



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

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, June 9, 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/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/

1. 1:30pm — Call to Order

Chair, Veronica Elsea, called the meeting to order at 1:32pm

Members Present

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

Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)

Veronica Elsea, Chair, 1st District

Wells Shoemaker, Vice Chair, 2nd District

Katie Nunez, 4th District

Portia Ramer, 5th District

Members Remote, Not voting

Stephanie Auld, Social Services Provider – Disabled (County)
Kendra Webster, Social Services Provider – Seniors (County)
Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA (Lift Line)

RTC Staff Present

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner
Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician
Nick Danty, Transportation Planner
Daniel Suarez, Transportation Planning Intern
Grace Blakeslee, Supervising Transportation Planner

Guests Present

Paula Bradley, Community Member
Jennifer Abrams, HDR Consulting
John Urgo, METRO
Miguel Liz. City of Watsonville
David D. – District 1 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)

A motion was made to approve committee members Stephanie Auld, Jesus Bojorquez, and Kendra Webster's AB 2449 requests to participate remotely due to emergency circumstances. However, because a quorum of members was not physically present at the meeting location, the committee was unable to take action on the motion, and no vote was taken.

4. 1:35pm — Oral communications

John Urgo attended on behalf of Friends of Santa Cruz METRO to share updates on the initiative proposing a 1/2 cent (0.5%) sales tax for bus transit service.

Stephanie Auld, EDTAC Committee Member inquired about the removal of the Garfield Park bus stop. John Urgo responded that the City of Santa Cruz nor Santa Cruz METRO have no plans to remove this stop.

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

None

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

a. E&D TAC Letter of Support for the City of Capitola's Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Implementation Grant Application

7. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights from May 7, 2026

Committee member Katie Nunez arrived during item 7

Motion (Pisano, Ramer) to approve the June 9, 2026, Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Ares Wakamo, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, Katie Nunez, Portia Ramer, Veronica Elsea voting "aye".

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Planning for Climate Resilience of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Milestone 2 Study Update

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner, presented a Milestone 2 update on the Planning for Climate Resilience of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Study.

Staff requested input on the proposed concepts, identification of any missing features or considerations, and feedback on the evaluation criteria and data points that would be helpful in measuring the benefits and disadvantages of each concept.

Committee questions and comments included:

- If seismic activity, including soil liquefaction and other geologic hazards, would be evaluated as part of the study and whether these factors could influence the viability of certain infrastructure options.
- If residents and agencies in the Pajaro Valley are being consulted as part of the study.
- The rationale for evaluating the climate resiliency of both a short-term trail use and longer term combined trail and rail use.
- If relocation of the rail corridor along Highway 1 is being prioritized as a response to climate impacts.
- If climate change projections are included in the sea-level rise assumptions used in the study.

- How this study is being coordinated with the Caltrans Corridor ID Program.
- Whether the costs associated with each alternative were already included in the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail (ZEPRT) Concept Report.
- Recommended adding longevity to the evaluation criteria to measure the lifespan of physical infrastructure.
- Recommend that RTC staff should coordinate with other agencies conducting climate resiliency analysis.
- Expressed concern that RTC may ultimately move forward with removing the rail tracks.

No action taken

9. City of Watsonville Clifford Avenue Road Rehabilitation and Traffic Calming Project

Miguel Lizarraga, Principal Planner for the City of Watsonville, presented information on the Clifford Avenue Road Rehabilitation and Traffic Calming Project.

Committee questions and comments included:

- If all intersections along the corridor would be controlled by stop signs and whether any traffic signals are proposed as part of the project.
- If proposed stop signs would include flashing lights.
- How traffic calming designs can create challenges for people who are blind or have disabilities and emphasized the importance of ensuring accessibility is incorporated into the project design.
- Importance of visibility around bulb-outs and other traffic calming features.
- Suggested that City staff connect with those residents and consider conducting a focus group to gather input from older adults who may be affected by the project.
- The importance of enforcement to ensure proposed traffic calming measures are effective

No action taken

10. Cruz 511 Hazard Report Form

Nick Danty, RTC Transportation Planner, provided an update on the Cruz511 Hazard Report Form and conducted a demonstration of the proposed new reporting platform.

Committee questions and comments included:

- The importance of including text-entry fields for users who may be unable to use the map feature or who prefer to describe a hazard in writing.
- Maintaining "other" option in types of hazards
- Make it as simple and convenient as possible for users to submit reports and concerns, such as a voice-recording feature.

- The need to establish an effective process for coordinating hazard reports with partner agencies.
- Consider the target audience when designing the form and conduct user testing with groups like parents, law enforcement personnel, and other community members.
- Conducting outreach to increase public awareness of the reporting tool and ensuring that the platform can be translated into multiple languages.
- Include information on what constitutes an emergency or urgent matter, including considerations related to timing and the level of danger posed by the hazard, and provide information on who to contact in emergency situations rather than submitting a hazard report.
- Development of a mobile app version of the reporting tool.
- Whether a CAPTCHA feature is necessary
- Requested to add "wheelchair user" as an option
- Support for the map feature to accurately pinpoint the location of hazards.
- Support for the concept of a public dashboard that would display reported hazards and identify hotspots.

No action taken

11. Receive Program Updates

- a. Volunteer Center
 - i. Transportation program is continuing with expanded hours and training new volunteers for dispatch.
- b. Community Bridges
 - i. Revenues provided for the TNC access for all program is allowing for additional growth. Ridership has now surpassed the goal of 1,000 rides per year.
- c. Santa Cruz Metro
 - i. Committee members requested METRO bring an item to a future E&D TAC meeting to discuss accessibility of making bus payment, accessing bus scheduling, utilizing the METRO website, and more information about ParaCruz eligibility.
- d. SCCRTC
 - i. There are vacancies on the Committee and RTC is going to run sentinel ad to recruit new member to fill vacancies
- e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee
 - i. Pedestrian Hazard Report
 - ii. Created a handout on tips for safe and comfortable interactions with blind persons and distributed to the E&D TAC.

Adjourn – 3:43 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday August 11, 2026, at 1:30pm hosted in person at the RTC Office. Remote participation included.

HOW TO REACH US

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Minutes respectfully submitted by, Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician