



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**

**1:30 – 3:30pm**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2024**

**1. 1:30pm – Chair Veronica Else called the meeting to order at 1:31pm**

**2. 1:30pm – Introductions**

***Members Present:***

Clay Kempf, Social Services Provider – Seniors  
 Elizabeth Byrd, Social Services Provider – Seniors (County)  
 Tara Ireland, Social Services Provider - Persons of Limited Means  
 Rina Solorio Gomez, SCMTD (Metro)  
 Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)  
 Marc Yellin, Potential Transit User (Disabled)  
 Dr. Wells Shoemaker, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
 Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
 Katie Nunez, 4<sup>th</sup> District

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

Nadia Noriega, CTSA (Lift Line)

***Members Remote, not voting***

None

***Unexcused Absences:***

Alex Weske, Social Services Provider - Disabled  
 Portia Ramer, 5<sup>th</sup> District

***RTC Staff Present:***

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner  
 Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician

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Max Friedman, Transportation Planner  
 Riley Gerbrandt, Associate Transportation Engineer  
 Janine Ramirez, Junior Transportation Engineer

**Guests Present:**

Stephanie Auld – County Resident and Pending E&D TAC Committee Member  
 Rodolfo Onchi, Public Works Director/City Engineer, City of Scotts Valley  
 Russell Chen, Senior Civil Engineer, County of Santa Cruz  
 Zachary Johnson, Administrative Services Officer, Seniors Council  
 Regina Valentine, Senior Planner, AMBAG  
 Claire Gallogly, Transportation Planner, City of Santa Cruz

**3. 1:32pm – 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)**

*A motion (Pisano/Byrd) was made to approve the AB2449 request for Nadia Noriega to participate in the meeting remotely. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Elizabeth Byrd, Tara Ireland, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Marc Yellin, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, and Katie Nunez voting "aye".*

**4. 1:35pm – Oral communications**

Stephanie Auld brought up two separate issues around accessibility in the City of Capitola and wanted to discuss how to address this. Committee Chair, Veronica Elsea, advised the issues to be brought to the Pedestrian Ad Hoc Sub-committee. Ms. Auld has some footage of the issues. Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, will send to City of Capitola.

Ms. Auld would also like to add wheelchair safety issues as a future agenda item for the Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee for discussion.

Michael Pisano asked for updates on B-cycle and would like a discussion item to be added to future agenda with potential presentation from the City of Santa Cruz. Rusell Chen from Santa Cruz County gave a brief update from the County portion. Mr. Chen reported that B-cycle is having problems with vandalism, theft, and modification with docking stations. They are working with B-Cycle to come up with a solution.

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Michael Pisano asked about updates on the drawings for stoplight at Soquel and Robertson Drives. Russell Chen, Santa Cruz County Staff, stated that they will be available soon.

Veronica Elsea noted that on page 5 there is a letter of support for Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor project for an SB1 Cycle 4 grant, that she drafted on behalf of the committee. Ms. Elsea explained the process of providing support letters on behalf of the committee.

### **5. 1:40pm – Additions or deletions to the consent or regular agenda**

An additional item was added to the agenda to elect an E&D TAC vice chair due to Janet Edwards resigning from the committee.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **6. Receive Information Items**

- E&D TAC Letter of Support for the (WSC-MCP) Cycle 4 Project

### **7. Receive 2025 E&D TAC Calendar**

### **8. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights**

### **9. Approve Minutes from October 8, 2024**

*A motion (Pisano/Shoemaker) was made to approve the Minutes from October 8, 2024. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Elizabeth Byrd, Tara Ireland, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Marc Yellin, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

**Motion for consent agenda** – *A motion (Nunez /Byrd) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Elizabeth Byrd, Tara Ireland, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Marc Yellin, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, and Katie Nunez voting "aye".*

**REGULAR AGENDA****10. (ITEM MOVED FROM CONSENT AGENDA) Approve City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act Allocation Request**

Claire Gallogly, Transportation Planner for the City of Santa Cruz, reviewed the TDA claim request which adds additional funds to projects the committee has already approved including Laurel Street striping improvements, Bay corridor project, and bike parking projects.

