



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Transportation Policy Workshop

MINUTES

Thursday, August 19, 2010
9:00 a.m.

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

1. Introductions

Commissioner Mark Stone called the meeting to order at 9:01 am. Self introductions were made.

Members present:

Neal Coonerty	Ellen Pirie
Gustavo Gonzalez (Alt.)	Lynn Robinson (Alt.)
Ron Graves	Mark Stone
Randy Johnson	Marcela Tavantzis
John Leopold	Tim Gubbins (ex-officio)
Kirby Nicol	

Members absent:

Dene Bustichi	Antonio Rivas
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Staff present:

George Dondero	Karena Pushnik
Luis Mendez	Rachel Moriconi
Yesenia Parra	Kim Shultz
Gini Pineda	Cory Caletti
Cathy DeLuca	

2. Oral communications

Paul Elerick said he wanted to clarify that there have been settlement discussions between the plaintiffs and the defendant in the lawsuit against

Caltrans regarding the environmental document for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes project.

Jack Nelson distributed an article from the *Sentinel* regarding extreme weather in several parts of the world attributed to increased heat globally and said that he sees a distressing pattern. He also referred to the greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets proposed by the Air Resources Board and said that the AMBAG region should not “plan to fail” by accepting the expectation of increases in GHG emissions for 2020 and 2035 because of the low GHG emissions for the region in the 2005 base year.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Executive Director George Dondero said that there was an add-on page for Item 9. He also noted that final copies of the *2010 Regional Transportation Plan* were distributed to the Commissioners and were also available at libraries.

CONSENT AGENDA (Pirie/Coonerty – unanimous)

4. Approved staff recommendation authorizing out-of-state-travel

REGULAR AGENDA

5. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The Commission adjourned into closed session at 9:08 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

OPEN SESSION

7. Report on closed session

The Commission reconvened into open session at 9:50 am. There was nothing to report.

8. Revised Purchase and Sale Agreement (PSA) for Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (Branch Line) Acquisition

Deputy Director Luis Mendez reviewed the revisions to the purchase and sale agreement with Union Pacific. Revisions include additional environmental protections for the RTC in connection with hazardous materials and language that indicates that the RTC cannot definitively commit to making \$5 million in improvements to the Branch Line because the RTC must first secure the funds from the California Transportation Commission. In addition, if the RTC completes all of the planned rehabilitation work for less than the amounts programmed and allocated by the CTC, the RTC may use any remaining amounts for further repair to the Line or to purchase additional property owned by Union Pacific located north of the Branch Line.

After discussion, Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve staff and negotiating consultants recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the revised purchase and sale agreement (PSA) with Union Pacific (UP) for purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (Branch Line).

The motion (Resolution 06-11) passed with Commissioner Johnson voting "no".

9. Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project – Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for construction management

Senior Planner Kim Shultz said that a cooperative agreement is required between Caltrans and any local agency acting as the sponsoring or implementing agency for the improvement of a state highway. This agreement specifies the roles and responsibilities of the respective agencies through each phase of the project development process. Mr. Shultz introduced members of the consultant management team led by Parsons Brinkerhoff who will perform many of the responsibilities assigned to the RTC in the cooperative agreement.

Commissioners discussed the benefits and the risks to the RTC for assuming construction management authority of the project. Among the concerns is that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) expects local agencies to cover cost increases for phases of work on which local agencies are the lead, which could impact the amount of RSTP funds available for local road projects. However, staff noted that the CTC may be more likely to approve supplemental STIP funds for this project, if there are any, since it is a bond-funded CMIA project. Controlling costs, overruns, change orders and contingency funds were also discussed.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to sign a Cooperative Agreement with the State for construction of the Highway 1 Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes Project.

The motion (Resolution 07-11) passed with Commissioner Leopold voting "no".

10. Next meetings

The meeting adjourned at 10:47 am.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 2, 2010 at 9:00 a.m. at the Capitola City Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for September 16, 2010 at 9:00 am at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

ATTENDEES

Bart Little	Parsons Brinkerhoff
Bruce Shewchuk	Parsons Brinkerhoff
Paul Elerick	CFST
Dale Dennis	PDMG
Jack Nelson	
Eduardo Montesino	UTU
Rahn Garcia	County Counsel
Bill Malone	CFST