



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's **Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee** (Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

FINAL MEETING MINUTES

1:30 – 3:30pm

Tuesday, February 11, 2025

In-Person Meeting

1. Chair Veronica Elsea called the meeting to order at 1:35pm

Members Present:

Clay Kempf, Social Services Provider – Seniors
Stephanie Auld, Social Service Provider - Disabled (County)
Michael Pisano, Vice Chair, Potential Transit User (60+)
Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
Dr. Wells Shoemaker, 2nd District
Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3rd District
Katie Nunez, 4th District
Portia Ramer, 5th District

Members Remote, voting under Just Cause or Emergency:

Members Remote, not voting

Marc Yellin, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA Lift Line

Unexcused Absences:

Elizabeth Byrd, Social Services Provider – Seniors (County)
Phil Kipnis, 1st District

RTC Staff Present:

Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner
Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner
Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner

Guests Present:

Juan Castillo, Ecology Action
Regina Valentine, AMBAG
Mike Molesky, Chair Emeritus
Johanna Lighthill, County resident

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)

No action taken

4. Oral communications

Stephanie Auld communicated that two people have been hit on two separate occasions by vehicles in the crosswalk at Clares and 40th Avenues and that she is meeting with City of Capitola staff on Feb 19th to walk the crosswalk and discuss issues and solutions.

Committee members communicated concerns with the new ParaCruz application and eligibility list process through a contract with ADAride. The Committee agreed to send a letter to METRO requesting to receive a presentation and will add an item to a future meeting agenda to discuss further.

Committee briefly discussed wanting to send notices of street closures to ParaCruz and other transit providers to reduce impacts to paratransit rides, especially for medical appointments.

Community member Johanna Lighthill shared a personal experience visiting Copenhagen and how it compares to the rail trail, specifically referring to the proposed realignment on Park Ave in Capitola. Ms. Lighthill is concerned the path will be too narrow and is asking E&D TAC to consider how this alignment will affect vulnerable users.

Grace Blakeslee, RTC Senior Transportation Planner, gave a brief overview of the proposed Capitola realignment on Park Ave. Ms. Blakeslee would like input on potential alignment and conduct additional environmental analysis. The committee

would like Ms. Blakeslee to return to discuss further at the March 4th special meeting.

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, provided two announcements. First being around updates to the Brown Act and remote participation for members with a qualifying disability. Second being around the RTC authorized \$50 stipend for committee members to attend meetings.

5. Additions or deletions to the consent or regular agenda

No action taken

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6. Receive Information Items**
 - a. City of Capitola ADA Transition Plan**
- 7. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights**
- 8. Receive TDA Revenues Report**
- 9. Receive 25-26 TDA Claim Calendar**
- 10. Approve Minutes from December 10, 2024**

A motion (Pisano/Shoemaker) was made to approve the Minutes from December 10, 2024. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Stephanie Auld, Michael Pisano, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Caroline Lamb, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".

Motion to approve Consent agenda

A motion (Auld/Shoemaker) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Stephanie Auld, Michael Pisano, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Caroline Lamb, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the following applications that were received:

- Clay Kempf to serve as the Social Services Provider – Seniors representative.
- Patty Talbott to serve as the Social Services Provider – Seniors alternate.
- Jesus Bojorquez to serve as the CTSA (Lift Line) representative.
- Nadia Noriega to serve as the CTSA (Lift Line) alternate.
- Michael Bois to serve as the SCMTD (Metro) representative.

A motion (Lamb/Nunez) was made to approve the committee membership appointments and recommend commission approval. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Stephanie Auld, Michael Pisano, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Caroline Lamb, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".

12. Draft Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, shared an overview of the Unmet Transit and Paratransit needs list updates made since the December 2024 E&D TAC meeting. Specifically noting that the RTC has added sections tracking progress on existing projects and scored each need using a weighted scoring system (1-5) resulting in high, medium, or low priority designations.

Ms. Marino requested feedback on the new proposed scored needs, relevant projects addressing each of the needs, and any items not currently listed to add.

Committee members provided comments regarding the scoring system and how it influences transit funding allocations and decision making.

A motion (Shoemaker/Lamb) was made to approve the updated format to the Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List and release it to the public for feedback. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Clay Kempf, Stephanie Auld, Michael Pisano, Dr. Wells Shoemaker, Caroline Lamb, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".

13. Ecology Action Youth Safe Routes to School

Juan Castillo, Ecology Action Staff, presented on Ecology Action's Youth Safe Routes to Schools Bike/Pedestrian Education Programs. These initiatives aim to have a significant positive impact on community health, independence, and environmental quality. These programs utilize engaging educational techniques and real-world practice opportunities to instill essential safety skills. E&D TAC was recommended to review and provide input on the Ecology Action's Youth Safe Routes to Schools Bike/Pedestrian Education Programs. The committee discussed etiquette on how to interact with people with disabilities or seniors ie: person walking with a dog or using a walker. Ecology Action will work to be more specific in this language.

No action taken

14. AMBAG Coordinated Plan Update

Regina Valentine, AMBAG Staff, provided an overview of the 2025 Coordinated Public Transit – Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) development process. E&D TAC members were asked to provide feedback on the development of the 2025 Coordinated Plan. The Committee discussed data needs showing high employment areas and average start times for workers would be good. The RTC will incorporate this information into internal surveys.

No action taken

15. Nondiscrimination Plan and Equity Action Plan Updates

Rachel Moriconi, RTC Transportation Planner, shared information about the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's 2025 Nondiscrimination Plan, which also serves as the agency's Title VI Civil Rights Program, Language Assistance Plan, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act and Americans with Disabilities Act Program.

No action taken

16. Receive Program Updates

- a. Volunteer Center - no updates
- b. Community Bridges
 - i. TDA/STA Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Q1 Summary Report
 - a. Santa Cruz Metro – no updates
- c. SCCRTC
 - i. RTC Staff is looking into hosting the April E&D TAC meeting at an alternate location in South County.
 - ii. Special meeting of the E&D TAC scheduled for March 4th

d. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee

- i. Meetings are starting again, the first being on February 21st. The subcommittee will try and meet on a monthly basis.
- ii. Pedestrian Hazard Report

3:45 pm — Adjourn

Next special meeting: 1:30 pm, March 4, 2025, located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Visit www.sccrtc.org for updates.

Respectfully submitted, Sierra Topp, RTC Transportation Planning Technician