



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

MINUTES

Thursday
May 5, 2011
9:00 a.m.

Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean St., Fifth Floor
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:04 am.

Members present:

Dene Bustichi	Eduardo Montesino
Greg Caput	Kirby Nicol
Donald Hagen	Ellen Pirie
Randy Johnson	Lynn Robinson
Don Lane	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Steve Lustgarden (Alt)	Mark Stone
Aileen Loe (ex officio)	

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Gini Pineda	Yesenia Parra
Karena Pushnik	

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson referred to a *Sentinel* article about Arctic icecaps melting faster than expected and presented Commissioners with copies of "Speed and Violence" which he said would put the story about the Arctic icecaps in perspective.

Mike Keogh asked several questions regarding a recent washout repair on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line including whether Sierra Northern employees and those of their subcontractors are unionized, whether a building permit accompanied the repairs; whether an environmental document was filed; and whether qualified staff oversaw the repairs.

Chair Stone communicated that RTC staff would work to provide responses to Mr. Keogh's questions.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondero announced that there was an add-on page for Item 20 and replacement pages for Item 23. He said that each Commissioner had received a member application form for the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and fliers for Bike to Work Week.

CONSENT AGENDA (Robinson/Johnson unanimous)

Commissioner Pirie suggested that information items such as Item 17.b. included on the agenda contain a reference regarding who requested that the item be included in the agenda.

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the April 7, 2011 regular SCCRTC meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the April 7, 2011 Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) meeting
6. Approved draft minutes of the April 21, 2011 Transportation Policy Workshop
7. Accepted draft minutes of the April 4, 2011 Bicycle Committee meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the April 12, 2011 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

9. Approved FY 2011-12 Section 5310 Scores (Resolution 22-11)
10. Accepted third quarter FY 10-11 Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) work program progress report

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Accepted reappointments to the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

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 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee to the Santa Cruz Metro Transit District regarding proposed 12% service cuts
 - b. Letter from the RTC to Senator Christine Kehoe regarding amendments to SB 468 – Increasing State Highway Projects: Coastal Zone
16. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on SCCRTC projects and transportation issues - None
17. Accepted information items
 - a. Letter from the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors to the RTC regarding the 2010 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Assessment (LSRA) report
 - b. Article from *Progressive Planning* titled "Just Transportation Planning" by Richard Marcantonio

REGULAR AGENDA

18. Commissioner reports - None
19. Director's report

Executive Director George Dondero said that the tentative date for the rail acquisition celebration is 9/10/11 and that there was no news from the Surface Transportation Board (STB) yet regarding approval of the rail line purchase; therefore a close of escrow date is not yet set.

Responding to Commissioner Nicol, Mr. Dondero said that a stop in Capitola could be arranged for the celebration.

20. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, said that a memorial honoring Caltrans highway workers who lost their lives in the line of duty was held April 28th. She said that Litter Removal Day was held April 22nd and that later this month Caltrans

will honor Harvey Holm from Santa Cruz as Volunteer of the Decade. Ms. Loe added that litter is a \$50 million problem for Caltrans annually.

Ms. Loe said that the ability to sell bonds impacts projects like the Auxiliary Lanes project and that it is important to show good stewardship of funds received. She reported that a state executive order has severely restricted travel funds for Caltrans staff and it may not be possible for Caltrans representatives to attend meetings unless they are "mission critical" for the project. Ms. Loe also said that Safe Routes to School is soliciting applications for grant awards.

Commissioner Stone said that it is important to have Caltrans at certain meetings and that Caltrans is working with partner agencies to determine what is considered "mission critical". He offered to help with this process.

21. Sidewalk Maintenance Public Outreach Campaign

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik introduced Veronica Elsea, Chair of the Pedestrian Safety Workgroup, who gave a report regarding the Sidewalk Maintenance Public Outreach Campaign. The workgroup which previously determined "tip and trip" hazards on sidewalks such as vertical and horizontal separation, obstacles, and surface conditions, will take this information out to the general public to help increase awareness of criteria for safe and accessible sidewalks, their value to the community, responsibility for maintenance, and avenues for resolving unsafe conditions. The outreach campaign is expected to begin in late spring and continue through the prime walking seasons, summer and fall.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Elsea for the report.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Robinson, Ms. Elsea said that the workgroup would do outreach to construction companies to request that sidewalks not be used as a staging site for construction zones.

22. **10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING:** 2011 unmet specialized transportation and transit needs - Taken out of order after Item 25.

