



Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission's  
**Elderly & Disabled**  
**Transportation Advisory Committee**  
Social Service Transportation Advisory Council

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## **FINAL MEETING MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 14, 2026**

**1:30 – 3:30pm**

### **In-Person Meeting**

Aptos Branch Library  
The Dorosin Family Conference Room  
7695 Soquel Dr  
Aptos, CA 95003

### **REMOTE PARTICIPATION**

**(see end of agenda for more information)**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82217044415>

Meeting ID: 822 1704 4415

Dial by your location: +1 669 900 9128

Accessibility: See end of agenda for details.

En Español: Para servicios de traducción al español, diríjase a la última página.

Agendas Online: [www.sccrtc.org/meetings/elderly-disabled/](http://www.sccrtc.org/meetings/elderly-disabled/)

1. 1:30pm — Call to Order

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

### ***Members Present***

Patty Talbott, Social Services Provider – Seniors

Kendra Webster, Social Services Provider – Seniors (County)

Stephanie Auld, Social Services Provider – Disabled (County)

Tara Ireland, Social Services Provider – Persons of Limited Means (Volunteer Center)

Nadia Noriega, CTSA (Lift Line)

Bobbi Wood, SCMTD (METRO)

Rina Solorio Gomez, SCMTD (Metro)

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

Wells Shoemaker, 2nd District

Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3rd District

Katie Nunez, 4<sup>th</sup> District

Portia Ramer, 5th District

### ***RTC Staff Present***

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner

Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician

Jaeden Gales, Transportation Planner

### ***Guests Present***

Paula Bradley, Community Member

Kelly McClendon, Caltrans

Juliet Goldstein, Community Member

Kathleen Wright, Community Member

Cayla Hill, METRO

John Urgo, METRO

Tony Nunez, Community Member

## **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**

A committee member suggested aligning E&D TAC meeting locations with Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors meeting locations to improve attendance and reduce travel conflicts.

A committee member raised concerns about uneven sidewalks and curb transitions, particularly near Staff of Life in Santa Cruz. The comment emphasized safety risks for both disabled and able-bodied individuals. Member expressed interest in drafting a letter to the City of Santa Cruz requesting improvements.

Community members from Garfield Park Village shared concerns about plans to remove a bus stop near the housing complex and the impacts this will have on residents who are seniors and residents with disabilities. E&D TAC members responded with recommendations for other agencies and staff to get in touch with and to work with the Seniors Council.

A guest member raised concerns over the TDA claim amounts and noted that while the amounts are increasing, more is going to the RTC and less is going to transit agencies. There is concern this will impact the number of rides available for community members and would like to know why there is a reduction in funding.

A community member announced they were at the meeting to share information about the METRO sales tax measure and collect signatures.

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

Item 13. Santa Cruz METRO Fare Policy Modifications & Tap2Cruz Fare Payment will be removed from today's agenda and will be added to the next E&D TAC meeting agenda due to METRO staff being sick.

Transportation Planner, Amanda Marino, communicated that replacement pages for item 14 were posted to the RTC website.

## **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.

## **6. Receive Information Items**

## **7. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights**

a. March 5, 2026

## **8. Approve E&D TAC Draft Minutes from February 10, 2026**

*Motion (Auld/Shoemaker) to approve the April 14, 2026, Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

## **9. Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Member Appointments**

RTC Transportation Planner, Amanda Marino, presented two applications that were received for the E&D TAC to renew membership to serve as the Potential Transit User (60+) and SCMTD (Metro) Alternate.

*Motion (Auld/Ramer) to recommend the RTC to reappoint E&D TAC members Michael Pisano as the Potential Transit User (60+) and Rina Solorio Gomez as the SCMTD (Metro) Alternate. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

The committee then solicited nominations for the Chair and Vice Chair positions. Committee member Michael Pisano nominated Veronica Elsea as Chair for a 2-year term and Veronica Elsea nominated Wells Shoemaker as Vice Chair for a 2-year term. Both members accepted their nominations.

*Motion (Wells/Auld) to elect Veronica Elsea as Chair of the E&D TAC for a term of 2 years. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina*

*Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

*Motion (Nunez/Auld) to elect Wells Shoemaker as Vice Chair of the E&D TAC for a term of 2 years. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

**10. Fiscal Year 2026-27 Transportation Development Act (TDA)  
Claims for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Volunteer Center,  
and Community Bridges**

RTC Transportation Planner, Amanda Marino, provided an overview of the TDA claims for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Volunteer Center, and Community Bridges. METRO requested \$9,310,691 in TDA funds and \$4,595,164 in STA funds, the Volunteer Center requested \$108,897 in TDA funds, and Community Bridges requested \$914,735 in TDA funds. Representatives from Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Volunteer Center, and Community Bridges presented an overview of their TDA/STA funded services and answered questions from the committee and the public.

