MINUTES
Thursday
January 14, 2010
9:00 a.m.

Santa Cruz City Council Chambers
809 Center St
Santa Cruz CA 95060

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am.

Members present:
Dene Bustichi           Kirby Nicol
Tony Campos            Ellen Pirie
Neal Coonerty          Antonio Rivas
Randy Johnson          Donna Ziel
Don Lane               Donald Hagen (Alt)
John Leopold           Marcela Tavantzis
Aileen Loe (ex officio)

Staff present:
George Dondero         Luis Mendez
Kim Shultz             Yesenia Parra
Karena Pushnik         Gini Pineda
Grace Blakeslee        Daniel Nikuna
Cory Caletti           Rachel Moriconi
Tegan Speiser

2. Oral communications

Rick Longinotti asked the Commission to place consideration of sponsorship for the Housing Within Reach lecture series on its next agenda, saying that the program is in alignment with the spirit of SB 375 and social equity policies and practices that reduce the need for travel. He distributed a flier describing the lecture series.

Jack Nelson said that climate scientist James Hanson said that there could be a runaway climate effect if we continue burning our fossil fuels.
3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

   Executive Director George Dondero said that there were add-on pages for Items 23, 25, 26 and 28 and a replacement page for Item 28.

   **CONSENT AGENDA** (Rivas/Nicol approved unanimously)

   **MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the November 5, 2009 regular SCCRTC meeting

5. Approved draft minutes of the November 19, 2009 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

6. Approved draft minutes of the December 17, 2009 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

7. Accepted draft minutes of the November 19, 2009 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting

8. Accepted draft minutes of the December 8, 2009 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

9. Accepted draft minutes of the December 10, 2009 Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee meeting

10. Accepted draft minutes of the December 14, 2009 Bicycle Committee meeting

11. Accepted draft minutes of the December 17, 2009 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting

   **POLICY ITEMS**

   *No consent items*

   **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

   *No consent items*

   **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

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

13. Approved consultant selection for 2009 Triennial Performance Audit (Resolution 12-10)
14. Approved fiscal year (FY) 09-10 work program and budget amendment (Resolution 13-10)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

15. Approved fiscal year (FY) 10-11 work program format

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

16. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

17. Accepted correspondence log

18. Accepted letters from SCCRTC committees and staff to other agencies
   a. Letter to California Coastal Commission from the Bicycle Committee regarding support for Arana Gulch Master Plan

19. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on SCCRTC projects and transportation issues

20. Accepted information items
   a. Article from The Herald titled “Transportation Agency for Monterey County chooses light rail for rapid transit line”
   b. Letter to SCCRTC from California State Treasurer Bill Lockyer regarding California Transportation Financing Authority

REGULAR AGENDA

21. Commissioner reports- none

22. Director’s report – none

23. Caltrans report and consider action items

    Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, said that the landscaping contract for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project will be awarded soon. Ms. Loe also noted the handout for the transportation planning grants.

24. Highway 1/17 Interchange Merge Lanes Landscaping Project

    Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave a brief staff report and introduced Bryan Parker, Caltrans, who gave a presentation describing the planned landscaping for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project. The project, which had been delayed due to budget constraints, received approval for funding from the California Transportation Commission in October 2009. Mr. Parker described the project limits and challenges when planting in the area. Among the species
of trees included in the plan are 400 native coastal redwoods propagated by Clark Magruder and Luen Miller specifically for this project. Work is anticipated to begin in April 2010.

Commissioner Pirie arrived.

Commissioners discussed the type of irrigation to be used and encouraged Caltrans to hire local residents to work on the project when possible.

The Commission will send a letter to Mr. Magruder and Mr. Miller thanking them for taking the time to plant and provide the coastal redwoods.

25. Draft 2010 state and federal legislative programs and legislative update

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi introduced state legislative assistant John Arriaga. Mr. Arriaga spoke on the new legislative session, the $20 billion state budget deficit and the “gas tax swap” proposed by the governor to divert revenues to the general fund.

Ms. Moriconi said that a main focus of the state legislative program is protecting transportation funds. Congress is considering the Jobs for Main Street Act which could fund “ready to go” road and transit projects. Ms. Moriconi noted changes made to the draft legislative agenda since it was presented to the RTC in December.

Commissioner Pirie asked that language supporting legislation that would allow the County of Santa Cruz to pursue a sales tax measure for local transportation improvements be put back into the draft agenda.

Commissioner Rivas suggested changing the language of Item 2 of the federal legislative program to read: “Support efforts to included increased federal highway and transit funding in any federal proposals designed to reduce local unemployment”.

Commissioner Nicol moved to approve the staff recommendations and the amendments suggested by Commissioners Pirie and Rivas. Commissioner Lane seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Receive a verbal report from the RTC’s Sacramento Legislative Assistant;
2. Receive verbal updates on the State Budget and federal jobs bills and take action, if necessary; and
3. Adopt the 2010 State and Federal Legislative Programs, as amended.

Jack Nelson said that he supported increasing gas taxes but not vehicle registration fees because people driving fuel efficient cars were charged as much as those driving gas guzzlers.
The motion passed unanimously.

26. **10:00 AM Public hearing - Adoption of the 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi said that the only new funding available in the 2010 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Santa Cruz County is $1.1 million of Transportation Enhancement funds. These funds are restricted for use on projects such as pedestrian and bicycle facilities, scenic land acquisitions and landscaping beyond required project mitigations. Ms. Moriconi reviewed the Commission’s approval to direct these funds to the Broadway/Brommer Multiuse Path. In addition, the RTC has an unprogrammed balance of $3.5 million. Although it is unlikely that the state will allow the RTC to access the funds, it is recommended that the RTC request the funds.

Commissioners discussed the lawsuit to defend the final environmental document for the Highway 1 Auxiliary lanes project, expressing the hope that it will be resolved quickly, and suggesting a closed session for the next meeting to consider the possibility of joining the litigation. Commissioners also discussed costs and construction details of the Broadway/Brommer Multiuse Path.

Chair Johnson opened the floor to the public hearing.

**Paul Shoehammer** supported funding the Broadway/Brommer project saying that it promotes biking and walking, is supported by seniors and that the Department of Fish and Wildlife concluded that the path will not hurt the endangered tar plant and its habitat.

**Michael Burns** said it is hard to ride on the dirt path and that the multiuse path would be safer.

**Jean Brocklebank** objected to funding the multiuse path saying that the planned bridge will be invasive to the habitat and that the money would be better spent on bike racks and cyclist education.

**Steve McCabe** said that he is a research botanist who opposes funding the multiuse path because the project endangers the tar plant.

**Carolyn Jett** said that the Broadway/Brommer path would help to connect great biking streets and make it easier to use alternate transportation modes.

**Kem Akol** said the Broadway/Brommer project will increase bicycle usage.

**Kirby Fosgate** supported the path saying it makes it safe to travel from Broadway to Brommer St.

**Paul Hempstead** supported the path as a safer alternative for cyclists.
Charlie Dixon supported the path noting that the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee said that this would be the only path providing access for the mobility impaired.

Cary Friedman said that other routes between Live Oak and downtown are not safe for cyclists.

Holly Tyler said there has been sufficient review for this project which was a high priority in the 80’s and is still good idea.

Reed Searle commented on the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes lawsuit saying that a settlement would be great and would reduce costs.

Micah Posner said that the path will have an exponential effect on getting people to ride bikes and walk.

Jack Nelson said that he used to be a county planner and is familiar with the tar plant, but that bike use needs to be increased and he thinks the environmental document shows that the plant will not be hurt.

Kyle Waites said that he is involved in the Arana Gulch cleanup and that the bridges are longer than being reported. He said that this project would promote more loitering and garbage will be thrown off the bridges.

