



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, August 12, 2025**

**In-Person Meeting**

**1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

### **1. Chair Veronica Elsea called the meeting to order at 1:32pm**

#### ***Members Present***

Veronica Elsea, Chair – 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Michael Pisano, Vice Chair – Potential Transit User (60+)  
Patty Talbot, Social Services Provider – Seniors  
Stephanie Auld, Social Services Provider – Disabled (County)  
Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA Lift Line  
Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)  
Katie Nunez, 4<sup>th</sup> District (Hernandez)  
Tara Ireland, Social Services Provider – Persons of Limited Means  
Wells Shoemaker, 2<sup>nd</sup> District  
Katie Nunez, 4<sup>th</sup> District  
Portia Ramer, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Nadia Noriega, CTSA (Lift Line)

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

No remote members voting under just cause or emergency

#### ***Members Remote, not voting***

No remote members

#### ***Unexcused Absences***

Elizabeth Byrd, Social Services Provider – Seniors (County)  
Michael Bois, SCMTD (Metro)

## ***RTC Staff Present***

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner  
Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician  
Riley Gerbrandt, Associate Transportation Engineer  
Max Friedman, Transportation Planner  
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner

## ***Guests Present:***

Jessica Kahn, City of Capitola Planning Department  
Kelly Curlett, County of Santa Cruz  
Rebecca Downing, SCCRTC/METRO Commissioner  
Antonio Rivas, Member of the Public  
Regina Valentine, AMBAG

## **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 AB2449 requests*

## **4. Oral communications**

Vice Chair, Mike Pisano, shared updates from two recent meetings he attended. One being for SB 125 Transit Program to discuss various issues related to transit and seniors. One concern was a vote to end the Unmet Transit Needs process. There are 2 more seminars coming up that he will attend.

The second seminar that Vice Chair, Mike Pisano, attended was held by UC Davis discussing the need for battery charging stations and adjacent amenities.

Antonio Rivas, Member of the Public, brought a concern to the committee around needing better tree coverage for pedestrians as well as transit stop shelters and weather protection in the City of Watsonville. A survey of transit stops could be helpful in understanding where improvements could be made.

Rivas also recommended an idea to provide electric chairs at senior centers that community members can use/borrow, like E-Bike rentals.

Rebecca Downing, SCCRTC/METRO Commissioner, made an announcement about A Week Without Driving that will occur the week of September 29<sup>th</sup> - October 5<sup>th</sup>.

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

Correction to the August 12 consent agenda: Item 8 was updated to read "Approved Minutes from May 13, 2025".

Correction to the May 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes: Due to the lack of a quorum at the May 13 meeting, the Consent Agenda, including approval of the April 8<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, was not acted upon and will be continued to the October E&D TAC regular meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**6. Received Information Items**

Community Traffic Safety Coalition 2014-2023 Crash Report

**7. Received RTC Meeting Highlights**

**8. Approved Minutes from May 13, 2025**

*Motion (Pisano/Auld) to approve the May 13, 2025, minutes. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Veronica Elsea, Michael Pisano, Patty Talbot, Stephanie Auld, Jesus Bojorquez, Caroline Lamb, Katie Nunez, Tara Ireland, Wells Shoemaker, Katie Nunez, Portia Ramer, Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

*Motion (Pisano/Auld) to approve the Consent Agenda with a correction to Item 8. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Veronica Elsea, Michael Pisano, Patty Talbot, Stephanie Auld, Jesus Bojorquez, Caroline Lamb, Katie Nunez, Tara Ireland, Wells Shoemaker, Katie Nunez, Portia Ramer, Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

### **9. Senate Bill 1 Transit State of Good Repair Program**

RTC Senior Transportation Planner, Rachel Moriconi, presented on the SB1 Transit State of Good Repair program in order to approve projects to receive a portion of the funds.

The RTC received 3 applications. Two being from METRO to upgrade their scheduling software and a parking lot in Watsonville. The third application was from Lift Line to purchase two new electric seven passenger vans.

The Committee noted that these projects would address unmet needs identified by the community and also had questions about, pedestrian safety, GHG reductions and approving the full amount requested versus partial amounts.

*Motion (Lamb/Pisano) to recommend that the RTC provide funding for all three projects to receive the region's formula shares of Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26 Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) Transit State of Good Repair (SGR) funds. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Veronica Elsea, Michael Pisano, Patty Talbot, Stephanie Auld, Jesus Bojorquez, Caroline Lamb, Katie Nunez, Tara Ireland, Wells Shoemaker, Katie Nunez, Portia Ramer, Nadia Noriega voting "aye".*

### **10. Capitola Wharf Master Plan**

Jessican Kahn, City of Capitola, presented on the Capitola Wharf Master Plan and asked for feedback on the design and proposals. Committee members noted they would like to see businesses on the wharf and another restaurant. They would prefer a local business that is on the affordable side so more people in the community could afford to visit.

*No action taken.*

### **11. North Coast Transportation Demand Management Plan Existing Conditions**

Max Friedman, RTC Transportation Planner, presented the North Coast Transportation Demand Management Plan Draft Existing Conditions for feedback from the Committee.

Members from the Committee noted they would like to visit the North Coast, such as Davenport, for lunch or a day trip but it is challenging to do without a car. It

would be helpful to have more frequent and reliable public transportation. Others mentioned that while they may be able to get to the North Coast in their car, actually navigating the terrain to access the beach can be very challenging/impossible given physical ability. Smooth surfaces and trails can be helpful for people in wheelchairs or those with limited mobility.

Members noted having facilities, like bathrooms, will be useful and one idea was to work with BCycle to have bikes in Davenport or other stops along the way once the Rail Trail is complete. In addition, the committee expressed that E-bike charging stations, mobility device charging stations, and dial-a-ride shuttles would be useful.

Lastly, committee members recommended that coordinating with San Mateo County would be beneficial to expand visitor options on the North Coast.

*No action taken.*

## **12. 2025 Guide for Specialized Transportation Update**

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, introduced the 2025 Guide for Specialized Transportation Update and asked for feedback or input from the Committee. Committee Chair, Veronica Elsea, noted edits to be made to the guide. Committee members posed questions about the Grey Hound bus depot and if it is still in service or will resume post METRO station construction. RTC staff will update and confirm questions prior to posting online and printing.

*No action taken.*

## **13. AMBAG Coordinated Plan Draft**

Regina Valentine from AMBAG presented and update on the Coordinated Plan process and asked for feedback. The Committee had no comments or concerns.

*No action taken.*

## **14. Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Update**

Riley Gerbrandt, RTC Associate Engineer, presented an informational update and requested input on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project's Milestone 4, including the draft Project Concept Report and Financial Analysis. Committee

members would like to see a better cost-benefit analysis presented to the community. Comments were also made on the disparities between low-income residents and South County residents on ability to access jobs and resources. Those individuals could benefit from passenger rail and would in turn support the entire Santa Cruz County economy. There were questions about the encroachments and how RTC is managing this process.

*No action taken.*

#### **15. Receive Program Updates**

- a. Volunteer Center – no update provided
- b. Community Bridges – no update provided
- c. Santa Cruz Metro – no update provided
- d. SCCRTC – no update provided
- e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee
  - i. Pedestrian Hazard Report
  - ii. Will resume meetings in the near future

*No action taken.*

#### **3:48 pm — Adjourn**

**Next meeting: 1:30 pm, October 14, 2025, located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Visit [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org) for updates.**

Respectfully submitted, Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician