



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, March 3, 2016
9:00 a.m.**

**County Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean Street, 5th floor
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at: 9:02 a.m.

Members present:

Don Lane	Zach Friend
John Leopold	Greg Caput
Ryan Coonerty	Bruce McPherson
Cynthia Chase	Jimmy Dutra
Randy Johnson	Ed Bottorff
Karina Cervantez	Dennis Norton
Tim Gubbins (ex-officio)	

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra	Jennifer Rodriguez
Ginger Dykaar	Cory Caletti

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson, Campaign for Sensible Transportation (CFST), said CFST would like to present an agenda item, regarding concerns with widening the highway and sustainable transportation options, at a future Commission meeting. Mr. Nelson also stated that according to what is being published in the news, we are noticeably living in an era of environmental consequences.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Additional pages for Item 22 were distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Friend, Caput, Coonerty, Leopold, McPherson, Norton, Bottorff, Dutra, Cervantez, Chase, and Johnson voting "aye".

Commissioner Friend thanked Art Thomae for painting the last mural on the railroad bridge abutment in Aptos and for setting the stage to have murals painted along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the February 4, 2016 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the February 8, 2016 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the February 9, 2016 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
7. Approved draft minutes of the February 18, 2016 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the February 18, 2016 Budget and Administration/ Personnel Committee meeting
9. Accepted draft minutes of the February 18, 2016 Interagency Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

10. Approved covenant to restrict use of Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line at one location in Watsonville

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

11. Approved mural for railroad bridge abutment in Aptos

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

13. Approved amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 Budget and Work Program (**Resolution 11-16**)
14. Approved City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act allocation request (**Resolution 12-16**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

No consent items

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

15. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
16. Accepted correspondence log
17. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
 - a. Letter to Caltrans District 5 regarding outstanding items related to Highway 1 rumble strips, from the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee
 - b. Letter to the California Transportation Commission regarding the revised Santa Cruz County 2016 State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) proposal, from RTC staff
 - c. Letter to Senator William Monning, Assemblymember Luis Alejo, and Assemblymember Mark Stone regarding the transportation funding crisis and legislative action needed, from the RTC Chair
18. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
19. Accepted information items
 - a. News Advisory from the California Transportation Commission (CTC) "State Body Slashes Transportation Funding"
 - b. Article from NPR "Like Millennials, More Older Americans Steering Away From Driving" by David Schaper
 - c. Article from AAA News Room "Pothole Damage Costs U.S. Drivers \$3 Billion Annually" by Erin Stepp
 - d. News Release from the RTC "State Slashing Transportation Funding"
 - e. Article from the Sacramento Bee "AM Alert: California set to lower gas tax by 2.2 cents" by Alexei Koseff

REGULAR AGENDA

20. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Commissioner Caput thanked Caltrans for their work on various projects in Watsonville and said he would welcome a presentation by the Campaign for Sensible Transportation (CFST) at a future RTC meeting.

21. Appointment of Commissioners to Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee – oral report

Chair Lane recommended the reappointment of Commissioners Friend, Caput, Coonerty, Leopold, and McPherson to the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee. Commissioners Lane, Friend, Caput, Coonerty, Leopold, McPherson, Norton, Bottorff, Dutra, Cervantez, Chase, and Johnson concurred with the reappointments.

22. Director's report – oral report

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported on: the RTC continuing to sub-lease the Watsonville office until further notice; attending the annual Central Coast Coalition Legislative Day on March 9th in Sacramento with Commissioners Lane and Friend to advance the cause regarding the current funding crisis for transportation; and the RTC's involvement in various outreach activities, including the Santa Cruz Business Fair on March 16th at Coconut Grove. Mr. Dondero included fact sheets and charts, provided by the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), about transportation projects impacted by the recent reduction in state and federal funding, and also noted which counties passed a resolution to support CSAC's efforts to address these issues.

Commissioners discussed: the CSAC doing a tremendous job putting together a list of facts that are understandable, and proposals that address the current crisis our transportation system is in; the importance of supporting AB 1591 by Assembly Member Jim Frazier and SBX1-1 by Senator Jim Beall to address the need for increased funding for transportation improvements; and the state of California's surplus being earmarked and building up a reserve.

