



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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### MINUTES

Thursday  
March 3, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean St  
Santa Cruz CA 95060

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

Members present:

Greg Caput	Kirby Nicol
Neal Coonerty	Eduardo Montesino
Donald Hagen	Robin Musitelli (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Lynn Robinson
Don Lane	Mark Stone
John Leopold	Aileen Loe (ex officio)

Member absent: Dene Bustichi

Staff present:

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

2. Oral communications

**Jack Nelson** said that studies show that people who remain active as they age can reduce memory loss associated with the aging process. He said that bike riding was a great way to stay active.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said Item 12 on the agenda was removed from the consent agenda. He noted add-on pages for Item 19 and a handout for Item 24, and that there would be no closed session. He said that staff was asked to request that the Commission move Item 10 from the consent agenda

to the regular agenda. Chair Stone moved Item 10 and designated it as Item 29.1 on the regular agenda.

**CONSENT AGENDA** (Leopold/Nicol unanimous)

Lupe Lima, Lima Towing, commented on the February 3, 2011 SAFE minutes. She said that she disagreed with the reference that Ladd's Towing was a better operator than Lima Towing and that Lima Towing's Santa Clara references would disagree with this assessment as well. She said that the cost estimates in her bid were not "problematic" because her drivers are experienced and certified and know how to estimate time and fuel expenses. She noted that her trucks are paid off and that she has a truck with towing components which can be placed on a new chassis and that this could save about \$20,000.

**MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the regular February 3, 2011 SCCRTC meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the February 3, 2011 Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the January 27, 2011 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the February 3, 2011 Budget & Administration / Personnel Committee special meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the February 8, 2011 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
9. Accepted draft minutes of the February 17, 2011 Budget & Administration / Personnel Committee meeting

**POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

**PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

10. Approve amendments to the *Regional Transportation Improvement Program* (RTIP) - Moved to the regular agenda as Item 29.1
11. Approved recommendation on Proposition 1B Transit Security Funds (Resolution 19-11)
12. Accept *State Route 1 Corridor System Management Plan* (CSMP)- removed from agenda

13. Approved Caltrans Transportation Planning Grant applications FY11-12 (Resolution 20-11)

14. Accepted Rail Corridor Acquisition Commemoration

### **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

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

### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

*No consent items*

### **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 from Bicycle Committee to City of Santa Cruz regarding bicycle facilities at the proposed Market Street housing development
- b. Letter from Bicycle Committee to City of Santa Cruz regarding bicycle license ordinance
- c. Letter from Bicycle Committee to the Office of Traffic Safety regarding support for the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency 2012 Office of Traffic Safety grant

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

20. Accepted information items

- a. Report from Katie LeBaron, Traffic Safety Programs Coordinator, regarding the South County Bike and Pedestrian Work Group of the Community Traffic Safety Coalition
- b. Letter from US Representative Anna Eshoo to the RTC regarding the ban on earmarks

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

21. Commissioner reports- none

22. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Daniel Kostelec, outgoing Bicycle Committee Chair

Chair Stone presented a certificate of appreciation to Daniel Kostalec who represented the City of Capitola on the RTC Bicycle Committee since April 2002 and served as Committee Chair since April 2005. Mr. Kostalec was cited for riding his bike to and from work for over 12 years and for being an advocate for the cycling community.

Mr. Kostalec thanked the Commission, other committee members and RTC staff saying that the work the committee accomplished was due to a team effort. He mentioned that Santa Fe, New Mexico developed a commuter rail system between Santa Fe and Albuquerque that incorporates Class 1 bike paths.

23. Presentation of Certificate of Appreciation to Senior Planner Karena Pushnik for 20 years of outstanding service to the RTC

Executive Director George Dondero presented Senior Planner Karena Pushnik with a certificate for 20 years of outstanding public service to the RTC and the community; professionalism representing the RTC as public information coordinator; genuine passion for improving transportation for seniors and people with disabilities; and superior leadership on numerous diverse projects including the rideshare program, the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project, the Transportation Funding Task Force, rail projects and as co-host of the Transportation Café television show.

Mr. Dondero added that Ms. Pushnik also developed a pedestrian access report considered a model around the state.

Ms. Pushnik said that her work with the RTC has been rewarding and fulfilling, thanked her co-workers and said that she was honored to carry the RTC mission to provide transportation choices that are safe, convenient, reliable and efficient.

24. Director's report – oral report

George Dondero announced that a free Community Pedestrian Safety Workshop will be held on Saturday, March 26, 2011 from 10am-2pm at the Mintie White elementary school, 515 Palm St., Watsonville. The workshop is designed to include the public in developing strategies to promote a safe walking environment. The bi-lingual event will provide lunch and childcare. RSVP by March 18<sup>th</sup> to Sarah Harmon at 831 454 5418 or at [SCBPWG@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:SCBPWG@co.santa-cruz.ca.us).