*A motion (Pisano/Byrd) was made to approve the City of Santa Cruz's TDA allocation request. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Elizabeth Byrd, Tara Ireland, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Marc Yellin, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

**11. E&D TAC Committee Membership Appointment**

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the applicant, Stephanie Auld, expressing interest in filling the Social Service Provider – Disabled (County) vacancy. RTC staff recommended that the E&D TAC recommend Stephanie's appointment to the RTC.

*A motion (Ireland/Solorio Gomez) was made to approve the committee membership appointment and recommend commission approval. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Elizabeth Byrd, Tara Ireland, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Marc Yellin, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

**12. Preliminary Draft Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List**

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, shared an overview of the Unmet Transit and Paratransit needs including changes to the list that the Commission requested in 2023. Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician, reviewed the changes in the format and requested feedback on said changes as well as incorporating a weighted scoring system.

Committee Members appreciated the modifications and would like to proceed with the weighted scores and project tracking.

*A motion (Solorio Gomez/Shoemaker) was made to approve the updated format to the Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Elizabeth Byrd, Tara*

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*Ireland, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Marc Yellin, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

### **13. Granite Creek Overpass Roadway, Bicycle, and Pedestrian Improvements Project**

Rodolfo Onchi, Public Works Director/City Engineer, City of Scotts Valley presented on key improvements happening to the Granite Creek Overpass including roadway repaving, lane restriping for bike lanes, high visibility crosswalk enhancements, and ADA compliance upgrades. Next steps for the project will be completing the design phase, moving into bidding and contracting, and then beginning construction.

Mr. Onchi received the following input from the committee:

- Ensure that pedestrian signals are accessible to everyone, including blind users. Mr. Onchi confirmed that any work done will follow Caltrans guidelines including push buttons being ADA detectable and accessible.
- Improved lighting along paths and an additional bus stop at the overpass. Mr. Onchi confirmed that the road is quite narrow, but he will look into it.
- More public transportation for users in the area.

*No action taken.*

### **14. County of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act Allocation Requests for Green Valley Road Multi-Use Trail Improvements Project and Bike Lane Maintenance**

Russell Chen, Senior Civil Engineer, County of Santa Cruz is asking for support in TDA funding to improve active transportation on Green Valley Road. The main goals are to improve safety and connectivity along parks, schools, and residential neighborhoods. The project is funded primarily through Clean California Act funds.

Committee members made comments around stormwater treatment, accessibility features, project area, and lighting.

*A motion (Shoemaker/Pisano) was made to approve the allocation request for TDA funds. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Elizabeth Byrd, Tara Ireland, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano,*

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*Marc Yellin, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

**15. (NEW ITEM) Elect Vice Chair**

Veronica Elsea, Committee Chair, nominated Committee Member Michael Pisano to be Vice Chair. Mr. Pisano accepted nomination.

*A motion (Kempf/Ireland) was made to approve Michael Pisano as Vice Chair for the E & D TAC Committee. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Elizabeth Byrd, Tara Ireland, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Marc Yellin, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

**16. 2025 State and Federal Legislative Programs**

RTC Transportation Planner, Max Friedman, presented core legislative focus areas the RTC will be tracking in 2025. If there are any additional comments that the community would like to make on these areas, you can email Max at [mfriedman@sccrtc.org](mailto:mfriedman@sccrtc.org).

The Committee asked about loss of federal funding with new administration, E-Bike legislation, bus expansion, and Newsom's Master Plan for Ageing. There was overall support for the RTC legislative focus areas.

*No action taken.*

**17. Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail (ZEPRT) Project Update**

RTC Associate Transportation Engineer, Riley Gerbrandt presented updates on the ZEPRT project and asked for feedback on station locations.

The Committee asked questions about a West Side station and stressed the importance of having one. There is concern about the community supporting this project and then the RTC neglecting West Side residents. There was mention of incorporating shuttle like vehicles to support train stops. In addition, there was interest in the raised tracks adjacent to the boardwalk and strong connection between Cabrillo and the potential McGregor stop. Comments were made about having trails along all portions, even if tracks diverge away from original rail line/trail.

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*No action taken.*

**18. Receive Program Updates**

This item was moved to the next E&D TAC meeting on February 11, 2025 due to time constraints.

*No action taken.*

**19. Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:00pm**

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 1:30 pm located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Respectfully submitted, Sierra Topp, RTC Transportation Planning Technician