1. Roll call

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

Members present:
Dene Bustichi  John Leopold
Tony Campos    Kirby Nicol
Neal Coonerty  Ellen Pirie
Ron Graves     Antonio Rivas
Randy Johnson  Mark Stone
Don Lane       Marcela Tavantzis
Dave Murray (ex officio)

Staff present:
George Dondero  Luis Mendez
Kim Shultz      Yesenia Parra
Gini Pineda     Grace Blakeslee
Daniel Nikuna   Karena Pushnik
Cory Caletti    Dave Garti

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson said that he thought the discussion of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions in Chapter 6 of the draft 2010 Regional Transportation Plan was inadequate. He said that his main concern is regarding induced demand and increased vehicle miles traveled resulting from the proposed Highway 1 HOV lanes project and the assumption that decreases in GHG from vehicles traveling at optimum speed would offset these increases.
3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondoro said that there were add-on pages for Item 22 and a news release from Caltrans. He said that Item 27 on the closed session would be removed from the agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA (Pirie/Coonerty) Unanimous**

Jack Nelson commented on Item 16b-1 saying that while the article tries to quantify how much GHG emissions are reduced when vehicles travel at optimum speed, it is silent on the effects of induced demand.

**MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the February 4, 2010 regular SCCRTC meeting

5. Approved draft minutes of the February 18, 2010 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

6. Accepted draft minutes of the February 9, 2010 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

7. Accepted draft minutes of the February 11, 2010 Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee meeting

**POLICY ITEMS**

No consent items

**PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

No consent items

**BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

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

9. Approved staff recommendation on Proposition 1B Transit Security Funds for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Resolution 19-10)

**ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

10. Accepted reappointments to the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

11. Accepted meeting schedules for SCCRTC Committees and invite Commissioners to participate
INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

12. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

13. Accepted correspondence log

14. Accepted letters from SCCRTC committees and staff to other agencies - None

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

16. Accepted information items
   a. Article from ACCESS, Fall 2009, Number 35 titled “TOD and Carsharing: A Natural Marriage”
   b. Article from ACCESS, Fall 2009, Number 35 titled “Traffic Congestion and Greenhouse Gases”

REGULAR AGENDA

17. Commissioner reports

   Chair Randy Johnson commended former Commissioner Pat Spence for her service and her dedication to the disabled community. He presented a plaque honoring Ms. Spence which was accepted by Commissioner Campos on her behalf.

18. Appoint Commissioners to Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee

   Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Lane seconded to appoint Commissioners Campos, Stone, Leopold, Rivas, Pirie and Coonerty to the Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee. The motion was approved unanimously.

19. Director’s report

   Executive Director George Dondero said that the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the accompanying Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) have been released. A public hearing will be held at the next Regional Transportation Commission meeting on April 1, 2010 at the Board of Supervisors Chambers. Public comments are due by April 19. The documents are posted to the RTC website at www.sccrtc.org and available at the RTC office and public libraries throughout the county.

20. Caltrans report and consider action items

   Dave Murray, Caltrans District 5, said that landscaping for the Highway 17 Merge Lanes project is scheduled to begin April 1, 2010. He referred to the
Caltrans news release regarding the Adopt-a-Highway program, saying it continues to be a worthwhile and successful program. The program has over 2,500 groups participating in the removal of litter along state highways saving the Department of Transportation over $1 million.

Commissioners discussed the Adopt-a-Highway process.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Rivas about a project on Freedom Boulevard, Mr. Murray said that the transportation management system is a radar system to detect traffic counts and that the project will add sites for data collection.

21. Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 Allocation Claim from the City of Scotts Valley for its citywide sidewalks project

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik presented the staff report and described the Transportation Development Act claim from the City of Scotts Valley. Improvement projects are located on Bean Creek Road near the Scotts Valley Middle School, Vine Hill Rd and other locations within the city.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Campos seconded to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission approve a resolution approving the City of Scott Valley Transportation Development Act Article 8 allocation claim for $93,315 for sidewalk construction projects and/or Americans with Disabilities Act-compliant curb ramps.

A roll call vote was taken and the motion (Resolution 20-10) passed with Commissioners Campos, Coonerty, Johnson, Lane, Leopold, Nicol, Pirie, Rivas and Stone voting “yes”.

22. State and federal legislation

Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report saying that a statewide coalition of local government, transportation and public transit leaders, including the League of California Cities, are proposing a ballot initiative for the November 2010 ballot to protect local government revenues. The measure, named the Local Taxpayer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act, prohibits the state from taking or borrowing local taxpayer funds dedicated to public safety, emergency response, transportation and other vital local government services.

In addition, Ms. Blakeslee said that staff and RTC state legislative assistants were successful in obtaining senate sponsorship for a bill that would modernize SAFE language to expand the list of eligible motorist aid services under the program and authorize the Metropolitan Transportation Commission to place call boxes in state and federal parks. SB 1418 (Wiggins) which was introduced to the state legislature on February 19, 2010 would also allow individual
Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) to increase the SAFE fee by $1 to $2 on vehicles registered within their jurisdictions.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez explained the proposed “gas tax swap” alternatives and the impacts on transit and schools. Mr. Mendez also reviewed the status of federal transportation legislation and a federal jobs bill which passed in the House and is waiting to be taken up in the Senate.

Commissioners discussed whether AMBAG or the RTC would be able to impose the local gas tax included in the legislature’s “gas tax swap” proposal and whether approval of the tax increase would need to be placed on a ballot measure.

Les White described some of the different gas tax swap proposals saying that the major issues are tax rates and how the bills are structured. He said that at this time AMBAG would have to adopt a sustainable building scenario as outlined in SB375 and submit it to the state in order to disburse funds. He encouraged the Commission to question whether the funding stream should go through AMBAG or the RTC.

Commissioners discussed gas costs to consumers, transportation projects conforming to SB375 guidelines, and effects of tax swaps on non-drivers.

Responding to an observation by Commissioner Nicol that the proposed SAFE fee increase from $1 to $2 is a 100% increase, Ms. Blakeslee said that the initial $1 fee was enacted in 1986 and that all funds collected go directly to local SAFE programs.

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

1. Support the Local Tax Payer, Public Safety and Transportation Protection Act proposed for the November 2010 ballot and direct staff to submit letters of support;
2. Accept oral report on other state legislative efforts; and,
3. Accept oral report on federal legislative efforts.

The motion passed with Commissioner Nicol voting “no”.

23. Fiscal Year (FY) 09-10 budget and work program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez reported that the decline in Transportation Development act (TDA) revenues appears to be reaching a plateau and that staff is not proposing reductions to TDA recipients at this time. Mr. Mendez said that there are some changes in the budget due to corrected grant amounts and additional funding for certain items in the budget.
Commissioner Lane moved and Commissioner Stone seconded to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) adopt a resolution approving the amended FY 09-10 Budget and Work Program.

The motion (Resolution 21-10) passed unanimously.

24. Fiscal Year (FY) 10-11 budget and work program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez said that the proposed budget addresses revenue challenges with both continued vigilance of expenditures and additional funding of $484,000 from grant funds secured by the RTC. The FY 10-11 work program continues to implement the RTC’s priorities and on-going projects and also addresses the additional work that must be completed for the recently secured grants.

Mr. Mendez said that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee (B&A/P) recommended reducing apportionments to TDA recipients by the .54% consistent with the estimated amount of TDA revenue reductions, except for Bike to Work and the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, which can maintain FY 09-10 levels of funding by using reserve funds. In the event that TDA revenues do not meet estimates, staff will return to the B&A/P and the RTC with any proposed actions.

Mr. Mendez also said that reserve funds should be higher after carry-over funds are calculated; that staff recommends filling an unfilled ½ time tech position to help address the additional work for the secured grants; that no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) is anticipated for staff; and that there may be increased revenues if there is an increase in SAFE fees and if the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approves a funding request for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds for planning, programming and monitoring activities required of the RTC by state and federal law.

Commissioners discussed how carryover funds affect reserve funds and reimbursing Transportation Development Act funds with the additional STIP funding requested from the CTC.

Commissioner Rivas moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) adopt a resolution approving the proposed FY 10-11 budget and work program.

Commissioners commented on carryover amounts being difficult to ascertain and historical trends showing that there is a precedent for monies to become available from carryovers.
Mr. Mendez noted that while adopting the FY 10-11 budget this early has limitations, it is necessary in order to be included in the AMBAG budget and work program and to provide estimated TDA revenues for recipients to produce their budgets for next year.

Commissioner Pirie asked for updates on both budgets in June and added the recommendation to the motion. Commissioner Tavantzis commented on how the RTC would handle the need for furloughs if the budget required furloughs. Executive Director Dondero responded stating that staff would discuss this if the need was to arise.

The maker and second agreed and the motion (Resolution 22-10) passed unanimously.

25. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 10:30 am.

CLOSED SESSION

26. 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

27. Conference with Labor Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

   Commission Negotiators: George Dondero and Yesenia Parra

   Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit and General Representation Unit

OPEN SESSION

28. Report on closed session

   The Commission reconvened into open session at 12:27 pm. There was nothing to report

29. Adjourn to special meeting of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

   There was no SAFE meeting.
30. Next Meetings

The meeting adjourned at 12:28 pm.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for March 18, 2010 at 9:00 am at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Jack Nelson
Patrick Mulhearn
Les White
Assemblymember Monning
SCMTD