Celia Scott asked about the status of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes project lawsuit and suggested that a decision on funding the Broadway/Brommer path wait until the Coastal Commission makes its decision on whether to approve the project.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Campos seconded to approve the combination of recommendations from its advisory committees and staff to adopt the 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to:

1. Program $1.1 million in projected State Transportation Improvement Program Transportation Enhancement (STIP TE) funds to the Broadway-Brommer Multi-Use Path for construction;
2. Program $925,000 in additional STIP funds for federally mandated planning, programming and monitoring (PPM) activities from FY 10/11 to 14/15; and
3. Make changes to several previously programmed projects, which include shifting funds between projects, updating project schedules, and modifying project scope.
4. Program $1.45 million in additional STIP funds to the Highway 1 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project for the environmental review phase; and
5. Program $500,000 in additional STIP funds to the Highway 1 Soquel – Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project to help defend a challenge to the final environmental documents, and authorize use of $326,000 in previously reserved Regional Surface Transportation Exchange Program (RSTPX) funds for these cost increases if the CTC does not approve this supplemental allocation of STIP funds.

6. Hold a public hearing to receive comments on the proposed 2010 RTIP and consider any written comments received (to be distributed at the meeting);

7. Approve a resolution adopting the proposed 2010 RTIP with the recommendations listed above;

8. Amend the FY09/10 RTC Budget to reflect changes for Regional Surface Transportation Exchange Program (RSTPX) funded-projects; and

9. Request that the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and California Transportation Commission (CTC) incorporate these amendments into the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) respectively.

After further discussion of the funding for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes environmental document legal challenge and details of the Broadway/Brommer multiuse path, Commissioner Campos called the question.

The motion (Resolutions 14-10 and 15-10) passed unanimously.

27. FY 09/10 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 allocation claim from the City of Santa Cruz for bicycle and pedestrian improvement projects

Senior Planner Cory Caletti presented the staff report and introduced Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Public Works, who provided details about the projects to be funded.

Commissioner Lane moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the Bicycle Committee, the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a resolution approving the City of Santa Cruz FY 09/10 Transportation Development Act Article 8 allocation claim for $96,000 for the following projects:

1. Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements ($20,000);
2. Bicycle Parking Program ($1,000); and
3. Branciforte Creek Bike/Pedestrian Bridge ($75,000).

The motion (Resolution 16-10) passed unanimously.

28. Sustainable Transportation and Access Rating System (STARS) Technical Advisory Committee

The Commission recessed at 11:13 am.
The Commission reconvened 11:23 am.

Executive Director George Dondero said that the committee would be in place from now until October and would advise the Commission about which STARS credits to develop. He said that the proposed group represents a broad spectrum of interest and a degree of technical knowledge.

Commissioners discussed the composition of the committee including potential additional representation from Watsonville and a community group.

Commissioner Bustichi moved and Commissioner Campos seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the proposed Sustainable Transportation and Access Rating System (STARS) Technical Advisory Committee to assist the project development team and the RTC in the development of credits and their applications to the Highway 1 High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes project.

Commissioner Pirie asked the maker to include the provision that staff would return with two additional committee members: one to represent an organization based in Watsonville and one to represent a community group.

**Jack Nelson** asked if the meetings will be open to the public and said he is concerned about balance and would like to see someone concerned about climate change on the committee.

George Dondero said that the meetings will be publicly noticed and that there will be time for public comment.

**Paul Elerick** suggested adding someone from the Sierra Club.

**Micah Posner** suggested adding people who are skeptical of the widening project.

The motion, as amended, passed unanimously.

29. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 11:50am.

**CLOSED SESSION**

30. Conference with Real Property Negotiator for acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Property: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line from Watsonville Junction to Davenport

   Agency Negotiator: Kirk Trost, Miller Owen & Trost

   Negotiation Parties: SCCRTC, Union Pacific
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

OPEN SESSION

31. Report on closed session - none

32. Next Meetings

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 pm.

There is no Transportation Policy Workshop meeting scheduled for January.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 4, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St, Watsonville CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

B Selvidge
Jack Nelson
Les White SCMTD
Randy DeShazo AMBAG
Celia Scott
Reed Searle
Jean Brocklebank
Kirby Fosgate
Kem Akol
Carolyn Jett Greenways to School
Cary Friedman
Holly Tyler
Rick Longinotti
Paul Shoehammer
Michael Burns
Steve McCage
Paul Hempstead
Charlie Dixon
Micah Posner
Kyle Waites
Chris Schneiter City of Santa Cruz Public Works