equity Transit)
Lowell Hurst
Nancy Yellin
Mark B. Yellin MD
Ricky Longinotti