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

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, August 11, 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 1:31 pm

Members Present

Kendra Webster, Social Services Provider – Seniors (County)
Stephanie Auld, Social Services Provider – Disabled (County)
Ares Bartell, Social Services Provider – Persons of Limited Means (Volunteer Center)
Nadia Noriega, CTSA (Lift Line)
Bobi Wood, SCMTD (METRO)
Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)

Wells Shoemaker, Vice Chair, 2nd District
Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3rd District

Members Remote, not voting

Portia Ramer, 5th District

Unexcused Absence

Clay Kempf, Social Services Provider – Seniors

RTC Staff Present

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner
Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician
Daniel Suarez, Transportation Planning Intern
Mitch Weiss, Interim Director of Planning, Programming & Transportation Services

Guests Present

Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz METRO
John Urgo, Santa Cruz METRO
Michael Bois, Santa Cruz METRO
Kailash Mozumder, City of Capitola Public Works
Karin Meyer, Scotts Valley Senior Center Board Member
Elaine Rohlfes, Community Member
Antonio, 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**

Michael Pisano discussed opportunities to implement an autonomous vehicle pilot program in Santa Cruz County.

Kailash Mozumder announced that the Capitola Active Transportation Plan is beginning the public outreach and engagement phase and focus group meetings will be throughout summer and fall. The online survey is open.

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

A motion (Auld/Bartell) was made to move item 6b from the consent agenda to the regular agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Ares Bartell, Bobi Wood, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, and Veronica Elsea voting "aye".

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 Membership Recruitment Ad**
    b. **(*Moved to Regular Agenda*) Letter to E&DTAC Members: Metro Concerns Brought to the E&D TAC**
7. **Receive RTC June 11, 2026 Meeting Highlights**
8. **Approve E&D TAC Draft May 12, 2026 Minutes**
9. **Approve E&D TAC Draft June 9, 2026 Minutes**
10. **Receive Pedestrian Hazard Report**

Motion (Bartell/Auld) to approve the August 11, 2026, Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Kendra Webster, Stephanie Auld, Ares Bartell, Bobi Wood, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, and Veronica Elsea voting "aye".

REGULAR AGENDA

6b. Letter to E&DTAC Members: Metro Concerns Brought to the E&D TAC

Committee member Nadia Noriega arrived during item 11.

EDTAC Chair, Veronica Elsea, reviewed the letter provided to EDTAC members regarding Santa Cruz METRO's Fixed Route Transit, ParaCruz eligibility, and the

Mobility Training Coordinator role. Committee members discussed options for Santa Cruz METRO to address concerns faced by riders with disabilities.

Comments included:

- Needs of riders with disabilities
- Website accessibility, travel planning and safety
- Concerns about availability of services via telephone
- Options for AI service for telephone calls when office is closed

No action taken

11. Santa Cruz METRO Rapid Corridors Project

John Urgo, Santa Cruz METRO, presented an update on METRO's Rapid Corridors Project including but not limited to ridership goals, zero-emission bus fleet conversions, and estimated design and construction timelines.

Discussion questions and comments included:

- Design of pedestrian boarding islands related to the need to cross the bike lane; especially for people who are blind or hard of hearing
- The use of bus shelters for uses other than taking transit such as sleeping
- Options for additional enforcement and lighting as a safety enhancement
- Clarification on the use queue jump lanes for busses and how to restrict cars from using the bus lane
- Concern with tactile surfaces being uncomfortable to roll over for people in wheelchairs, especially manual wheelchairs
- Options for improving the area around bus shelters such as sidewalks, crosswalks, and ramps to ensure ADA access
- Clarification on the ability to request stops for wheelchair users and if there are any differences in how to request a stop compared to other riders
- Clarification if wheelchair users will enter the bus at the front or the back with the updated bus shelters and loading areas
- Asking that attention be given to ramp locations to ensure they are in a safe place for wheelchair users to enter and exit the bus
- An update on METRO's affordable housing project initiatives including ADA accessible units and age restrictions
- That METRO needs to identify the needs of passengers with disabilities early in the process and a request that METRO's staff will meet with Veronica Elsea to discuss the website. Michael Bois agreed to follow up.

No action taken

12. Santa Cruz METRO Fare Policy Modifications & Tap2Cruz Fare Payment

Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz METRO, presented on current payment options and planned updates to the Santa Cruz METRO Fare Policy Modifications & Tap2Cruz Fare Payment.

Discussion questions and comments included:

- Clarification on the guidelines for passengers that qualify for discounts and how to sign up
- Clarification on fare capping and how this is different than loading pre-paid trips onto METRO card
- Question about using Tap2Cruz for the HWY 17 express bus and how it may differ from the fixed bus routes within Santa Cruz County.
- Question if transfer and fare between Santa Cruz and VTA are connected or separate.

No action taken

13. Advisory Committee Effectiveness and Engagement Survey

Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician, provided an update regarding the Advisory Committee Effectiveness and Engagement Survey and reminded members to fill out the survey.

No action taken

14. Receive Program Updates

a. Volunteer Center – no updates
b. Community Bridges – no updates
c. Santa Cruz Metro – no updates
d. RTC
    i. Week without driving to take place October 1-8, 2026
e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee – no updates

Adjourn – 3:32 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday October 13, 2026, at 1:30pm hosted in person at the RTC Office. Remote participation available.

HOW TO REACH US

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Minutes respectfully submitted by Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician