



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

MINUTES

Thursday
June 3, 2010
9:00 a.m.

Watsonville City Council Chambers
275 Main St
Watsonville CA 95066

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 am.

Members present:

Dene Bustichi	John Leopold
Gustavo Gonzalez (Alt)	Kirby Nicol
Andy Schiffrin (Alt)	Ellen Pirie
Ron Graves	Antonio Rivas
Randy Johnson	Donna Ziel (Alt)
Don Lane	Marcela Tavantzis
Aileen Loe (ex officio)	Tony Campos

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra	Gini Pineda
Grace Blakeslee	Karena Pushnik
Kim Shultz	

2. Oral communications

Bill Comfort said that the RTC should ask the California Transportation Commission to only approve funding to preserve the rail line but not to plan on adding passenger service. He said that a recreational dinner train would fail. He also said he was disappointed by a lack of transparency during the acquisition process.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

The closed session was moved to immediately follow the consent agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA (Leopold/Rivas - unanimous)

Responding to a question from Commission Alternate Schiffrin regarding Item 15a, Executive Director George Dondero said that part of the grant would be used to determine a location for an electric charging station. **Andy Hart**, IBEW, said that a location was identified but that other locations were being considered.

Commissioner Tavantzis reported ownership of Santa Cruz County Bank shares and abstained from voting on Item 14. Commission Alternates Gonzalez, Schiffrin and Ziel abstained from voting on Item 4.

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the May 6, 2010 regular SCCRTC meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the May 11, 2010 Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

6. Accepted state legislative updates

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. Accepted second quarter FY 09-10 Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) work program progress report
8. Accepted third quarter FY 09-10 Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) work program progress report
9. Approved FTA Section 5311 Rural Public Transit Program of Projects (Resolution 35-10)
10. Accepted the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee's 2009 committee report

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

11. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY) 09-10 budget and work program amendment (Resolution 36-10)
12. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

13. Approved Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) ancillary benefits participation (Resolutions 37-10, 38-10, 39-10)
14. Approved establishing a bank account with Santa Cruz County Bank (Resolution 40-10)

15. Approved agreement for technical computer services (Resolution 41-10)
- 15a. Approved sponsorship of AB2766 grant application for electric vehicle charging station (Resolution 42-10)

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 the City of Watsonville from the Bicycle Committee regarding support for City of Watsonville urban greening planning grant
 - b. Letter to the SCMTD from the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee regarding SCMTD's FY 10-11 Transportation Development Act claim and service cut proposal
 - c. Letter to the SCMTD from the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee regarding SCMTD's request for input on senior/disabled discount bus pass policy
 - d. Letter to Mary Lou Goecke from the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee regarding support for United Way's 2-1-1
 - e. Letter to Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger from the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee regarding retaining social service funding by closing corporate loopholes
19. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on SCCRTC projects and transportation issues
20. Accept information items - *None*
21. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 9:15 am.

Commissioner Campos arrived.

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

OPEN SESSION

23. Report on closed session

The Commission reconvened into open session at 9:41 am. There was nothing to report.

REGULAR AGENDA

24. Commissioner reports - None

25. Director's report

Executive Director George Dondero reported that the RTC's Commute Solutions program announced its new Cash for Carpools Program which provides a \$25 gas card to commuters who form new carpools. Commute Solutions is also partnering with the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District on a "Dump the Pump" promotion on June 17th that encourages individuals to ride the bus instead of driving alone. Commute Solutions is hosting a Webinar for employers on June 24th from 10:15am-1pm at the RTC conference room titled "Boosting Morale, Performance and Savings via Compressed Work Weeks".

Mr. Dondero said that Commissioners will be contacted soon regarding the RTC's triennial performance audit. He also said that a public hearing to provide input on the visual/aesthetic options for the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project will be held on June 15th.

26. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, announced that the new Caltrans Director is Cindy McKim. Ms. Loe expressed concerns that the governor's proposal to cut Caltrans' budget would negatively impact delivery of projects. She said that full closure for the Highway 9 project between Santa Cruz and Felton would begin Monday, June 7th. She urged people to attend the public meeting regarding Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey aesthetics on June 15th.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Tavantzis, Ms. Loe said that ground has been broken for the Highway 1/Salinas Road project and that no complete road closures are anticipated.

27. Pedestrian Maintenance Report by the Pedestrian Safety Work Group

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik introduced Veronica Elsea, Chair of the RTC's Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee's Pedestrian Safety Work Group, to give a report on local jurisdiction and property owner responsibilities and practices regarding sidewalk maintenance. The report focused on sidewalks as part of the overall transportation system from the

perspective of seniors and people with disabilities. Key findings include the importance of public education and outreach about homeowner responsibilities to keep sidewalks adjacent to their properties in compliance with American with Disabilities Act requirements, and processes for local jurisdiction oversight, tracking and monitoring. The work group will report to the Commission next year on sidewalk maintenance improvement.