Committee members had questions on how the public can comment or provide input on TDA claims, how discretionary funds are used for reserves, and how allocations of funds are determined for each agency.

Committee members commented that agencies are getting a smaller percentage of TDA funds than the prior year and how this could impact the agencies ability to offer services. Members requested that staff include in their RTC staff report concerns over reduction in TDA funding due to more being allocated to RTC's reserves. Members requested additional information from RTC staff on how reserves are used and how decisions are being made internally on how much to allocate to the RTC and agencies. Staff will provide this information at a future E&D TAC meeting.

*Motion (Ireland/Ramer) to recommend approval by the Regional Transportation Commission the FY 2026-27 claim from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina*

*Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

*Motion (Shoemaker/Pisano) to recommend approval by the Regional Transportation Commission the FY 2026-27 claim from the Volunteer Center. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

*Motion (Auld/Noriega) to recommend approval by the Regional Transportation Commission the FY 2026-27 claim from Community Bridges Lift Line. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

*Motion (Auld/Nadia) to express concern to the RTC about how these funding allocations are made and how more funding is going into the RTC reserve and lower amounts are going to transit agencies they support. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

## **11. 2026 Draft Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List and Survey Update**

RTC Transportation Planning Technician, Sierra Topp, provided an overview of the final 2026 Draft Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List and an update on engagement efforts.

Members commented on the effectiveness of the unmet needs list at gaining an understanding of challenges people face on the roadways and getting the information to the right jurisdiction. Community members may have difficulty in identifying the location of an issue and how to receive regular maintenance updates. It was also noted that the experience of manual wheelchair users is different than electric wheelchair users and they may be more restricted on where they can go.

Comments were made on issues with prioritizing funding for building new infrastructure and not towards maintenance of existing facilities.

A question was asked about other areas or municipalities that have citizen driven community input and how we can pull use them as examples.

A committee member brought up the Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee which could engage in some of the above issues as well as the RTC's Hazard Report Tool.

Other members brought up strategies to hold jurisdictions accountable to responding to hazards and tracking progress made.

Based on feedback, two new strategies were suggested and added to the 2026 Draft Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List:

1. Create consistent program across all jurisdictions to track and maintain facilities and paths of travel for all different users.
2. Work with the community to better collect information on the condition of travel paths and report to jurisdictions.

*Motion (Ramer/Auld) to recommend approval of the 2026 Draft Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List including provided suggestions. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Patty Talbott, Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Tara Ireland, Nadia Noriega, Bobi Wood, Rina Solorio Gomez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Veronica Elsea, Katie Nunez, and Portia Ramer voting "aye".*

## **12. Caltrans Highway 17 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP)**

Caltrans Staff member, Kelly McClendon, provided an overview of the State Route 17 (SR 17) Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan (CMCP) and asked for feedback from the E&D TAC.

Members comments on the importance of emphasizing access to specialty medical care for seniors and people with disabilities as well as ecological impacts to the environment from these plans.

*No action taken.*

## **13. (Previously Item 14) Active Transportation Program Cycle 8 Application**

RTC Transportation Planner, Jaeden Gales, provided an overview of the RTC's Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 8 application and requested that the E&D TAC provide input.

Committee members asked if the focus is limited to walking and biking or if education on how to use the transit could be included.

Comments were made on community concerns over determining the appropriate developmental age for e-bike usage in children, if it is safe, and if they should be required to have a license.

Concerns were also raised about biking in San Lorenzo Valley along HWY 9 and if this education program can be brought to this area.

*No action taken.*

**14. Receive Program Updates**

- a. Volunteer Center – no updates
- b. Community Bridges - Capitola Village summer shuttle starting May 16.
- c. Santa Cruz Metro - initiating tap2cruz this summer, headways app is shifting to transit app for users, replacing route guides.
- d. SCCRTC - Special meeting on May 12 at 1:30 at the RTC.
- e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee - joined efforts with Bike Committee members to address safety concerns for bicyclists and pedestrians in construction zones. They are specifically looking at the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) and noted it is not being fully implemented and enforced. A potential next step includes choosing 5-10 priorities for improvements and create tri-fold document to potentially provide to construction groups and contractors. Committee members would like to see the Hazard Report Tool be more widely used for issues such as this.
  - i. Pedestrian Hazard Report

**Adjourn – 3:56 pm**

**NEXT MEETING:** Special Meeting on Tuesday May 12, 2026, at 1:30pm hosted in person at the SCCRTC office located at 1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060. Remote participation included.

**HOW TO REACH US**

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Minutes respectfully submitted by, Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician