1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members present:

Ed Bottorff  
Jacques Bertrand  
Greg Caput  
Cynthia Chase  
Trina Coffman-Gomez  
Randy Johnson  
John Leopold  
Bruce McPherson  
Donna Lind (Alternate)  
Patrick Mulhearn (Alternate)  
Andy Schiffrin (Alternate)  
Aileen Loe (ex-officio)

Staff present:

George Dondero  
Luis Mendez  
Yesenia Parra  
Shannon Munz  
Rachel Moriconi  
Fernanda Dias Pini

2. Oral communications

**Carey Pico**, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that the Rail Trail plan is too costly and does not provide timely transportation solutions to the county. Mr. Pico supports railbanking and a trail only option on the rail corridor.

**Sally Arnold**, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that Scenario B of the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) is the most fiscally sound option. Ms. Arnold also stated that Scenario B could be improved by making the Mission Street projects less car-centric and more focused on pedestrian and bicyclist improvements, and she asked that the RTC not delay a decision on the UCS.
She also noted that there needs to be a discussion of the consequences to the RTC’s rail right-of-way (ROW) if the train tracks are removed.

**Jack Carroll**, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that the 2015 RTC Rail Transit Feasibility Study shows that a train does not make sense in the county. Mr. Carroll asked that funding be directed to improved, more frequent, and free bus service. Mr. Carroll recommended that Scenario B not include train service, but include free bus fares, and that planning for future housing be evaluated in the analysis.

**Peter Stanger**, Santa Cruz County resident, shared an anecdote about the range of support that Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District bus drivers provide to the community.

**Keith Otto**, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that UCS scenarios do not effectively address congestion issues on Highway 1 and asked that a decision on the UCS be approved by voters through a ballot measure. Mr. Otto questioned figures associated with the train option presented in the UCS; stated that there should be no further investment to trains beyond the existing freight services in Watsonville, and asked that additional funding be appropriated to bus service and widening Highway 1.

**Brett Garrett**, Santa Cruz County resident, believes that personal rapid transit (PRT) provides the best option for the rail corridor and asked that the UCS decision allow adoption of emerging technologies in the rail corridor in the future. Mr. Garrett requested that staff provide greater detail on the numbers reported in the UCS.

**Barry Scott**, Aptos resident, supports Scenario B because it provides a multi-modal and sustainable option for the rail corridor.

**Michael Saint**, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, encouraged the Commission to read the Campaign for Sustainable Transportation’s comment letter on the UCS. He also stated that the scenarios presented do not do enough to ensure a sustainable future and a robust transit system.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Replacement pages for Item 7 and a replacement page for Item 26.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner comment: **Item 10** – Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin recommended that edits in the second draft of the Unified Corridor Investment Study – Step 2 Scenario Analysis (UCS) be in underline strikeout.
Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Caput, Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting “aye”.

MINUTES

4. Accepted minutes of the September 10, 2018 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting

5. Approved draft minutes of the October 4, 2018 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

6. Accepted draft minutes of the October 9, 2018 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

7. Accepted draft minutes of the October 11, 2018 Budget and Administration/Personnel meeting

8. Approved draft minutes of the October 18, 2018 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

9. Accepted draft minutes of the October 18, 2018 Interagency Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

10. Accepted Unified Corridor Investment Study – Outreach Activities Update

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

12. Accepted status report on Measure D projects, revenues, and distribution

13. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim from the RTC for Administration, Planning and Operations (Resolution 08-19)

14. Approved City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Allocation Request (Resolution 09-19)
ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

No administration items

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

15. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

16. Accepted correspondence log

17. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
   a. Letter from Amelia Conlen, Chair of the Bicycle Advisory Committee, to Matt Machado, County of Santa Cruz Director of Public Works, asking bicycle improvements to be made to Branciforte Drive

18. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues

19. Accepted information items
   a. Special District Risk Management Authority President’s Special Acknowledgment Award 2018-19
   b. 2018 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment Fact Sheet
   c. George Avalos, “European Experts Will Craft Big San Jose Train Station Revamp”, *The Mercury News*, October 23, 2018

REGULAR AGENDA

20. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Commissioner Bertrand requested that an update on the Rail Trail Segment 5 and 7 project costs be agendized. Staff was directed to agendize this item on a future agenda.

Chair Leopold stated that it is inappropriate for activists and members of the public to contact Commissioners’ family members regarding RTC-related topics and asked that dialogue regarding such topics be respectful and kept to public meetings.

