



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 1, 2025  
9:00 a.m.**

**In-Person Meeting**

Capitola City Council Chambers  
420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA 95010

**Alternative Remote Location**

628 Crown Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
253 Moroleon, Plan, Guanajuato Irapuato, Guanajuato 36510

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

Members present:

City of Capitola	Alexander Pedersen
City of Santa Cruz	Scott Newsome (Alt.)
City of Scotts Valley	Steve Clark
City of Watsonville	Eduardo Montesino (Remote)
County of Santa Cruz	Manu Koenig
County of Santa Cruz	Kimberly DeSarpa
County of Santa Cruz	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
County of Santa Cruz	Monica Martinez
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Rebecca Downing
Caltrans (ex-officio)	Brandy Rider

Staff present:

Sarah Christensen	Luis Mendez
Amanda Marino	Shannon Munz
Bella Kressman	Sierra Topp
Brian Zamora	Yesenia Parra
Grace Blakeslee	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)
Krista Corwin	

2. Considered AB 2449 Just Cause and Emergency Circumstances Requests

Administrative Services Officer (ASO) Yesenia Parra communicated that Chair Montesino is participating remotely under the regular provisions of the Brown Act.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

Yesenia Parra, ASO reported that replacement pages for the agenda, a staff report for item 16, replacement pages for items 6 and 14, add-on pages for item 14, and handouts for items 28 and 30 were posted to the RTC website.

4. Oral Communications

Received public comment from:

Steven Woodstock  
Johanna Lighthill  
Leslie Nielson  
Terre Thomas  
TJ Welch  
Jacques Bertrand  
Brian Peoples  
Matt Farrell  
Jim Helmer  
Lowell Hurst  
David Van Brink

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin requested to pull items 15 and 16 off the consent agenda and to take them after the closed session.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, Clark, Montesino, DeSerpa, Koenig, Martinez, Downing, and Commissioner Alternates Newsome and Schiffrin voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

**MINUTES**

5. Approved minutes of the April 3, 2025 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Accepted draft committee meeting minutes
  - a. March 19, 2025 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee
  - b. April 8, 2025 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
  - c. March 17, 2025 Bicycle Advisory Committee
  - d. April 14, 2025 Bicycle Advisory Committee

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS**

7. Approved the Regional Transportation Commission Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Overall Work Program (**Resolution 44-25**)
8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend a contract with Graffiti Protective Coatings, Inc. for continued graffiti abatement services on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Right-of-Way (**Resolution 45-25**)
9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend a contract with Summit Signal, Inc. for continued signalized crossing services on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Right-of-Way (**Resolution 46-25**)
10. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend a contract with Community Tree Service, Inc. for on-call tree and vegetation control services on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Right-of-Way (**Resolution 47-25**)
11. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend a contract for the Transportation Network Companies Access for All program (**Resolution 48-25**)

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

12. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
13. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues
14. Approved amendment to the Fiscal Year (FY)2024-25 Budget & Work Program, FY 2024-25 Measure D Budget (**Resolution 49-25**)

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

15. Approved ratification of the tentative agreement between the RTC and the Community of RTC Employees (CORE) for a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RTC and CORE – Moved to be considered as Item 35
16. Approved ratification of the tentative agreement between the RTC and the RTC Association of Middle Managers (RAMM) for a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RTC and RAMM- Moved to be considered as item 35

17. Accepted appointments to the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)
18. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Article 3 and Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for RTC Administration and Planning (**Resolution 50-25**)
19. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to program Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funding to Community Bridges Lift Line for a DC fast charger, to program the balance in formula funds to Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)'s Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Bus project, to approve Santa Cruz METRO's request to transfer LCTOP funds from the "Fare Free Pilot" project to the hydrogen fuel cell bus project, and to amend the RTC FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 Budget and Work Program (**Resolution 51-25**)
20. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 Claims from Community Bridges and the Volunteer Center, and approve FY 2025-26 claim for TDA Article 4 and State Transit Assistance funds from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (**Resolution 52-25, Resolution 53-25, Resolution 54-25**)

#### **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

21. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
22. Accepted correspondence log
23. Accept letters from committees and staff to other agencies - *none*
24. Accepted information items
  - a. Accepted Bike to Work Day Announcement

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

25. Commissioner Reports - *none*
26. Director's Report

Executive Director Sarah Christensen delivered updates on: Rural Highway Safety Plan stakeholder workshops; new save-the-date for the Chanticleer Overcrossing Ribbon Cutting scheduled for July 30, 2025; opening of the auxiliary lanes/bus-on-shoulder facilities between 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Soquel Drive; ribbon cutting for Segment 7b of the Coastal Rail Trail scheduled for May 21, 2025; community workshops for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project (ZEPRT) scheduled in Watsonville and Santa Cruz; Santa Cruz County Bikefest starts today.

Commissioners discussed: invitation to go see Segment 7b once the

segment is open to the public.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples  
Jim Helmer  
Lowell Hurst  
Kevin Maguire  
Ray Cancino

27. Caltrans Report

Brandy Rider, Deputy Director of Caltrans District 5, delivered the project update list and provided updates on: vegetation control work on Highways 236 and 9; reminder to drivers to slow down in work areas; speed limit study and recommendations for nine locations along Highway 9 and one location along Highway 17.