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave the staff report saying that the unmet needs list helps determine projects for funding when funding becomes available. She said that the list is organized under general needs, paratransit needs and transit needs and prioritized within those categories. Ms. Pushnik said that some high priority deficiencies include lack of safe pedestrian access between transit stops and community services and a mobility management center.

The floor was opened to the public hearing.

Veronica Elsea said the list of priorities is not haphazard.

The public hearing was closed.

Commissioner Stone said that an additional unmet need is transportation of foster children to their school of origin and asked that it be added under the general category. He added that it's a high priority since it is a statutory requirement.

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

1. Consider public input on unmet specialized transportation and transit needs;
2. Adopt the 2011 Unmet Specialized Transportation and Transit Needs List, with the addition of adding transportation of foster children to their school of origin to the list; and,
3. Consider the list of unmet needs as funding becomes available

The motion passed unanimously.

23. FY 2011-12 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for the Volunteer Center – Taken out of order after Item 21

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave the staff report saying that the Volunteer Center's transportation program oversees volunteers who provide transportation, using their own vehicles, to ambulatory individuals who may live in areas not served by traditional public transit or ParaCruz. The TDA allocation to the Volunteer Center will fund mileage reimbursement, insurance and administration of their transportation program.

Responding to questions from Commissioners, Ms. Pushnik said that the Volunteer Center recruits volunteers through its outreach efforts in the community and that it has been difficult to get volunteers in south county.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Lane seconded to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve by resolution the claim for \$61,345 in FY 2011-12 Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds contingent upon the City of Santa Cruz agreeing at their May 2011 meeting to act as the claimant on behalf of the Volunteer Center to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

A roll call vote was taken and Commissioners Caput, Johnson, Lane, Lustgarden, Montesino, Nicol, Pirie, Schiffrin and Stone voted "aye" and the motion (Resolution 23-11) passed unanimously.

24. FY 2011-12 Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim for Community Bridges

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik gave the staff report saying that services provided by Community Bridges include medical transportation services, transportation to senior meal sites, out-of-county medical transportation service formerly operated by the Red Cross, a Taxi Scrip program, and portions of rides to the Elderday Adult Day Care Facility and the Interfaith Homeless Service Shelters.

Commissioners asked about costs for rides provided for specific services and the process for obtaining Taxi Scrip.

Sam Storey, CEO of Community Bridges, explained that some figures reflected average daily attendance of all rides and some reflected only rides at dining sites. He added that Elderday is paying a greater portion of their ride costs than in previous funding cycles. He said that Taxi Scrip is a means tested program and that an applicant must be either a senior or disabled to qualify.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Montesino seconded to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendations that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve by resolution a claim for \$515,295 in FY 2011-12 Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds contingent upon the City of Santa Cruz agreeing at their May 2011 meeting to act as the claimant on behalf of the Volunteer Center to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities.

A roll call vote was taken and Commissioners Caput, Johnson, Lane, Lustgarden, Montesino, Nicol, Pirie, Schiffrin and Stone voted "aye" and the motion (Resolution 24-11) passed unanimously.

25. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District FY 11/12 Claim for Article 4 Transportation Development Act Funds and State Transit Assistance funds

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik reviewed the claim and introduced Metro General Manager Les White.

Mr. White highlighted parts of the annual report saying that last year showed decreased ridership along fixed routes and on the Highway 17 Express, largely due to continuing unemployment, and a slight increase in ParaCruz ridership. Ridership this year is increasing due to high gas prices. METRO plans to order 27 new paratransit replacement vans for ParaCruz service and five new low-floor CNG buses for the Highway 17 Express service. METRO continues to face funding difficulties due to the economic recession, slow recovery and diversion of transit funds by the state to other purposes; therefore, METRO will consider further service reductions and a fare increase.

Commissioners discussed performance indicators and compared operating expenses to sales tax revenues.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Hagen seconded to approve the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) and staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) adopt a resolution approving the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's (METRO) FY 11/12 Transportation Development Act (TDA) and State Transit Assistance claim for \$5,244,963 and \$2,311,643, respectively.

The motion (Resolution 25-11) passed unanimously.

26. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The Commission adjourned the regular meeting and convened into closed session at 10:17 am.

CLOSED SESSION

27. 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, Union Pacific

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

OPEN SESSION

28. Report on closed session - none

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

a. No agenda items this month

30. Next Meetings

The meeting adjourned prior to moving into closed session.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 19, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St., Watsonville CA 95067

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Les White	SCMTD
Mike Keogh	
Catherine Patterson-Valdez	Community Bridges
Jack Nelson	
Sam Storey	Community Bridges
Aaron Gundzik	C&G
Veronica Elsea	Pedestrian Safety Workgroup