Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission

MINUTES

Thursday, October 1, 2026
9:00 a.m.

In-Person Meeting
Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean Street, Room 500B
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

1. Roll call. The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Members present:

City of Santa Cruz	Fred Keeley
City of Scotts Valley	Steve Clark
City of Watsonville	Eduardo Montesino
County of Santa Cruz	Manu Koenig
County of Santa Cruz	Kimberly DeSerpa
County of Santa Cruz	Andy Schiffrin (Alt.)
County of Santa Cruz	Monica Martinez
County of Santa Cruz	Lowell Hurst (Alt.)
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Fabian Leonor
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Rebecca Downing
Caltrans (ex-officio)	Kelly McClendon (Alt.)(Remote)

Staff present:

Sarah Christensen	Yesenia Parra
Nisha Singh	Amin AbuAmara
Marshall Ballard	Shannon Munz
Max Friedman	Marim Pearson
Grace Blakeslee	Jayden Gales

The majority of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

2. Additions or deletions to consent or regular agendas

Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra reported that a Spanish version of the agenda, handouts for items 7, 8, 20, and a replacement page for item 9 were posted to the RTC website.

3. Oral communications

Received public comment from:
Lani Faulkner

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners Kimberly DeSerpa and Fabian Leonor arrived

Received public comment from:
Sally Arnold
Brian Peoples
Elizabeth M
Lani Faulkner

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Clark seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Commissioner Downing recused herself from items 6, 7, and 8

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Keeley, Clark, Montesino, Koenig, DeSerpa, Martinez, Leonor, Kalantari-Johnson, Downing, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Hurst voting "aye."

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of September 3, 2026, Regional Transportation Commission meeting

5. Accepted draft committee meeting minutes

   a. August 17, 2026, Measure D TOC meeting minutes
   b. September 16, 2026, SAFE on 17 Task Force
   c. September 17, 2026, Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

POLICY ITEMS

No items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

6. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend contract TP2183 with Community Tree Service to extend term and add compensation for a not-to-exceed contract amount of $220,000. (**Resolution 81-26**)

7. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Summit Signal for on-call general repairs along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail line for an amount not to exceed $40,000 (**Resolution 82-26**).

8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to apply for CalSTA's Flexible State Rail Assistance Cycle 2 grant for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail (ZEPRT) Project

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

9. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues

10. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues

11. Accepted Measure D Fiscal Year 2024-25 Annual Report

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Approved resolutions to continue providing CalPERS Health Benefits to RTC employees (**Resolutions 83-26 and 84-26**)

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

13. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

14. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies

    a. Letter to City of Santa Cruz for support for the City of Santa Cruz's Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Application
    b. Letter to the Honorable Sean Duffy, U.S. Department of Transportation for support of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's application for the Buses and Bus Facilities and Low or No Emission Competitive Funding Programs
    c. Letter to the Honorable Sean Duffy, U.S. Department of Transportation for support of the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's application for funding to construct a new operations and maintenance facility in Watsonville to accommodate METRO's new hydrogen bus fleet.

15. Accept information items - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

16. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Martinez noted that in partnership with the RTC and Caltrans, her office is hosting a Town Hall on October 22 at 6:30 pm at San Lorenzo Valley High School Performing Arts Center. The town hall is focused on the Safer Felton Pedestrian Improvement project.

17. Director's Report – oral report

Executive Director Sarah Christensen reported on her attendance at the California Transportation Commission Town Hall meeting in San Luis Obispo.

Ms. Christensen provided an update on the Measure D Annual Report, noting that it is available on the RTC website. Ms. Christensen also announced Biketober, which includes a month-long bicycle challenge; that the Community Traffic Safety Coalition has produced a countywide crash report; and provided an update on the correspondence log, noting that staff is working on an analysis and that the item will return to the Commission at a future meeting.

Commissioner Downing noted the importance of the crash report data, as it informs the RTC's decisions regarding transportation projects.

Commissioner Alternate Hurst noted that the correspondence log is important because it allows Commissioners to understand the issues and concerns the public is bringing forward.

18. Caltrans Report

Kelly McClendon, Senior Planner for Caltrans District 5, provided an update on projects along Highway 1, including lane and ramp closures expected to continue through mid-November. He also provided updates on projects and activities along Highway 9 and in the San Lorenzo Valley.

Commissioner Schiffrin thanked Caltrans staff for meeting with Santa Cruz County staff to discuss traffic safety concerns in Davenport. He noted that Caltrans provided crash data that will be helpful in advancing the proposed bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing project.

Commissioners Leonor and Montesino thanked Caltrans for its projects and work in Watsonville.

19. Week Without Driving Initiative and GO Santa Cruz County Update

Shannon Munz, Communication Specialist, provided a brief summary of the purpose of Week Without Driving. She noted that the RTC, METRO, County of Santa Cruz Development and

Infrastructure Department, and the Community Traffic Safety Coalition collaborated to promote Week Without Driving throughout Santa Cruz County. A community-wide event will be held on Friday, October 2, from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Capitola Mall.

Commissioner Downing provided a summary of Week Without Driving and encouraged the community to report safety hazards. She identified several improvements that could be incorporated into the 2027 Week Without Driving initiative, including slower vehicle speeds, improved signage, targeted traffic calming measures, and visibility improvements, with an emphasis on prioritizing the needs of people who do not drive.

Max Friedman, Transportation Planner, presented information on the RTC's Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program, including Cruz511, GoSanta Cruz County, and GoBike Santa Cruz County.

Commissioners discussed the importance of understanding data and statistics to accurately measure program usage and effectiveness. They highlighted the success of the GoBike program and the importance of continuing to invest in programs that demonstrate positive results. Commissioners also noted the increase in student bus ridership as an indication that the RTC is moving in the right direction. They emphasized that access to public transportation provides individuals with greater independence and mobility.

Received public comment from:
Lani Faulkner
Brian Peoples

20. Cooperative Agreement for Replica Data Platform Procurement

Marshall Ballard, Supervising Transportation Planner, presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed the data sources being used, data privacy and rights, and the importance of addressing privacy concerns. They also discussed whether the data would be publicly accessible and how it would be used for various transportation studies and projects. Commissioners noted that access to reliable data could save jurisdictions thousands of dollars and support more informed decision-making.

Mr. Ballard responded to questions and clarified that Replica data does not include surveillance data. He also noted that the public will not have direct access to the data; however, the public will receive information generated from the data as transportation projects are developed and planned.

Received public comment from:
Brian Peoples

Commissioner Clark made a motion and Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion to approve staff recommendation to adopt a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to execute a purchase order for Replica software through the California Department of General Services (DGS) Software Program Licensing Agreement administered by the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG); and execute the Cooperative Agreement with City of Capitola, City of Scotts Valley, City of Watsonville, County of Santa Cruz, and Santa Cruz METRO for coordination and use of the Replica software.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Keeley, Clark, Montesino, Koenig, Deserpa, Martinez, Leonor, Kalantari-Johnson, Downing, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Hurst voting "aye."

21. Adjourned at 10:06 a.m. Next meeting

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5 at 6:00 pm. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Room 500B Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees
Brian Peoples
Lani Faulkner
Sally Arnold
Elizabeth M