



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Transportation Policy Workshop

MINUTES

Thursday March 18, 2010

9:00 a.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz

1. Introductions

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:06 am

Self introductions were made.

Members present:

Dene Bustichi	Kirby Nicol
Tony Campos	Ellen Pirie
Ron Graves	Antonio Rivas
Randy Johnson	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Don Lane	Marcela Tavantzis
John Leopold	

Member absent: Mark Stone

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson recommended a report published by the Victoria Transportation Policy Institute on generated travel and induced traffic demand.

Copies of the article will be provided to Commissioners.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Item 7 was removed from the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

No consent items

REGULAR AGENDA

4. State and federal legislative update

Senior Planner Rachel Moriconi gave an update on the gas tax swap proposal negotiations between the state legislature and the governor's office. The legislature is trying to find ways to preserve funding for transit, in the face of the Governor's recent veto.

Ms. Moriconi described the recently approved federal jobs bill which mainly consists of tax breaks for employers and an extension of SAFETEA-LU through December 2010. It is unlikely that a federal transportation reauthorization bill will occur before the November 2010 mid-term elections.

Les White, Santa Cruz Metro, said that the state legislature is working hard to negotiate alternative funding for transit because transit agencies all over the state are planning massive service cuts due to severe reductions in funding. In addition to the fact that this is a grave concern for constituents, legislators also realize that a gas tax swap, which allows funds to be diverted to the state for debt servicing, could in turn loosen up general fund monies for other programs.

Mr. White said that the federal jobs bill was shrunk to \$15 billion. Among other cuts, a two-year appropriation for operating relief for transit systems undergoing service cuts was stripped out. Between the Governor's veto and the downsizing of the federal jobs bill, Metro's operating budget will lose more than \$13 million over the next two years.

Commission Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) accept a report on state and federal legislative efforts. The motion passed unanimously.

5. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Executive Director Dondero said that Item 8 is on the agenda as a reminder and will not be discussed during the closed session.

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 9:20 am.

CLOSED SESSION

6. Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 for acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Property: 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

7. Conference with Labor Negotiators Pursuant to Government Code 54957.6 –
Removed from agenda

Commission Negotiators: George Dondero and Yesenia Parra

Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit and General Representation
Unit

8. Annual Performance Review for Executive Director pursuant to Government
Code 54957

OPEN SESSION

9. Report on closed session

The meeting reconvened into open session at 11:06 am. There was nothing to report.

10. Next meetings

The meeting adjourned at 11:07 am

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 1, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for April 15, 2010 at 9:00 am at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda

ATTENDEES

Les White
Jack Nelson
Rahn Garcia
Paul Chrisman

SCMTD

County Counsel
Miller, Owen & Trost