



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

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, May 12, 2026
1:30 – 3:30pm

In-Person Meeting

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

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

(see end of agenda for more information)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84788513704>

Meeting ID: 847 8851 3704

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/

1. 1:30pm — Call to Order

Vice Chair, Wells Shoemaker, called the meeting to order at 1:32pm

Members Present

Ares Wakamo, Social Services Provider – Persons of Limited Means
(Volunteer Center)

Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA (Lift Line)

Nadia Noriega, CTSA (Lift Line)

Bobbi Wood, SCMTD (METRO)

Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)

Wells Shoemaker, Vice Chair, 2nd District

Katie Nunez, 4th District

Portia Ramer, 5th District

Members Remote, not voting

Patty Talbott, Social Services Provider – Seniors

RTC Staff Present

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner
Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician
Max Friedman, Transportation Planner
Grace Blakeslee, Supervising Transportation Planner
Daniel Suarez, Transportation Planning Intern
Riley Gerbrandt, Associate Engineer

Guests Present

Paula Bradley, Community Member
Stu Mertz, Community Member

2. 1:30pm — Introductions

3. 1:32pm — 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)

None

4. 1:35pm — Oral communications

None

5. 1:40pm — Additions or deletions to the consent or regular agenda

Committee Member, Katie Nunez, arrived during Item 5.

Staff noted that Regular Agenda Items 9 and 10 were switched. Staff also noted that a handout associated with Item 10 (formerly Item 9) was posted online prior to the meeting and printed copies were made available at the in-person meeting location.

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 RTC Meeting Highlights from April 2, 2026

7. Receive TDA Revenue Report

8. Approve E&D TAC Draft Minutes from April 14, 2026

Motion (Pisano/Ramer) to approve the April 14, 2026, Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Ares Wakamo, Nadia Noriega, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Katie Nunez, Portia Ramer voting "aye".

REGULAR AGENDA

9. North Coast TDM Plan: Milestone 3: Final Report

Committee Members, Bobi Wood and Jesus Bojorquez, arrived during Item 9.

RTC Transportation Planner, Max Friedman, presented the Draft Final North Coast Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan (Milestone 3) and shared a survey for E&D TAC members to provide feedback on the Plan.

Committee members discussed pedestrian safety along Highway 1 in the plan area, including the benefits of formal pedestrian crossings and the importance of pairing roadway design improvements with enforcement measures.

Committee members also discussed potential paid parking strategies on the North Coast. Questions were raised regarding the purpose and goals of paid parking, as well as how impacts could be mitigated through complementary strategies such as free park-and-ride facilities and transit services.

Additional discussion focused on the need for coordination with San Mateo County to coordinate transportation and parking management strategies.

No action taken

10. Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project (ZEPRT) Update

RTC Associate Engineer, Riley Gerbrandt, provided an update on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail (ZEPRT) Project. Mr. Gerbrandt reviewed the RTC action at the December 2026 meeting with a recommendation that included support for future rail and continued partnership with the Caltrans Division of Rail on Corridor Identification and direct staff to bring back to the Commission for consideration a final design for and take any other actions to implement the Interim Trail on Segments 9-11.

Committee members asked whether the interim trail would be paved and noted that paved surfaces are necessary to accommodate certain disabilities and mobility devices.

Discussion focused on accessibility considerations for both rail and trail facilities, including ADA access to restrooms and boarding areas for individuals using larger e-mobility devices.

Committee members also asked about the availability of charging stations for e-mobility devices along the trail, noting that many devices have a limited travel range of approximately five miles.

Additional comments emphasized the importance of amenities along the trail and at rail facilities, including seating for rest breaks, shade or weather protection, and water fountains.

No action taken

11. Receive Program Updates

a. Volunteer Center

- i. The transportation program continues to experience high demand and is currently providing more rides per week than ever before. Program hours have been expanded from 10:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. to 9:00 a.m.–5:00 p.m. Riders may request earlier or later trips, and staff will attempt to accommodate those requests as capacity allows. The program provides rides throughout Santa Cruz County but does not currently operate outside the county. Participants may contact the program directly or be referred by service providers.

b. Community Bridges

- i. Staff reported an increase in on-demand rides, including growing demand from Monterey and San Benito counties. The Transportation Network Company (TNC) Access for All program has exceeded its original goal, increasing from 1,000 to 3,000 rides. Community Bridges also continues to operate an out-of-county transportation program providing rides to San Francisco/San Jose and Monterey five days per week from 8:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m.

c. Santa Cruz Metro

- i. No updates provided

d. SCCRTC

- i. Update on TDA funding reserve funding and decision on allocations.
- ii. The 2026 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List was approved by the RTC at the May Public Hearing.

e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee

- i. The subcommittee is collaborating with members of the Bicycle Committee to develop and distribute a flyer addressing pedestrian and bicycle safety near construction sites and maintaining access during construction activities.

ii. Pedestrian Hazard Report

Adjourn – 3:00 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday June 9, 2026, at 1:30pm hosted in person at the RTC Office. Remote participation included.

HOW TO REACH US

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250 Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone: (831) 460-3200 / email: info@sccrtc.org

Minutes respectfully submitted by, Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician