



## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Transportation Policy Workshop

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### MINUTES

Thursday, March 17, 2011  
9:00 a.m.

**NOTE LOCATION THIS MONTH**  
**SCCRTC Conference Room**  
**1523 Pacific Ave**  
**Santa Cruz Ca**

#### 1. Introductions

Commissioner Nicol called the meeting to order at 9:04 am. Self-introductions were made.

##### Members present:

Dene Bustichi	John Leopold
Greg Caput	Eduardo Montesino
Norm Hagen	Robin Musitelli (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Kirby Nicol
Don Lane	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)

##### Members absent:

Lynn Robinson	Mark Stone
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##### Staff present:

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

#### 2. Oral communications

**Jack Nelson** drew a parallel between the experts who say not to worry about climate change and those who claimed that there were multiple redundancy safety features at both the nuclear reactors that are malfunctioning in Japan and at the oil rig that exploded in the Gulf last year.

Commissioner Bustichi asked that an item regarding possible consolidation of the RTC and the Metro be placed on a future agenda.

Commissioner Lane arrived.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas - None

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*No consent items*

4. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 9:11 am. Commissioner Montesino arrived.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

5. 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**

6. Report on closed session - No report on closed session

The Commission reconvened into open session at 9:38 am.

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

7. 2013 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) overview and work plan

Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee reported that discussion is currently taking place to extend the deadline of the next RTP by six months making the due date June 2013. Ms. Blakeslee said that the 2013 RTP planning process will meet SB375 requirements and be consistent with a Sustainable Community Strategy developed for the AMBAG region. She noted that using the Sustainable Transportation and Access Rating System (STARS) will help frame RTP policies to focus on sustainability. Goals will be more outcome-oriented and policies should be more concise and quantifiable. Peter Hurley, STARS, joined the meeting via telephone.

Commissioners discussed merging the complete streets analysis prepared by the county into the RTP, including data from a survey of Watsonville transit users being conducted by the Metro, and methods to encourage public participation. It was noted that while informing the public about SB375 and the cultural shifts implied in making communities sustainable is necessary, it is

important not to give the public unrealistic expectations about how policies that have performance standards will be carried out.

Executive Director Dondero said that the RTP will address the major issues of peak oil, climate change and economic changes throughout the world, and that while it may not be possible to effect immediate change in the way policies are enacted, the plan will focus on where transportation wants to be in 25-30 years.

**Jack Nelson** said that even marginal movement is better than none.

**Randy DeShazo**, AMBAG, said he would be happy to make a presentation on the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and informed the RTC that AMBAG will create a committee of elected officials to participate in the development of the SCS.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin said that he would want any agreements with the Transportation Agency for Monterey County, AMBAG, or the San Benito Council of Governments brought to the Commission before approval and moved to approve amended staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Receive information and provide input on the development of the 2013 RTP;
2. Review and provide input on the process for developing the 2013 RTP goals and policies; and,
3. Authorize staff to work in coordination and negotiate related agreements with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) and the San Benito Council of Governments (SBCOG).

Commissioner Leopold seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

8. Update on Rail Corridor Acquisition commemoration

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave a brief summary of the goals of the Rail Corridor Acquisition commemoration event: to celebrate the acquisition of the branch line, to acknowledge the efforts of those who supported it, to highlight the potential for varied transportation uses, and to present the corridor as a way to link parks, schools and communities. She said they are looking at a moving celebration with potential events in Watsonville, Live Oak and the west side of Santa Cruz. The event is anticipated to take place in mid-May following the close of escrow, hopefully in late April.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin asked that the final purchase and sale agreement be sent to Commissioners and for regular status reports on the progress of the agreement through federal agencies.

Commissioners Johnson and Bustichi departed the meeting.

9. State legislation update

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi introduced state legislative assistant Steve Schnaidt.

Mr. Schnaidt said that the state budget is the top priority in Sacramento and that without the tax extensions proposed by the governor, the proposed cuts will be doubled. He said that the gas tax swap legislation passed last night and that the fate of Redevelopment Agencies is being negotiated now. He said that bond sales are necessary for some projects but probably will not be released until fall.

Mr. Schnaidt explained that wording in SB83 prevented local transportation commissions not designated as Congestion Management Agencies from being able to go to the voters and ask for a \$10 vehicle registration fee increase for local transportation funding. Ms. Moriconi added that the restrictive amendment came late in the legislative process and that even the bill's authors didn't know about the impact of the change in language. Several regional planning agencies, including the RTC, are affected by this language and it is hoped that the language will be amended.

10. Next meetings

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 am.

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

**ATTENDEES**

Jack Nelson  
Randy DeShazo  
Peter Scott  
Steve Schnaidt

AMBAG  
CFST