



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

MINUTES

Thursday
April 7, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Cit of Capitola Chambers
420 Capitola Avenue
Capitola CA 95010

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 am.

Members present:

Greg Caput	Eduardo Montesino
Neal Coonerty	Kirby Nicol
Daniel Dodge	Ellen Pirie
Donald Hagen	Lynn Robinson
Donna Lind (Alt)	Mark Stone
Don Lane	Aileen Loe (ex officio)
John Leopold	

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Gini Pineda	Yesenia Parra
Karena Pushnik	Rachel Moriconi
Cory Caletti	Grace Blakeslee
Ginger Dykaar	

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson referred to a book titled "Mistakes Were Made (but not by me)" by Elliot Aronson adding that Japan is suffering the consequences of ignoring a problem with a nuclear reactor. Mr. Nelson also mentioned "With Speed and Violence: Why Scientists Fear Tipping Points in Climate Change" that says climate change will put places like Santa Cruz under water.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said that there were handouts for Items 19, 20 and 21.

Commissioner Nicol asked to pull Items 8 and 10 from the consent agenda. Chair Stone designated them as 24.1 and 24.2 respectively.

CONSENT AGENDA (Pirie/Leopold as amended)

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the March 3, 2011 regular SCCRTC meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the March 17, 2011 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the February 15, 2011 Bicycle Committee meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the March 17, 2011 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

No consent items

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

8. Accept status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues – Removed from consent agenda
9. Accepted semi-annual internal financial report (enclosed separately for Commissioners)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

10. Accept recommendation for the reappointment of representatives to the California Association of Councils of Governments (CalCOG) and the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) - Removed from consent agenda
11. Approved Bicycle Committee membership appointments
12. Approved Memoranda of Understanding extensions

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

13. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

14. Accepted correspondence log
15. Accepted letters from SCCRTC committees and staff to other agencies
 - a. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to Caltrans District 5 Local Assistance regarding support for the City of Capitola's Bicycle Transportation Account
 - b. Letter from the Bicycle Committee to Caltrans District 5 Local Assistance regarding support for the City of Santa Cruz' Bicycle Transportation Account
 - c. Letter from RTC to Caltrans Bicycle Facilities Unit regarding certification of 2011 Santa Cruz County Bicycle Plan
16. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on SCCRTC projects and transportation issues - None
17. Accepted information items - None

REGULAR AGENDA

18. Commissioner reports-none
19. Director's report – oral report

Executive Director George Dondero reported that the Pedestrian Safety Workshop held in Watsonville on March 25th was a success with about 25 attendees. He thanked Commissioners Caput, Montesino and Dodge for participating in the workshop.

Mr. Dondero announced that the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network project is officially underway now that the notice to proceed was issued to RRM Design Group, the firm selected to conduct the Master Plan and Environmental Review for the project.

In addition, Mr. Dondero said that the Watsonville satellite office is almost ready for use and that the 511 Traveler Information Systems project had a kick-off meeting last Tuesday which was well-attended.

20. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, said that state bond sales are critical to funding the auxiliary lanes. Ms. Loe reported that Highway 1 at Big Sur should be open by the end of April and noted that April is Safety Awareness Month.

Dan Herron, Caltrans District 5, presented a PowerPoint describing a concrete barrier safety project which will be constructed on Highway 1 between the pedestrian overcrossing near Mission Street and the railroad tracks near the Harvey West area. The purpose of the project is to prevent cross-median collisions and is scheduled to start construction in mid-January 2012. The project will also include minor drainage improvements and improve the

shoulder in some locations. The estimated project construction cost is \$1,365,500, not including support costs.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Leopold, Mr. Herron said that Caltrans is responsible for graffiti removal.

21. Presentation on Salinas Road Interchange by Debbie Hale, Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC)

Debbie Hale, Executive Director of the Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), made a presentation on the status of construction of the new interchange at Salinas Road and Highway 1, just south of Watsonville and the Santa Cruz county line. The new interchange consists of a 3 lane bridge-structure (Salinas Road) over Highway 1 with on-and off-ramps. This project will make vital safety improvements to an interchange with high collision rates, reduce delays for 43,000 vehicles that travel the corridor daily, and support interregional travel between Highways 1 and 101. Construction is scheduled to be complete in July 2013.

Commissioners expressed support for the safety project.

22. Presentation from City of Capitola Public Works

Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works Director, gave an update on recently completed, current and future transportation projects. In addition to addressing recent storm damage, the Public Works department has been working on RTC-funded improvements to 38th Avenue near Capitola Road to add a new sidewalk, bicycle lanes, and reconstruct the roadway, as well as several traffic calming projects. In addition, plans are underway for a parking structure in the Pacific Cove parking lot that would have the uppermost level at the same level as the rail line, with the possibility of a rail station in the future.

23. Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line acquisition project

Deputy Director Luis Mendez gave a status report detailing the steps necessary to complete the purchase since obtaining funding approval from the state in January. The steps include approval by the federal Surface Transportation Board (STB). He noted that Caltrans approval had been completed. Close of escrow is dependent on receipt of the STB ruling. A community commemoration event will be held after the purchase is complete.

Mr. Mendez said that Sierra Northern is working on the washout in the Aptos area and that RTC staff has been out to inspect the slide off Buena Vista. Full service should resume in 2-3 weeks.

Jack Nelson said the acquisition is exciting and hopes that planning for bike trails will begin soon.

Peter Haworth asked if the \$5 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds will cause cuts for other projects. Executive Director Dondero said that STIP funding has been around for 20 years and is expected to continue and that the funding for the rail line improvements is already programmed and should be available in the near future.

24. Agreements with Caltrans and other agencies to receive funds

Executive Director George Dondero said that, periodically, funding agreements with Caltrans need to be updated. He added that the resolution would also allow the Executive Director to sign other agreements to receive regional, state and federal funds.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Nicol seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign and enter into Master Fund Transfer Agreements and other funding agreements with Caltrans and other regional, state or federal agencies, as may be necessary, to receive regional, state and federal funds, consistent with the RTC Budget and Work Program.

The motion (Resolution 20-11) passed unanimously.

24.1 Accept status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues – Formerly Item 8

Commissioner Nicol asked about an apparent decline in TDA revenues for March. Deputy Director Mendez clarified that adjustments are made to the revenue amount every three months providing a more accurate report. It was noted that revenues are up slightly over last year.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Robinson seconded to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

24.2 Accept recommendation for the reappointment of representatives to the California Association of Councils of Governments (CalCOG) and the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) – Formerly Item 10

Commissioner Nicol said that he favored the staff recommendations but wanted to call attention to the Coast Daylight plan which shows low ridership numbers and questions whether millions will be served by the train. Commissioner Leopold committed to bringing that to the attention of the CRCC.

Commissioner Lane moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to accept the recommendation. The motion passed unanimously.

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

The Commission adjourned to the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies meeting at 10:02 am.

The Commission reconvened to the regular RTC meeting at 10:21 am.

26. Next Meetings

The meeting adjourned at 10:22 am.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz CA .

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Dan Herron
Debbie Hale
Steve Jesberg
Jack Nelson
Jack Haworth

Caltrans
TAMC
City of Capitola