

**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION**  
**Bylaws for Commission Committees**  
**November, 2001**

CREATION OF COMMITTEES

As needs arise, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (Commission) can establish working Committees to serve as advisory bodies to the Commission for any designated length of time. Such Committees will adopt the bylaws below, as approved by the Commission, for rules and procedures.

PURPOSES, POWERS AND DUTIES

A separate attachment describing the purpose, membership, quorum and meeting frequency and location of each authorized Committee is included with these bylaws.

MEMBERSHIP

The Commission shall designate the number of members and affiliations to serve on each Committee at the Commission's pleasure. Committees can include Commissioners and non-Commission members, representatives from other agencies and jurisdictions, and members of the general public as deemed appropriate by the Commission. For each committee, an individual may be appointed to one membership seat only, as either member or alternate.

Appointments

Commissioner appointments to Committees are made by the Commission Chair with the concurrence of the Commission. The Chair shall ensure fair Committee representation by the entities represented on the Commission itself. Non-Commissioner appointments to agency membership slots for Committees are made by the represented agency. Each represented agency shall inform the Commission in writing of its appointment. Appointments of members of the general public to Committees are made by the Commission based on an open application process. Each of the cities and each member of the Board of Supervisors are encouraged to nominate members to the Bicycle Committee and the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee. The nominations are limited to representation for the appointing entity's jurisdiction. The nominations will be considered along with any other applications for the seats to be filled. Current membership lists shall be maintained by the Commission's Executive Director.

Commissioner appointments to committees shall be made annually at the March Commission meeting by the Chair with concurrence of the Commission. When a Commissioner vacancy on a Committee is created, the Commission Chair shall make an interim appointment with concurrence of the Commission at the next meeting.

Alternates

Commissioners' designated alternates shall serve as their alternates on Committees. Alternates for non-

Commissioner committee member seats shall be appointed in the same manner as appointments to the corresponding regular membership slot.

### Vacancies

A vacancy may be created when an appointed member of the Committee misses three consecutive regular meetings without good cause so entered in the minutes. A vacancy shall be created when due to death, disability, or extenuating circumstances, an appointed member can no longer carry out responsibilities; when an appointed member resigns as a Committee member; or when a Commissioner appointed to a Committee resigns from the Commission. Vacancies are to be filled in the same manner as the original appointments were made.

Commission staff shall notify Committee members when they have missed two consecutive meetings without good cause so entered in the minutes, in order to inform them of the potential creation of a vacancy.

For membership slots filled by members of the public, the Commission Executive Director shall advertise the opening on the Commission website and in other manners as to notify the public of the membership opportunity.

The membership structure, including alternates and ex-officio members, of each Committee is included as separate attachments to these bylaws.

### Committee Members Attendance Responsibilities

A Committee Member on a given Committee shall be responsible for contacting his or her Alternate in the event the Committee Member cannot attend a scheduled meeting.

A Committee Member or Alternate on a given Committee shall be responsible for notifying staff 24 hours prior to the meeting that the Alternate will be serving as the representative to that Committee on behalf of the Committee Member or that neither the member nor alternate will be in attendance.

Should a Committee Member comply with the above (contacting the Alternate and notifying staff), in the event the Alternate does not attend the meeting, it will be noted in the minutes that the Committee Member is excused.

Should a Committee Member fail to notify staff that his or her Alternate will be serving as the representative to the Committee, and should the Alternate not be in attendance at the meeting, the Committee Member shall be entered in the minutes as absent without cause and subject to the Vacancies requirement.

### Alternates Attendance Responsibilities

An Alternate shall be required to attend Committee meetings only in the event that his or her Committee Member is unable to attend; however, the Alternate may attend and may participate as a member of the public (but may not vote) at Committee meetings even if the Committee Member is present.

## TERMS OF OFFICE

Commissioners appointed to Committees shall serve a term of one year, and continue to serve until a new appointment is made. Non- Commissioner members of Committees shall serve three year terms. Alternates shall serve a term that coincides with the term of the committee member for whom they are an alternate. Terms of office for all Committee members are renewable by the Commission. At its discretion the Commission may review and change Committee appointments at any time.

## OFFICERS

A Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for each Committee shall be elected to serve for a term of one year. The Committee shall elect its officers at the first meeting following the March SCCRTC meeting of every year. Election shall be by a roll call vote. The Chairperson shall preside at all meetings of the Committee. The Chairperson shall maintain order and decorum at the meetings, decide all questions of order, and announce the Committee's decisions. The Vice Chairperson shall perform the duties of the Chairperson in his or her absence. In the event both officers are absent from the Committee, the majority of quorum may appoint a presiding officer for that meeting. All officers shall continue in their respective offices until their successors have been elected and have assumed office.

## COMMITTEE STAFF

The Executive Director of the Commission shall appoint a staff member to serve as the primary staff to each Committee.

## ORGANIZATION AND PROCEDURES

- a) Meetings. Committee meetings are to be open and public in compliance with the Ralph M. Brown Act (Government Code Section 54950 et seq.). The meetings are to be held in a freely accessible location in order to facilitate the attendance of disabled members of the Committee and community in general. The scheduled meeting time for each committee is listed on the separate attachments. The date, time and place of the meeting may occasionally be changed due to availability of members or timeliness of agenda items.
- b) Quorum. A majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. No official action shall be taken during any Committee meeting at which a quorum is not present. No act of a Committee shall be valid unless a majority of the members present concur therein.
- c) Voting. Voting on all matters shall be on a voice vote unless a roll call vote is requested by any member in attendance. Ex officio members of the Committee shall not be eligible to vote although they may participate freely in any and all discussions of the Committee.

- d) Agenda. Except as otherwise specified, all Committees shall comply with the notice and agenda requirements applicable to the Commission. All issues requiring a vote or Committee discussion must be included on the meeting's agenda. Written materials concerning these items must be included in the agenda packet of the meeting for which that item is scheduled for discussion. A Committee member may request that an issue not on the agenda be put on the next meeting's agenda for discussion and/or vote. By majority vote, the Committee may approve continuation of an agenda item to the next meeting.

Members who wish to place items on the agenda shall notify commission staff and provide appropriate documentation to staff at least two weeks prior to the meeting except for emergency items considered pursuant to requirements of the Brown Act.

- e) Limitation of Discussion. Discussion on any particular matter by either Committee members or by any member of the general public may be limited, at the discretion of the Chairperson, to such length of time as the Chairperson may deem reasonable under the circumstances.
- f) Conduct of Meetings. The meetings are to be conducted in accordance with the principles of Robert's Rules of Order.
- g) Minutes. Official minutes recording the members and visitors present, motions entertained and actions taken at each Committee meeting, shall be prepared by staff and submitted to the Committee for approval and to the Commission for its acceptance.
- h) Oral Communications. A time for Oral Communications will be included on all agendas to hear comments from non-committee members on items not on the Committee agenda but within the jurisdiction of the Committee's business. Permission to address the Committee must first be secured from the Presiding Officer. The general time limit is three minutes, unless more time is granted by the presiding officer. Matters raised during oral communications, or at other times, which require further information or investigation can be referred by the Committee to staff, and if action is required, placed on a future agenda.
- i) Bylaws. The information set forth herein shall be deemed sufficient to serve as the bylaws for the Commission's Committees subject to approval by the Commission. The committee descriptions included in the Commission's Rules and Regulations can be amended by a majority vote of the subject committee's members with approval by the Commission.

## CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

A member of the Commission or its committees is prohibited from participating in a governmental decision, including, but not limited to the making of a contract, in which he or she has a financial interest .