



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, October 14, 2025

In-Person Meeting

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

REMOTE Participation: Remote Participation is offered to members of the public, nonvoting alternates, and committee members unable to attend in person due to an emergency or for cause per AB2449. E&D TAC Members who need to participate remotely under AB2449 should provide justification prior to the meeting to amarino@sccrtc.org (see end of the agenda for more information)

Join the online meeting to see presentations:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83402772255>

Meeting ID: 834 0277 2255

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128

1. Vice Chair Michael Pisano called the meeting to order at 1:34pm

Members Present

Michael Pisano, Vice Chair – Potential Transit User (60+)

Stephanie Auld, Social Services Provider – Disabled (County)

Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA Lift Line

Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)

Portia Ramer, 5th District

Nadia Noriega, CTSA (Lift Line)

Ares Wakamo, Social Services Provider – Persons of Limited Means

Members Remote, voting under Just Cause or Emergency

No remote members voting under just cause or emergency

Members Remote, not voting

Katie Nunez, 4th District

Clay Kempf, Social Services Provider – Seniors
Marc B. Yellin, Potential Transit User (Disabled)

Unexcused Absences

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

RTC Staff Present

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner
Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician
Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner
Marshall Ballard, Supervising Transportation Planner
Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Grace Blakeslee, Supervising Transportation Planner

Guests Present:

Scott Thomas, Habitat for Humanity Monterey
John Urgo, Santa Cruz METRO
Derek Toups, Santa Cruz METRO
Jack Brown, District 2 Community Member, Bike Committee Chair
Jean Brocklebank, District 1 Community Member
Matt Farrell, Friends of the Rail Trail
Johanna Lighthill, District 2 Community Member
Nancy, District 1 Community Member
Jim Helmer, District 5 Community Member
Claire Gallogly, City of Santa Cruz
Keith Bontrager, Community Member
Buzz Anderson, Community Member
Carey (Last Name Unknown), Community Member
Ben Vernazza, Community Member
Cook Construction Representative
Kevin Maguire, Community Member
Unknown community member – Online
Antio Rivas, City of Watsonville Community Member

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. 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

3. Oral communications

Scott Thomas, Habitat for Humanity Monterey, announced new affordable homes are being built that are ADA compliant and allow residents to live independently and age in place. Application period to apply for housing is open Oct 20 – Nov 24.

Community member, Jim Helmer, gave an update on his efforts to advocate for a cross walk with rapid flashing beacon on Glen Arbor Road at Madrone Ave and Newell Creek Rd. He is asking for this item to be added to an RTC meeting.

4. Additions or deletions to the consent or regular agenda

- Handout for item 10, Community Bridges Lift-Line Measure-D 5-year plan
- Letter from Watsonville Senior Council provided by Committee Member Katie Nunez

CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are considered to be minor or non-controversial and will be acted upon in one motion if no member of the E&D TAC or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda.

Members of the E&D TAC may raise questions, seek clarification or add directions to Consent Agenda items without removing the item from the Consent Agenda as long as no other E&D TAC member objects to the change.

5. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights

6. Approve Minutes from April 8, 2025

7. Approve Minutes from August 12, 2025

A motion (Bojorquez, Auld) was made to approve the Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Michael Pisano, Stephanie Auld, Jesus Bojorquez, Ares Wakamo, Nadia Noriega, Portia Ramer, and Caroline Lamb voting "aye".

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Consolidated Grants Preliminary Recommendations

Rachel Moriconi, RTC Transportation Planner, presented the Consolidated Grant preliminary staff recommendations and gave an overview of funding sources. RTC staff asked E&D TAC to review and provide input on projects seeking funding and

make recommendations to the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) on which projects should be prioritized for funding.

Key points were raised around safety and accessibility concerns, project prioritization, and funding scenarios.

Many comments focused on preferences between scenario 1 and 2 and whether funding should be provided for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail project.

Motion (Ramer/Auld) to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) focus on projects that score the highest for system preservation, safety, and access for all and prioritize funding for bike and pedestrian projects, fixed route and paratransit services, and projects at risk of losing other funding sources. The motion passed with committee members Michael Pisano, Stephanie Auld, Jesus Bojorquez, Portia Ramer, Ares Wakamo, Nadia Noriega voting "aye" and Caroline Lamb voting to "abstain".

9. Measure D: Five-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects

Tommy Travers, RTC Transportation Planner, presented the proposed updates for the 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, as well as the 5-year plan for Community Bridges Lift Line.

No action taken

10. Receive Program Updates

- a. Volunteer Center
 - i. Transportation program is going well – 16 new participants and volunteers.
 - ii. Rides per week are going up.
 - iii. Filming commercial 10/15 for outreach and driver recruitment.
- b. Community Bridges
 - i. TNC Access for All program has doubled ridership.
 - ii. Expanded program to now offer rides to Monterey County.
- c. Santa Cruz Metro
 - i. Hydrogen fuel buses – now have 10 in regular service – leading agencies in the nation
 - ii. Almost back to pre-pandemic ridership – around 5 million rides per year.
- d. SCCRTC

- i. Some vacancies filled, will recruit for others
- ii. Attended Housing Authority's Senior Fair to share resources
- e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee
 - i. Pedestrian Hazard Report

3:30 pm — Adjourn

Next meeting: 1:30 pm, December 9, 2025, hosted in person at the SCCRTC office located at 1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Visit www.sccrtc.org for updates.

HOW TO REACH US *Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission*
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Minutes respectfully submitted, Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician