1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:08 am.

Members present:
Tony Campos  Randy Johnson
Neal Coonerty  Don Lane
Ron Graves  Kirby Nicol
Donald Hagen (Alt)  Ellen Pirie
Michelle Hinkle (Alt)  Antonio Rivas
Rich Krumholz (ex officio)  Mark Stone

Member absent:  John Leopold

Staff present:
George Dondero  Luis Mendez
Kim Shultz  Yesenia Parra
Gini Pineda  Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson said that a tiny one watt light bulb, when used by hundreds of millions of people, will generate energy that will eventually warm the ocean and melt the ice sheets, causing sea levels to rise.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said that there were add-on pages for Items 6 and 15 and that copies of the February 4th Good Times were
distributed. He asked to pull Item 6 from the consent agenda. Chair Johnson said that it would be taken prior to Item 14 on the regular agenda.

Commission Alternate Hagen said that Cabrillo College is struggling to pay for its bus pass subsidies and asked if the RTC could help. George Dondero said that staff will research the request.

CONSENT AGENDA (Pirie/Rivas) approved unanimously as amended

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the January 14, 2010 regular commission meeting

5. Accepted draft minutes of the January 21, 2010 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS


BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

8. Accepted FY08-09 fiscal audit for the SCCRTC

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

No consent items

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

9. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

10. Accepted correspondence log

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

   a. Letter to the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District from the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee regarding the draft Title VI policy/programs and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise goals
b. Letter to the California Coastal Commission from RTC Executive Director George Dondero regarding support for the Arana Gulch Master Plan

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

13. Accepted information items
   b. Excerpt from San Jose Mercury of December 20, 2009 titled “I-880 - the road we love to hate: Mr. Roadshow’s Dirty Dozen”

REGULAR AGENDA

13.1 Approve staff recommendation regarding the Sustainable Transportation and Access Rating System (STARS) Technical Advisory Committee – removed from consent agenda – Taken out of Order from the Consent Agenda

Executive Director George Dondero said that in addition to the two proposed additional members specified in the written staff report, he proposed a third additional member to the STARS Technical Advisory Committee, Paul Schoellhamer, is well qualified with transportation issues, having served as Chief of Staff for the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Mr. Schoellhamer is interested in joining the committee and lives in south county.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commission Alternate Hagen seconded to approve the staff recommendations to add Lisa Dobbins, J.C. Jack McKellar and Paul Schoellhamer to the STARS Technical Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

14. Commissioner reports

Referring to the Commute Solutions article in the February 4 Good Times magazine, Commissioner Pirie shared that the gas mileage of her Toyota Prius improved 5 miles per gallon after properly inflating an underinflated tire on her car.

15. Director’s report – oral report
   (George Dondero, Executive Director)

Executive Director George Dondero said that the Commute Solutions Program was highlighted as the cover story for the February 4, 2010 Good Times weekly magazine. In addition to giving Commute Solutions the lead article and a cover photo, the issue included a pullout Commuter Resource Guide to be used by readers in the future. All commuters can also enter a drawing for prizes by pledging to improve gas mileage, carpooling or riding the bus one day a week. Mr. Dondero congratulated staff members Tegan Speiser and Nathan Luedtke for working with Good Times staff on the issue and recognized
GT publisher Ron Slack for his commitment to sharing information about local commuting resources.

Mr. Dondero said that he and Commissioner Mark Stone would be attending CalCOG Capitol Day on February 17th in Sacramento. They will meet with legislators to discuss the RTC’s legislative priorities. He reported that he and Deputy Director Luis Mendez met with state Senator Joe Simitian to discuss possible sponsorship of a bill to update the Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE) statute.

16. Welcome new commissioners and solicit committee preferences

(George Dondero, Executive Director)

George Dondero welcomed incoming Commissioner Ron Graves who is one of the three representatives from the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District. He asked that Commissioners wishing to serve on the Budget & Administration /Personnel Committee contact Chair Johnson or Executive Director Dondero by February 12th. In addition, he recommended that the Rail Acquisition Committee be disbanded due to the stage of negotiations, the Commission has had regular closed session and there has not been a need for the Rail Acquisition Committee to meet.

Mr. Dondero thanked outgoing Commissioner Pat Spence for her service.

Commissioner Stone moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Disband the Rail Acquisition Committee, and
2. Ask individual Commissioners to inform the RTC Chair or Executive Director by February 12th of their preferences regarding serving on the RTC’s Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee.

The motion passed unanimously.

17. Caltrans report and consider action items

Rich Krumholz, Caltrans District 5, said that the Caltrans budget is sustained in the proposed FY10-11 state budget and that the gas tax swap would pay for bond debt service and help the general fund. He advised that project sponsors be ready for any additional stimulus money coming from the federal government and noted that the $2.3 billion that California received for rail will mainly be used for new high speed rail projects although some funding will be directed towards upgrading existing Caltrain and inter-city rail lines.