Mr. Dondero said that the Toyota Corporation had given the RTC a Plug-in Prius to test drive for 30 days in order to collect data before it goes to market. He said that RTC state legislative consultants Steve Schnaidt and John Arriaga will provide an update on legislation and the state budget at the TPW meeting scheduled for March 17<sup>th</sup>. In addition, Mr. Dondero noted that the third episode of the Transportation Café was taped on February 28<sup>th</sup> and is available anytime

on the Community TV website. He also reported on the status of the rail acquisition including an estimated timeline to close escrow.

25. Appointment of Commissioners to the Budget and Administration Personnel Committee

Commissioner Stone recommended that Eduardo Montesino be nominated to the Budget and Administration Personnel Committee and said that he and Commissioners Caput, Coonerty, Leopold and Pirie wanted to remain on the Committee.

Commissioner Robinson indicated that she would like to serve on the committee.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Nicol seconded to appoint Commissioners Caput, Coonerty, Leopold, Montesino, Pirie and Stone to the Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

26. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, congratulated Senior Planner Karena Pushnik and introduced Brandy Rider who will manage the north region of District 5.

Dan Herron, Caltrans District 5, gave a presentation on recently completed, current and future transportation projects. Completed projects include the landscaping for the Highway 17 Merge Lanes project which will continue to be maintained by Caltrans through 2013; a retaining wall along Highway 9 near Santa Cruz; and an overlay project on Highway 9. Projects under construction include the Highway 1/Salinas Road interchange scheduled for completion in summer 2013; guardrail projects on Highway 17; and a traffic monitoring system on Highway 1 in south county. Future and potential projects include the Highway 1 Soquel to Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes and HOV Lanes projects; the San Lorenzo River Bridge widening and the Harkins Slough interchange. The report noted Caltrans planning grants and transit grants and that Caltrans partnered with the RTC to secure funding for the Rail Acquisition Project.

27. Amendments to the fiscal year FY10-11 budget and work program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez said the proposed FY 10-11 budget amendments, approved by the Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee, correct the distribution calculations for Transportation Development Act (TDA) fund apportionments, redistribute resources within the planning budget to reflect work trends and apply Sustainable Transportation Access Rating System (STARS) to the 2012 RTP, carry over the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes construction to the next fiscal year, allocate an additional \$60,000 in state Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) funds to the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes final design and make other revisions. Mr. Mendez also noted that the budget allows for a satellite office in Watsonville in order to

better serve the needs of south county residents.

Commissioner Nicol moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the Budget and Administration Personnel (B&A/P) Committee and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Approve the FY 10-11 Budget and Work Program as amended and shown on Exhibit A of Attachment 1;
2. Approve the exchange of federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for the state Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange (X) funds for the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program and the allocation of \$60,000 in new state RSTPX funds for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes project final design;
3. Take advantage of the opportunity to open a satellite office in Watsonville; and
4. Authorize the Executive Director to submit grant applications for funds to apply the Sustainable Transportation Access Rating System (STARS) to the 2012 RTP.

The motion (Resolution 21-11) was approved unanimously.

## 28. Fiscal Year FY11-12 Preliminary Budget and Work Program

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented an overview of the FY11-12 budget and work program, noting indications of a slowly improving economy and that actual and estimated Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues were increasing. The FY11-12 budget increases TDA revenue apportionments to all recipients about 5% consistent with the estimated increase in revenues. However, the percentage increase in TDA apportionments for Ecology Action's Bike to Work Program and the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency's Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) is significantly greater as requested by them and recommended by the Budget and Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee.

Commissioners discussed whether to increase TDA apportionments for Bike to Work and CTSC as recommended while the economy is still unstable. It was noted that the budget, if approved, could be amended if there were a reversal in revenue trends and that both programs were growing.

**Katie LeBaron**, Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency, said that the CTSC had been budgeted for \$100,000 until FY 08-09 and it was reduced to \$86,000 in FY 10-11. The request for the FY11-12 budget proposes a reinstatement to former funding levels. She said the funds will increase the CTSC's capacity to promote traffic safety especially in its outreach to schools.

**Micah Posner** said he gets frequent calls about bike safety issues and people wanting helmets and that he refers these calls to the CTSC.

**Jack Nelson** said that climate change is a serious problem and that the Commission is responsible for supporting sustainable transportation. He said that supporting biking is "truth in advertising" in that the Commission would be living up to its mission.

**Aldo Giacchino** said that funding for a bike trail along the rail line should move into FY11-12 and suggested shifting funding for a multi-use trail through Arena Gulch to develop a trail along the rail right-of-way.

**Jean Brocklebank** said that beginning work on a rail trail corridor should be included in the FY11-12 budget.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the draft preliminary FY 11-12 Budget and Work Program with revisions as appropriate.

