1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am.

Members present:
Ron Graves (Alt)    John Leopold
Martin Garcia (Alt)  Don Lane
Neal Coonerty    Kirby Nicol
Eduardo Montesino  Ellen Pirie
Donald Hagen    Michelle Hinkle (Alt)
Aileen Loe (ex officio)  Mark Stone

Member absent:
Randy Johnson

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

2. Oral communications – None

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

There was a handout for Item 17. Item 22 was removed from the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA (Nicol/Leopold – unanimous)
MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the June 2, 2011 regular SCCRTC meeting

5. Approved draft minutes of the June 16, 2011 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

6. Accepted State Route 1 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP)

7. Accepted fourth quarter FY 10-11 Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) work program progress report

8. Accepted Regional Transportation Plan – Smart Growth Implementation Plan Regional Advisory Committee appointments

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

10. Approved Bicycle Committee membership appointment

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

11. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

12. Accepted correspondence log

13. Accepted letters from SCCRTC committees and staff to other agencies

   a. Letter from the Regional Transportation Commission to the City of Scotts Valley regarding the Vine Hill Elementary School sidewalk construction project

14. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on SCCRTC projects and transportation issues

15. Accepted information items - None

REGULAR AGENDA
16. Commissioner reports-oral reports – Taken out of order after Item 19

Commissioner Montesino invited everyone to the Strawberry Festival to be held Saturday, August 6th in Watsonville. He asked if a guardrail could be installed on Highway 1 between Rio del Mar and State Park Drive and was told that Caltrans was already planning to install one there.

17. Director’s report – oral report

Executive Director George Dondero showed a clip of the current episode of the RTC’s “Transportation Café” program which can be seen on the Community TV website. The episode was about highway safety in Santa Cruz County.

Mr. Dondero announced that an independent RTC fiscal audit will take place on August 11-12. He said that the RTC received four proposals from rail design consultants who will be interviewed by a team comprised of staff from Caltrain, the public works departments of the cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz and RTC staff. In addition, Mr. Dondero reported that the RTC was awarded two planning grants from Caltrans. One will be used to fund a half-time transit planning intern and the other will fund an on-board transit ridership survey.

18. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, said that its Project Initiation Document program to scope new projects was vetoed in the recent budget but that the agency is trying to find a way to maintain hands-on support for local projects. She reminded everyone to slow for the cones in construction zones adding that currently there is a law to move to an adjacent lane when lights are flashing in a construction area. She added that the Salinas road project is on schedule.

19. State and federal legislative updates - Taken out of order after approval of the consent agenda

Assemblymember Bill Monning provided updates on state legislative activities, including highlights of the state budget. Mr. Monning said that the state’s bond rating has improved, and that longer term bonds are planned to be released in September. Assemblymember Monning mentioned a bill (AB 441) that he introduced that asks that a voluntary agency be formed to identify adverse public health impacts in transportation projects or to identify mitigations to these negative impacts. The bill is supported by public health agencies. Mr. Monning also emphasized the need for support for public transportation.

Responding to a question from Commissioner Leopold about the state’s plan to help local jurisdictions perform the functions previously tasked to the redevelopment agencies, Mr. Monning said that there are bills being proposed to reestablish redevelopment agencies with specific funding criteria and principles.
Commissioners discussed how AB 441 would apply to local transportation projects noting that these agencies would be voluntary and that in some areas these goals are folded into local jurisdictions’ general plans.

The RTC also received updates on proposed provisions of the next federal transportation act and a list of state bills that could impact transportation projects and programs.

20. Social media use policy

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik described a proposal to establish policies, guidelines, and standards on RTC use of social media technology. Social media is intended to disseminate information and receive public input and could be useful for a variety of the RTC’s programs and projects including the Commute Solutions program, specific information campaigns, and special events. The RTC currently posts segments from its Transportation Café television show on social media outlets and will consider expansion to Facebook and other interactive sites to reach broader segments of the community.

Commissioners discussed policies used in other agencies, staff time required to maintain the sites, defining what is appropriate for postings, free speech issues, and tying the sites to future 511 links. Commissioner Coonerty said it was important that the policy language be clear that that ultimate decision concerning what is posted rest with the Executive Director.