18. Housing within Reach Workshop Series – sponsorship

Executive Director George Dondero said that while the Housing Within Reach workshop series includes a workshop where transportation will be discussed
and is a worthwhile project, the RTC’s budget is already overly impacted; therefore, staff recommends that the RTC not sponsor the workshop series.

**Rick Longinotti** summarized the workshop and emphasized the necessity to improve access to jobs, stores and schools by creating affordable housing so that people are not forced to commute out of the area in order to live in Santa Cruz.

Commissioner Rivas noted that the workshop series was focused on the City of Santa Cruz and did not include the City of Watsonville or the rest of the County and moved to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) not sponsor the Housing within Reach workshop series of Transition Santa Cruz with a donation of $500.00. Commissioner Campos seconded the motion.

The motion passed unanimously.

19. **Programming potential Federal Jobs Bill funds**

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi presented the staff report saying that while it is unclear how much, if any, new funding will be available for projects in Santa Cruz County, it is important for the RTC to select projects to receive projected funds so that project sponsors can meet the tight deadlines. She said that under the best case scenario the RTC could receive as much as $13 million in funding and recommended approving the proposed project ready list. Projects that would be ready to award contracts within a 90-day deadline include paving and road repair projects in each jurisdiction, Phase 2 of the Green Valley Road Rehabilitation project and the Graham Hill Road Improvement project.

Commissioners discussed whether requiring project sponsors to add accessibility improvements to project descriptions would impede projects from being ready within the anticipated 90 day deadline. It was noted that this requirement was recommended only “where appropriate and feasible”.

Chris Schneiter, City of Santa Cruz Public Works, said that projects sponsored by the City of Santa Cruz have already incorporated accessibility improvements as part of the design and the feasibility language in the recommendation would not impede any projects from meeting deadlines.

Commissioner Johnson suggested that the language be changed to “feasible within funding deadlines”.

Commissioner Rivas moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the staff and the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):
1. Distribute the maximum amount anticipated from a potential new stimulus bill to local jurisdictions by population formula toward projects that could be awarded (under contract) within 90 days of enactment of the bill contingent on provisions of the final bill and with totals for each agency to be adjusted proportionally based on the actual amounts of stimulus funds available to the region;

2. Reevaluate projects if the final bill or state actions include less stringent deadlines for award of funds or make additional funding available to the region, in order to ensure that the most appropriate projects in the region receive these new funds;

3. Authorize staff, in consultation with project sponsors, to redirect funds to backup projects, if projects are at risk of missing deadlines established in the bill or by Caltrans or the CTC; and

4. Require project sponsors to add bicycle lanes, cross-walk striping, curbcuts/access ramps, and other accessibility improvements as part of projects, where appropriate and feasible within funding deadlines.

Additional staff recommendations are that the RTC:

1. Approve $12.7 million in projects to receive potential stimulus funds that come directly to the region (est. $5.8 million), plus the region’s formula share of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) stimulus funds that would come through the CTC (est. $6.3 million), plus $575,000 of the region’s unprogrammed STIP balance, distributed to local jurisdiction by population formula as shown in Attachment 1 – Scenario A; and

2. Request that the CTC allocate an additional $2,671,000 in STIP stimulus funds to the Graham Hill Road Safety Project to replace STIP funds currently programmed to the project, as a second priority to road repairs (as requested by County Public Works), if some of the funds flow through the STIP.

Jack Nelson said that he would like to see the RTC provide leadership saying that the Commission was willing to fund millions for Highway 1 but could not spare $500 to sponsor the Housing within Reach workshop series.

The motion passed unanimously.

20. Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project – pre-construction activities

Senior Planner Kim Shultz said that the recommendation before the Commission is in response to the June direction that the RTC become responsible for administering the construction phase of the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project. He said Parsons Brinckerhoff, the construction management consultant, will conduct pre-construction activities associated with administrating the construction phase of the project. He described the project’s budget reductions that would allow for the contract to
be implemented this fiscal year. Mr. Shultz said that a full progress report will be presented at the April RTC meeting.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Lane seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve a resolution authorizing a contract with Parsons Brinckerhoff in the amount of $22,000 to conduct specified preconstruction activities and to amend the FY 2009/2010 Budget to allocate $22,000 in savings from other line items in the Auxiliary Lanes project budget.

The motion (Resolution 17-10) passed unanimously.

21. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The meeting adjourned into closed session at 10:17 am.

CLOSED SESSION

22. Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 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

23. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation. Initiation of litigation to be considered pursuant to subdivision (c) of Government Code Section 54956.9 for one case.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened into open session at 12:05

24. Report on closed session

There was nothing to report.

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 pm.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 18, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC office, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA
The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 4, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St., 5th floor, Santa Cruz, CA

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Jack Nelson  
Joel Staker  
Chris Schneiter  
Rick Longinotti  

Santa Cruz City Public Works