Commissioners asked whether this preliminary budget will return to the Commission later to become a final budget. Staff clarified that if the Commission approves this budget today, it will be the effective budget for FY 11-12 until it is amended in the fall as is normally done by the Commission.

Commissioner Caput requested to bring the item back to the next meeting.

Commissioners Johnson and Nicol said that it was the wrong time to increase spending.

Commissioner Stone called the question.

The motion (Resolution 22-11) passed with Commissioners Hagen, Caput, Johnson and Nicol voting "no".

Commissioners Stone and Leopold departed the meeting and Commissioner Nicol assumed the position of chair.

## 29. Draft Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik presented the draft Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan, saying that RTC staff worked with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) in developing the plan, along with Monterey and San Benito Counties. The plan is designed to encourage public involvement in transportation planning. A 45-day review period began when AMBAG released the document on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The document specifically outlines the public participation practices in use by each of the partner agencies. The plan is located on the AMBAG website at [http://ambag.org/programs/met\\_transp\\_plann/reports/draft\\_PPP%20update.pdf](http://ambag.org/programs/met_transp_plann/reports/draft_PPP%20update.pdf).

29.1 Approve amendments to the *Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)* (Resolution) – Formerly Item 10

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi explained the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) process saying that if projects don't request release of funds in the year they are programmed, the funds could lapse from the project and from the region as a whole, unless the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approves shifting the funding out a year. She said that there are four projects that want to shift funding out a year. Staff is also seeking an allocation extension for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Construction project. If the RTC does not approve the recommendations, funds will lapse to the next STIP cycle.

**Jean Brocklebank** said that the Broadway/Brommer project should not be reprogrammed because delays to the project are not unexpected and it is disingenuous to claim that they are. She recommended funding for the rail trail corridor instead.

**Micah Posner** said that both Broadway/Brommer project and development of a trail along the rail right-of-way should be supported because they serve different vectors and populations, that people want access to nice open spaces and that most environmentalists support the Broadway/Brommer project.

**Aldo Giacchino** advised taking the money for the Broadway/Brommer project and transferring it to an equivalent project, such as a trail along the rail right-of-way.

**Paul Schoellhamer** said that building the Broadway/Brommer project leverages existing pedestrian/bike facilities already in place and also helps reduce greenhouse gas emissions. He said the project has already completed all its environmental requirements and enjoys huge public support.

**Jim Danaher** said that reallocating funding for Broadway/Brommer will send the wrong message to the Coastal Commission.

**Jack Nelson** said that the tar plant has other populations in other parts of the county and supports funding Broadway/Brommer.

**Dave Reed** supports funding Broadway/Brommer.

**Charlie Dixon** supports funding Broadway/Brommer and added that the project allows access to disabled persons to the greenbelt. He said the project is endorsed by the AARP.

**Holly Tyler** supports funding Broadway/Brommer saying there is overwhelming support in Live Oak.

**Grolman Sheen** said the Broadway/Brommer project will encourage cyclists and is not redundant to a rail trail.

Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works, clarified two misconceptions about the Broadway/Brommer project: US Fish and Wildlife issued an opinion stating that the project will protect the tar plant, and that there is no Coastal Commission restriction to wait 5 years before beginning the project.

**Shalom Compost** supports funding Broadway/Brommer.

Commissioner Coonerty moved and Commissioner Robinson seconded the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Approve the attached a resolution amending the *2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* to reflect current schedules for the following State Transportation Improvement Program-funded projects:
  - a. Broadway-Brommer Bicycle/Pedestrian Path
  - b. Calabasas Road Widening, Bicycle Lanes and Sidewalks
  - c. Highway 1/Harkins Slough Road Interchange
  - d. Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST);
2. Request that the California Transportation Commission and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) respectively amend the *State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)* and *Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)* to reflect these schedule changes; and,
3. Request that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approve a State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) allocation extension for the following project programmed in FY10/11: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Construction.

After discussion the motion (Resolution 23-11) passed unanimously.

30. Adjourn to special meeting of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies
  - a. No agenda items this month
31. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

**CLOSED SESSION** - removed from agenda

32. 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**

33. Report on closed session
34. Next Meetings

The meeting adjourned at 11:31am.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next regular SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Capitola City Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

#### **ATTENDEES**

Dan Herron  
Angela Aitken  
Lupe Lima  
Daniel Kostalec  
Paul Schoellhamer  
David Casterson  
Jack Nelson  
Jim Danaher  
Jean Brocklebank  
Aldo Giacchino  
Mark Dettle  
Kate LeBaron  
Chris Schneiter  
Linda Meckel  
William Menchine  
Holly Tyler  
Charlie Dixon  
Shalom Compost  
Micah Posner  
Dave Reed  
Grolman Sheen

Caltrans  
SCMTD  
Lima Towing

Santa Cruz City Public Works  
HSA  
Santa Cruz City Public Works  
AMBAG