Commissioner Pirie moved and Commissioner Nicol seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the proposed Social Media Use Policy that establishes policies, guidelines, and standards on RTC use of social media technology with the change to the policy language clarifying that the Executive Director is responsible for all content decisions and that staff return in a month with a report from county counsel about handling inappropriate material and an assessment from staff about the amount of time required to maintain the sites.

21. Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line acquisition project

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented a status update on the branch line acquisition. The RTC is still waiting for approval from the Federal Surface Transportation Board (STB) for the Branch Line purchase transaction. Congressman Farr has sent a letter to the STB Chair regarding the RTC’s petition for declaratory order and has communicated with the STB Chair. RTC staff and consultants have been working on completing all of the other tasks necessary to close escrow on the purchase; however there will still be 2-4 weeks of work to complete following STB approval. The community celebration planned for September 10 will be postponed until after the rail line purchase is fully complete.
Commissioners recommended that Senator Boxer, Assemblymember Eshoo and possibly the California Transportation Commission contact the STB.

22. New Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) websites- Removed from agenda

23. Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network Project Update

Senior Planner Cory Caletti introduced Mike Sherrod, RRM Design Group, the firm contracted to develop the Master Plan and Environmental Review document for the MBSST Network project. Mr. Sherrod gave a presentation on the planned bicycle/pedestrian trail describing a detailed Scope of Services that includes identifying and analyzing potential alignments, preliminary design, environmental compliance, and community outreach for the development of the Trail Network Master Plan. The consultant team will be responsible for coordinating all planning tasks, including but not limited to data collection, trail mapping, opportunities and constraints analysis, public workshops, presentations to all relevant bodies, draft and final document production, and California Environmental Quality Act compliance. The first set of public meetings could take place early this fall.

Commissioners discussed additional workshops in North County especially in the north coast region, linking existing trails, connecting to local attractions, easement, right-of-way issues, signage issues and retrofitting of trestles.

Commissioner Leopold asked to be part of the bike signage program.

Bob Culbertson said that there are several networks that could be connected to the scenic trail network including the Watsonville wetlands trails, and trail networks in the Mt Madonna, Castle Rock and north coastal areas. He supported a vertical trail network such as along Highway 9 to connect to the scenic trail. He suggested coordinating with other jurisdictions that have their own trail master plans.

Piet Canin commended the Commission for moving forward with this project adding that he would like more public workshops saying that there are many stakeholders.

Lowell Hurst said that he hopes things move forward smoothly and quickly.

Staff will work with the consultant on the feasibility of adding public workshops.

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

The RTC adjourned to the SAFE meeting at noon.

25. Next Meetings
George Dondero announced that a ribbon cutting ceremony for the RTC’s Watsonville satellite office will be held Tuesday, August 16 at 11am.

The meeting adjourned at 12:11 pm.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 18, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the SCCRTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 1, 2011 at 9:00 a.m. at the Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St., Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff

**ATTENDEES**

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dan Herron</td>
<td>Caltrans</td>
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<td>Bob Culbertson</td>
<td>Watsonville Wetlands</td>
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<td>Lowel Hurst</td>
<td>Watsonville City Council</td>
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<td>Piet Canin</td>
<td>Ecology Action</td>
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<td>Mike Sherrod</td>
<td>RRM Designs</td>
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MINUTES

Thursday
August 4, 2011

Watsonville City Council Chambers
275 Main St
Watsonville CA 95076

1. Oral communications - None

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

CONSENT AGENDA

No consent items

REGULAR AGENDA


Transportation Planner Ginger Dykaar presented the 2010 Safe on 17 Annual Report which reviews the work done by the California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, RTC and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies and other stakeholders to continue improving safety on Highway 17. Efforts resulted in extra enforcement, collision and citation rate monitoring, Safe on 17 Task Force Meetings, public information and outreach, and highway safety improvements. Due to the State’s budget crisis, overtime enforcement was eliminated for 2010, preventing the CHP from providing overtime enforcement through the Safe on 17 program even though it is funded with local funds. Caltrans made a number of safety improvements during 2010.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Pirie seconded to approve the staff recommendations that the Regional Transportation Commission/Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies (SAFE) accept the 2010 Annual Report for the Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Project.

The motion passed unanimously.

4. Adjourn

The Commission adjourned to the regular RTC meeting at 12:10 pm.
Respectfully submitted,

Gini Pineda, Staff