Ms. Rider responded to Commissioner's questions regarding: the recommendations for a speed limit increase along Highway 17; next steps regarding speed limit study for recommendations along Highway 9.

Commissioners discussed safety concerns regarding the southbound/downhill side of Highway 17 in the approach to the fishhook. Ms. Rider stated that she will return with more information about the analysis which led to the recommendations and affirmed that Caltrans will notify the County and make itself available for a public hearing, should the County decide to hold one.

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer  
Lowell Hurst

28. PUBLIC HEARING : 2025 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs and Presentation by Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Community Bridges, and Volunteer Center

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, and Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician delivered the staff report. John Urgo, Chief Planning and Innovation Officer of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Ray Cancino, Chief Executive Officer of Community Bridges, Jesus Bojorquez Program Director of Lift Line, and Tara Ireland of the Volunteer Center delivered presentations.

Commissioners discussed: Appreciation for the presentations and the paratransit programs; processes by which new construction is tested for ADA compliance and accessibility; accessibility hazard report system.

In response to a Commissioner's question, Director of Planning, Programming, and Transportation Services Luis Mendez provided information about the hazard report system and Transportation Planner Amanda Marino provided more information about outreach efforts and participation by local jurisdictions during the design phase of new constructions.

The public hearing opened at 10:19 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Matt Farrell, Friends of the Rail and Trail

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Lowell Hurst

Kevin Maguire

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

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

1. Adopt the 2025 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List, with revisions as appropriate following the public hearing; and
2. Consider unmet transit and paratransit needs as funding becomes available.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, Clark, Montesino, DeSerpa, Koenig, Martinez, Downing, and Commissioner Alternates Newsome and Schiffrin voting "aye."

29. Highway 1 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Soquel Drive Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project – Caltrans request for additional funding to cover cost overruns on the Construction Capital component of the project

Assistant Transportation Engineer Brian Zamora, Caltrans Project Manager Madilyn Jacobsen, and Caltrans District 5 Construction Office Chief Tim Lang delivered the staff report.

Executive Director Sarah Christensen responded to a Commissioner's questions about a prior State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) project which changed the site conditions and resulted in change orders in the current project.

Mr. Lang responded to a Commissioners' questions about lessons learned from the previous project phase; producing a more accurate cost estimate upfront; causes of unanticipated project costs.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples

Lowell Hurst

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

1. Authorizing the Executive Director to execute amendments to the construction cooperative agreement with Caltrans for a total value not to exceed \$1,894,000 for the construction capital component of the project;
2. Programming an additional \$1,894,000 of Measure D-Highway Corridor funds in fiscal year (FY) 2024-25; and
3. Amending the FY 2024-25 budget accordingly.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, Clark, Montesino, DeSerpa, Koenig, Martinez, Downing, and Commissioner Alternates Newsome and Schiffrin voting "aye."

30. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas provided a brief overview of the three items to be discussed in closed session. Commissioner Downing recused herself from items 32 and 33 due to a potential conflict with a real property interest.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Krista Corwin, CORE and SEIU 521

Brianna Goodman, CORE and SEIU 521

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The Commission entered closed session at 10:48 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

32. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)  
Property: Parcels V72-1 Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 13, and 14  
Agency Negotiators: Sarah Christensen, Bella Kressman, and Steve Mattas  
Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC and Roaring Camp Railroads  
Under Negotiation: Price and terms
33. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4))  
Initiation of Litigation – Two cases

### **OPEN SESSION**

34. Report on items discussed in closed session

The Commission returned to open session at 11:58 am. RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there was no reportable action resulting from closed session

35. Approved ratification of the tentative agreement between the RTC and the Community of RTC Employees (CORE) for a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RTC and CORE, and ratification of the tentative agreement between the RTC and the RTC Association of Middle Managers (RAMM) for a successor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the RTC and RAMM-

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations in Items 15 and 16. The motion passed with Commissioners Pedersen, Clark, DeSerpa, Koenig, Martinez, Downing, and Commissioner Alternates Newsome and Schiffrin voting “aye” and Commissioner Montesino abstaining.

36. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 12, 2025, at 6:00p.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers located at 275 Main Street, Fourth Floor, Watsonville, CA 95076.

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Brianna Goodman  
Cindy Convisser  
Rachel Moriconi  
Nick Fabbricino  
Tommy Travers  
James Falkenroth  
Madilyn Jacobsen  
Tim Lang  
Raymon Cancino  
Jesus Bojorquez  
Heather Adamson, AMBAG  
Joe  
David <3 Public Transit  
Paul Guirguis  
S112837  
Nadene Thorne  
PK Hattis  
Lowell Hurst  
Brian Peoples  
Michael Zeller  
Larry Pageler  
Joni S.  
Joseph  
David Silberberger  
BobFi

Lola Quiroga  
John Uργο  
Piet Canin  
Paula Bradley  
Douglas U  
Cami Corvin  
Barry Scott  
Lani Faulkner  
Kmaguire  
Steve Wiesner  
Trink Praxel  
Saladin Sale  
Marilyn's iPhone 7 Plus  
Kevin C Maguire  
Linda Wilshusen  
Ramon Cancino  
Maryam Farhangfar  
Terre Thomas's iPhone  
Ned McNamara  
Serg  
Pilar  
Tim Campbell  
Frank Riimicc Jr.  
Gina Cole  
Johanna Lighthill