Commissioners discussed community outreach. Commissioner Rivas invited the work group to speak to the Watsonville City Council. Commissioner Johnson noted that San Jose notifies residents proactively about sidewalks that are not in compliance saying that outreach and jurisdictional oversight are key to successful sidewalk maintenance. He asked for guidelines and milestones to keep the Commission informed.

Aileen Loe commended the work group and staff and noted that the group had secured an \$85,000 planning grant to conduct the study.

John Dougherty said that one of the rewards from the committee's work is that people are talking about the issue and that changes can be made.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Campos seconded to approve staff, the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and its subcommittee the Pedestrian Safety Work Group recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission accept the subcommittee's report titled "Improving the Safety and Accessibility of Sidewalks in Santa Cruz County: A Study of Jurisdiction and Property Owner Responsibilities and Practices".

The motion carried unanimously.

28. FY 2010-11 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for the Volunteer Center

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik presented the staff report saying that TDA claims are funded by a ¼ cent sales tax and allocated according to the RTC's Rules and Regulations. The City of Santa Cruz acts as claimant for the Volunteer Center. The TDA allocation will fund mileage reimbursement, insurance and administrative costs.

John McGuire said that the Volunteer Center's transportation program provided about 5,520 rides to 233 clients by 76 volunteer drivers in FY 08-09.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission approve by resolution a claim for \$51,754 in FY 2010-11 Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds from the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of the Volunteer Center to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

The motion (Resolution 43-10) passed unanimously with Commissioners Campos, Johnson, Lane, Leopold, Nicol, Pirie, Rivas, Schiffrin and Ziel voting "aye".

29. FY 2010-11 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for Community Bridges

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik said that the TDA claim to fund Community Bridges followed the same guidelines as the process to fund the Volunteer Center.

Sam Storey, CEO of Community Bridges, said that Community Bridges operates Lift Line which provides rides for disabled persons and seniors. In addition to medical transportation services, Community Bridges provides transportation to five senior meal sites, out of county transportation (formerly provided by the Red Cross) and rides for dialysis patients, in addition to administering the Taxi Scrip program.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission approve by resolution a claim for \$488,721 in FY 2010-11 Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds from the City of Santa Cruz on behalf of Community Bridges to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

The motion (Resolution 44-10) passed unanimously with Commissioners Campos, Johnson, Lane, Leopold, Nicol, Pirie, Rivas, Schiffrin and Ziel voting "aye".

Commissioner Rivas departed the meeting.

30. **10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING:** 2010 Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik said that the RTC is holding a public hearing to solicit input on unmet specialized transportation and transit needs in the region. The unmet needs list will be used to assess and prioritize projects and programs as funding becomes available. She added that the 2010 unmet needs list is basically an update from the previous year

The public hearing was opened.

No comment was received and the public hearing was closed.

Commissioners noted that it is ironic to have a state required hearing on unmet transit needs when the state is cutting funds for transit. Commissioners recommended that when resources become available that the unmet needs list

be used as a guide for allocating funds and not use new resources to backfill state projects.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commission Alternate Schiffrin seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Consider public input on unmet specialized transportation and transit needs;
2. Adopt the 2010 Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs List, with revisions as appropriate;
3. Consider the list of unmet needs as funding becomes available.

The motion passed unanimously.

31. FY 2010-11 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim from the RTC for administration, planning and operations

Deputy Director Luis Mendez said that the RTC must submit a claim each year for funds for administration and planning. He said that the claim reflects funds allocated to the RTC based on the Auditor-Controller's revenues estimate.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the staff recommendation that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the Article 3 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim adopting a resolution for \$431,995 in FY2010-11 Article 3 TDA funds for RTC administration services.

The motion (Resolution 45-10) passed unanimously.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the staff recommendation that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim adopting a resolution for \$374,320 in FY2010-11 Article 8 TDA funds for RTC planning services.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Campos, Johnson, Lane, Leopold, Nicol, Pirie, Schiffrin and Ziel voting "aye".

32. Certification of the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report* (FSEIR) and adoption of the *2010 Regional Transportation Plan* (RTP) – Removed from agenda and postponed to the June 17, 2010 Transportation Policy Workshop
33. Adjourn to special meeting of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE)

The Commission adjourned to the SAFE meeting at 10:54 am.

34. Next Meetings

The meeting adjourned at 10:56 am.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 5, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers, 1 Civic Center Dr., Scotts Valley, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Sam Storey
Sharon Sarris
Les White
Cliff Walters
Kirk Ance
Bill Comfort
Andy Hart
John McGuire

Community Bridges
MBEVA
SCMTD
Sierra Railway
Community Bridges

IBEW
Volunteer Center