23. Caltrans report and consider action items

Tim Gubbins, Caltrans District 5 Director, reported that phase 1 of the Highway 1/17 interchange project is almost finished and phase 2 will be starting on the southbound median soon, as the rain permits. Mr. Gubbins noted that included in the packet is the semi-annual State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) updates, and a map of Caltrans projects in the Watsonville area.

Commissioners discussed: the status of the Scott Creek bridge project; and their appreciation to Caltrans for their work on the interchange at 152 and Holohan in Watsonville, the lowered speed limits around Scotts Valley, and the safety improvements done on the fishhook project.

24. Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17 proposed budget

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented his staff report. Mr. Mendez noted the impact of transportation financial challenges with the cut in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding.

Commissioners discussed: the B&AP Committee's process for evaluating and monitoring project progress and achievements; having staff provide a detailed report on the outcome of the Cruz511 and rideshare programs as an agenda item at an upcoming meeting; the importance of supporting a ballot measure that would enable Santa Cruz County to have its own source of funding for transportation projects; the Commission's support to address environmental and sustainable transportation issues; the loss in State Transportation Assistance (STA) funding impacting the transit district; the importance of utilizing the allocated funds for cleanup along the rail line; and multi-year projects carrying over to the next fiscal years.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff recommendation to adopt **(Resolution 13-16)**, approving the FY 2016-17 RTC budget. The motion passed with Commissioners Lane, Friend, Leopold, Caput, McPherson, Coonerty, Cervantez, Chase, Bottorff, Norton, and Dutra voting "aye" and Commissioners Johnson voting "no".

25. 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) – draft goals, policies and targets

Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner, presented her staff report. Ms. Dykaar noted that the 2040 RTP contains minor updates to the goals, policies, and targets from the earlier 2014 RTP, with the most significant update to the plan being a reduction to the greenhouse gas emissions target. The long-range plan will be used to prioritize projects and identify funding within three main elements: policy, financial, and action. A complete project list of the transportation needs for Santa Cruz County will be brought to the Commission in June 2016 for input and approval.

Commissioners discussed: proposing a target goal of zero for traffic fatalities and looking at different concepts for preventing loss of life; performance monitoring, updates, and the frequency of reports on the progress of the RTP targets; resource constraints, budgeting accordingly, and correlating the budget for RTC projects to achieve the goals set in the RTP; having ambitious goals and setting thresholds higher for reducing green house gases; clarifying

the language in the RTP to be more inclusive when discussing components in the County's per capita fuel consumption and alternative methods for reducing green house gas emissions; the Commission having flexibility in meeting targets and addressing changing targets as things progress; and the different goals, targets, and policies addressing improvements of infrastructure to reduce traffic congestion.

Heather Adamson, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), stated that AMBAG has been holding off on bringing a revised target for greenhouse gas reduction to the board because new targets are coming from the state later this year. Ms. Adamson noted that the greenhouse gas target in the RTP under 1B-I is only related to land use changes.

Jack Nelson, said that we need to send a cultural signal to the County by being clear about sustainability goals and not be contradictory with projects and plans for reducing greenhouse gases.

Mark Abadi, Romero Institute, said that instead of waiting on instruction from the state, Santa Cruz County should set its own targets for reducing greenhouse gases and set in motion a domino effect for ambitious pursuits in being 100% renewable.

Commissioner Friend moved the staff recommendation with an amendment to modify the RTP to add a footnote to target 1B-I regarding land use decisions and to target 1B-II regarding other emerging technologies. Commissioner Leopold seconded the motion of the staff recommendation to approve the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan draft goals, policies, and targets as modified by the amendment by Commissioner Friend. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Friend, Caput, Coonerty, Leopold, McPherson, Norton, Bottorff, Dutra, Cervantez, Chase, and Johnson voting "aye".

26. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

CLOSED SESSION

27. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code) Santa Cruz Superior Court Case No. CV182123
28. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government code: one case

OPEN SESSION

29. Report on closed session – *No report*

30. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at: 10:41 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Rodriguez, Staff

Attendees:

Jack Nelson

Heather Adamson

Angela Aitken

Jordan Main

S. Marinshaw

Kirk Ance

Mike De Pala

Mark Adabi

Art Thomae

Eric Child

Carl Arnett

Paul Elerick

Jussie Arias

Eduardo Montecino

Campaign for Sensible Transportation

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Santa Cruz Metro

Granite Construction

Community Bridges

Community Bridges

University of Santa Cruz

Romero Institute