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

FINAL MEETING MINUTES
Tuesday, October 13, 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 1:34 pm

Members Present

Ares Bartell, Social Services Provider – Persons of Limited Means (Volunteer Center)
Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA (Lift Line)
Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)
Wells Shoemaker, Vice Chair, 2nd District
Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3rd District
Katie Nunez, 4th District

Unexcused Absence

Clay Kempf, Social Services Provider – Seniors
Bobi Wood, SCMTD (METRO)
Portia Ramer, 5th District

RTC Staff Present

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner
Sierra Topp, Transportation Planning Technician
Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner
Nick Danty, Transportation Planner

Guests Present

Paula Bradley, Bicycle Advisory Committee, Capitola Representative
Karina Aragon, County of Santa Cruz
Officer Israel Murillo, California Highway Patrol
Ulyses Angon, Community Bridges
Raymon Cancino, Community Bridges
Douglass Underhill, Community Bridges

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**

Nick Danty, RTC Transportation Planner, provided an update on the RTC's Pedestrian Hazard Report form. Danty requested EDTAC members to participate in a Hazard Report testing session to try out the new form and identify any issues or challenges filling it out.

Israel Murillo, CHP Officer, provided an overview of presentations that CHP officers deliver across the county such as around driving safety tips and e-bike safety. Officer Murillo noted that the CHP can work with agencies or community members to develop presentations relevant to the safety of pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.

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. **Received information items**
    a. Letter of Support for the Watsonville Area Trucking Efficiency and Multimodal Safety Study
7. **Received RTC Meeting Highlights**
    a. August 6, 2026
    b. September 3, 2026
    c. October 1, 2026

8. **Approved E&D TAC Draft August 2026 Minutes**

Veronica Elsea, EDTAC Chair, requested an amendment to Item 11a of the draft August minutes to clarify that METRO needs to identify the needs of passengers with disabilities early on in a project's process and that Michael Bois of METRO's staff agreed to meet with Veronica Elsea to discuss the website.

A motion (Bartell/Pisano) was made to approve the draft minutes from the August 2026 EDTAC meeting as amended. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Ares Bartell, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, and Veronica Elsea, and Katie Nunez voting "aye".

9. **Received Pedestrian Hazard Report**

A motion (Nunez/Bojorquez) was made to approve the October 2026 Consent Agenda. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Ares Bartell, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, and Veronica Elsea, and Katie Nunez voting "aye".

REGULAR AGENDA

10. Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Member Appointments

Karina Aragon, who applied to serve on the E&D TAC as the Social Services Provider Representative for Seniors in Santa Cruz County, introduced herself and provided background on her experience working with seniors and other vulnerable transportation users throughout Santa Cruz County.

Committee members expressed enthusiasm for increased South County representation on the Committee. Members who had previously worked with Karina shared their positive experiences and expressed confidence in her ability to represent the community.

A motion (Bartell/Pisano) was made to recommend to the RTC to approve Karina Aragon's EDTAC Committee membership. The motion passed unanimously with committee members Ares Bartell, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Wells Shoemaker, and Veronica Elsea, and Katie Nunez voting "aye".

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

Committee Member Ares Bartell arrived during Item 11, establishing a quorum. The Committee returned to the Consent Agenda and Item 10 and take action.

Tommy Travers, RTC Transportation Planner, presented on the RTC's Measure D five-year program of projects for regional projects and Jesus Bojorques, Community Bridges Lift Line staff, presented on the Community Bridges 5-year plan and how Measure D is supporting transportation services.

Discussion questions and comments included:

- Appreciation for the thoroughness of the report.
- If Freeway Service Patrol tracks the types of assists they make, and if EV specific issues were reported.
- When Measure D funding expires.
- If inflation of fuel prices will affect Community Bridges budget priorities and if there will have to be cuts in other areas to accommodate for increase fuel prices.
- The percentage between electric vehicles and gas vehicles is in the Lift Line fleet, if there any natural gas vehicles, and if the non-electric vehicles are using regular gas or diesel.
- Potential options for Lift Line to make use of Santa Cruz METRO's new hydrogen fuel facility.

- Potential options for grant funding available for providing additional rides in lower income areas, like Watsonville, and if Lift Line would qualify for those funds to purchase vehicles and provide additional rides.

No action taken

12. Received Program Updates

a. **Volunteer Center** – program continues to expand, onboarding new volunteers, and added four new participants. As participation grows, the program is working to recruit additional volunteers in the Watsonville area. New dispatchers have also joined to coordinate ride assignments and match participants with volunteers. Additionally, a carpool group operates on Mondays to transport participants to classes at the Vista Center.

b. **Community Bridges** – Broke ground on their transportation facility renovation in June 2026, progress is continuing to be made to complete the renovation.

c. **Santa Cruz Metro** – No METRO representative was present. Veronica Elsea provided an update on METRO's ongoing work to research bus stop islands. A focus group was held approximately one month ago, and UCSC interns are working with Ecology Action (EA) to demonstrate tactile designs and develop models to gather feedback. METRO is also working with EA to arrange a field trip by bus to visit bus stop islands in San Jose. Website updates are also underway, and Veronica Elsea has been contacted to test the route pages.

d. **RTC** - Sierra Topp, RTC staff, provided an update on the committee engagement process, reminded members about the Committee stipend, and shared an update on SB 707 from Nisha Singh, RTC Director of Internal Services. Members requested that RTC staff connect with METRO staff to learn how METRO approved remote participation for its committee members under SB 707.

e. **Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee** - The Committee discussed its subcommittee work with the Bicycle Advisory Committee on navigating construction zones, including learning how other jurisdictions develop traffic control plans and identifying potential improvements. The subcommittee developed a "Tips for Safe and Comfortable Interactions with Blind Persons" card and is exploring ways to distribute it to contractors through local jurisdictions. Members emphasized the importance of ensuring the cards are posted at construction sites or distributed directly to workers. Ideas included incorporating distribution requirements into requests for proposals (RFPs). RTC staff are discussing distribution strategies and ways to support the Committee internally. Officer Murillo, CHP, stated his office could be a

resource to develop presentations on traffic safety in construction zones.

Adjourn – 3:04 pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday December 8, 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