



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

MINUTES

Thursday
September 2, 2010
9:00 a.m.

Capitola City Council Chambers
420 Capitola Ave
Capitola CA 95010

1. Roll call

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

Members present:

Dene Bustichi	John Leopold
Gustavo Gonzalez (Alt.)	Bob Begun (Alt.)
Andy Schiffrin (Alt.)	Ellen Pirie
Ron Graves	Antonio Rivas
Randy Johnson	Mark Stone
Don Lane	Marcela Tavantzis
Aileen Loe (ex officio)	

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Gini Pineda	Cory Caletti
Karena Pushnik	
Tegan Speiser	

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson referred to an older regional plan for the Aptos area which projected a 43% increase in Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) by 2035 asking what the projection for this growth was based on. He noted that a plan to widen the freeway to eight lanes was quashed and advised the Commission to move in that direction.

Commissioner Bustichi said that information he received from the California Transportation Commission staff states that Proposition 116 funding was approved to purchase the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line to provide passenger service and if the RTC does not or is not able to provide some sort of

passenger service, it will be required to repay either the amount funded or fair market value of the property acquired, whichever is greater.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said that there were no additions to the agenda but that Gary Richards had been delayed in traffic. It was agreed to move Item 18 until Mr. Richards arrived.

CONSENT AGENDA (Pirie/Rivas)

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the August 5, 2010 regular SCCRTC meeting (Commission Alternate Gonzalez abstained)
5. Approved draft minutes of the August 19, 2010 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the August 9, 2010 Bicycle Committee meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the August 10, 2010 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the August 19, 2010 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

No consent items

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

9. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
10. Approved agreement for website development (Resolution 08-11)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

No consent items

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

11. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

12. Accepted correspondence log
13. Accepted letters from SCCRTC committees and staff to other agencies
 - a. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to the City of Santa Cruz regarding Pogonip multi-use trails
 - b. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to the City of Watsonville regarding adding bicycle lanes to the Manabe Ow Specific Plan
14. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on SCCRTC projects and transportation issues
15. Accepted information items - none

REGULAR AGENDA

16. Commissioner reports - oral reports

Commissioner Leopold thanked the Bike Committee for its work reviewing the County's Bike Plan project list. He specifically referred to the recommendation to split the Soquel - San Jose Road Class II bike lanes project into two segments and designating the segment from the 7th Day Adventist Church to Rancho Road as high priority. He indicated that his constituents are interested in the project identified by the Bike Committee.

17. Director's report – oral report

Executive Director George Dondero said that the RTC passed a major milestone yesterday after receiving a report from the STARS consultants stating that all 12 credits could be applied to the Highway 1 HOV Lanes project. He said that the STARS Technical Advisory Committee's next meeting is scheduled for September 15 and they will discuss the 12 credits and how to apply them to the project.

Mr. Dondero met with Community TV to discuss a new ½ hour show to keep the public informed about transportation news and RTC activities. The show will be broadcast quarterly.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez will be participating in Leadership Santa Cruz County beginning next month.

Ron Graves welcomed the Commission to Capitola.

18. Honor Gary Richards, *San Jose Mercury News*' "Mr. Roadshow", recognized as Man of the Year by the California Transportation Foundation - Taken after item 20

Executive Director George Dondero, RTC Commissioners and Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) Executive Director Debbie Hale recognized Gary Richards, reporter at the *San Jose Mercury News* and also known as "Mr. Roadshow," for being awarded the California Transportation Foundation's Person of the Year. The RTC, along with TAMC, nominated Mr. Richards for the award to pay tribute to the valuable public service provided by his "Mr. Roadshow" columns and articles which cover a wide range of transportation related topics, provide an understanding of complex transportation related issues, and answer a fraction of the approximately 1,000 comments he receives each week.

Mr. Richards said that he loves being "Mr. Roadshow" and helping people who don't know where to get answers to transportation related problems. He said people still appreciate getting an answer even if it is not the one they want.

19. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, said that the project report is up to date. She said that the state budget impasse is very serious and that \$3 billion worth of projects are stalled. Further delays could mean suspending contracts.

Responding to a question from Commission Alternate Schiffrin, Ms. Loe said that she will provide the Commission with a written update regarding the progress of the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project landscaping. Senior Planner Karena Pushnik added that the irrigation has been installed.

20. 511 Traveler Information System video and survey

Senior Planner Tegan Speiser reported the most recent developments regarding the proposed 511 Traveler Information System for Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties. Ms. Speiser said that in preparation for a feasibility study, a request for public comments on possible components of the 511 system is being requested. This input from local residents and travelers to Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties will help tailor the program to fit the needs of the local community. A video and survey to provide input are available at www.511montereybay.org. Survey responses will be accepted through the month of September. In addition to the survey, two community meetings are being held today in Aptos and Salinas. Ms. Speiser said that a consultant to develop the feasibility study will be selected early next year.

In addition to the feasibility study, the implementation plan includes deciding how to utilize existing resources, determining gaps in data, coordinating with existing 511 systems and with telecommunications carriers, a business plan, a marketing plan and follow up.

George Dondero said that in this economy optimizing existing infrastructure is appealing.

Commissioners' concerns include the lack of alternate routes in Santa Cruz County compared to the Bay Area, the fact that cell phones can provide road conditions and funding for the system.

Ms. Speiser said that 511 systems provides more than alternate routes and enjoy a great deal of customer satisfaction because using the system can also help a traveler decide whether to postpone a trip or choose an alternate mode of travel. She said that some 511 systems have sponsors and that the business plan would provide funding scenarios. Mr. Dondero added that many tourists to our area are familiar with 511 systems and would like to be able to know what travel conditions are here in Santa Cruz.

Commissioner Rivas invited Ms. Speiser to make her presentation to the Watsonville City Council.

Debbie Hale, TAMC, thanked the Commission for partnering on this project and noted that when driving it is safer to get voice commands using a 511 system than to depend on a visual aid from a cell phone.

21. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 10:20 am.

CLOSED SESSION

22. Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 relating to the freight easement: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line from Watsonville Junction to Davenport

Agency Negotiator: Kirk Trost, Miller Owen & Trost

Negotiation Parties: SCCRTC, Sierra Northern Railway

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

OPEN SESSION

The Commission reconvened into open session at 11:05 am

23. Report on closed session

There was nothing to report.

24. Adjourn to special meeting of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies – no items

25. Next Meetings

The meeting adjourned at 11:08 am

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 16, 2010 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 7, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St., Watsonville CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Mike Keogh
Jack Nelson
Debbie Hale
Gary Richards
Cliff Walters
Bill Comfort
Dan Herron

TAMC
Mercury News
Sierra Northern Railroad

Caltrans