Commissioner Coffman-Gomez stated that RTC South County outreach efforts have been successful. She also noted that she will author an informational article about the Unified Corridor Investment Study in the Register-Pajaronian.
21. Director’s report – oral report  
*(George Dondero, Executive Director)*

George Dondero, Executive Director, announced that a call for bids for a Countywide Bike Signage Project was released on October 31, 2018. Mr. Dondero noted that the state of the economy factors into the costs submitted in bids by contractors and into construction costs.

22. Nominating Committee for 2019 RTC Chair and Vice Chair  
*(John Leopold, Chair)*

John Leopold, RTC Chair, reported that the current Chair and Vice Chair will be part of the nominating committee and invited interested Commissioners to join the committee.

23. Executive Director Employment Agreement  
*(John Leopold, Chair)*

John Leopold, RTC Chair, reported on the process for hiring the RTC Executive Director. He announced that Guy Preston will be starting his position on December 3, 2018.

Commissioners commented on the position benefits and lauded Mr. Preston’s experience in project delivery.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Bottorff seconded the motion to approve the employment agreement for Guy Preston. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Caput, Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting “aye”.

24. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe, District 5 Deputy Director, reported on the November 30, 2018 grant deadline for sustainable communities, partnerships in transit, and adaptation planning programs. Ms. Loe also noted grant opportunities available through the United States Department of Transportation for projects supporting transit coordination to improve access to healthcare.

Ms. Loe noted that Senate Bill (SB) 1 is funding several projects across the state, including $51 million for projects in Santa Cruz County that are presently either in development or construction through the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP).

Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Public Works & Utilities Assistant Director, gave an update on projects to reconstruct or upgrade facilities for pedestrians, bicyclists, transit-users, and drivers in the City of Watsonville, which are funded by the RTC, Measure D, and Senate Bill (SB) 1.

Commissioners noted the success of the City of Watsonville’s Vision Zero program; the high quality of the city’s trail facilities; and how Measure D and SB 1 provide essential funds to the county’s transportation systems.

Peter Stanger, Santa Cruz County resident, discussed the hazardous condition for bicyclists at the Airport Boulevard and Nielson Street intersection.

26. Amendments to Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 Budget and Work Program

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented the staff report that includes recommended changes from the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee.

Commissioners discussed: Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) funding; UCS consultant fees; Measure D; RTC reserve policy; Highway 1 41st to Soquel Auxiliary Lanes & Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing project costs; Transportation Development Act (TDA) appropriation and Countywide Bicycle Signage Program funding.

Alex Clifford, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District CEO/General Manager, asked the RTC that TDA surplus be distribute to all TDA recipients including METRO by formula. Mr. Clifford stated that the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) needs to replace its bus fleet and to ensure compliance with state regulations.

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, supports budgeting more funds for bike and pedestrian projects including the Bike Signage project and recommends approval of the new budget with the proposed changes and amendments.

Barry Scott, Aptos resident, asked whether State Rail funds could be used to support shuttle bus services to train stops.

Commissioner Bottorff moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded a motion to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee and staff recommendation to adopt a resolution approving the proposed amended fiscal year (FY) 2018-19 Budget and Work Program and:

1. Reprogram $48,941.74 in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange funds remaining from the Highway 1 Soquel to
Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project to the Santa Cruz County Bikeway Signage project;

2. Amend the Measure D 5-Year program of projects for the highway corridors to allocate $200,000 to the Unified Corridor Investment Study; and to

3. Apportion $48,941.74 of the surplus Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds to the Santa Cruz County Bikeway Signage project and to apportion the balance of surplus TDA funds following the normal TDA distribution formula established in Section III.C. of the RTC’s Rules and Regulations.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded a motion to amend the motion on the floor to approve the Budget and Administration/Personnel (B&A/P) Committee and staff recommendation to adopt a resolution approving the proposed amended FY 2018-19 Budget and Work Program (Exhibit A) and to:

1. Reprogram $48,941.74 in Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Exchange funds remaining from the Highway 1 Soquel to Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project to the Santa Cruz County Bikeway Signage project; and to

2. Amend the Measure D 5-Year program of projects for the highway corridors to allocate $200,000 to the Unified Corridor Investment Study.

The amendment to the motion did not carry with Commissioners Caput, Johnson, and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting “aye”, and Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Leopold, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternates Lind and Mulhearn voting “no”.

The first motion carried with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Chase, Coffman-Gomez, Leopold, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternate Lind voting “aye”, and Commissioners Caput, Johnson, and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn and Schiffrin voting “no”.

27. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, reported that only item 29 would be discussed and the negotiating parties are the Regional Transportation Commission and the Hall Family Trust.

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 11:08 a.m.
CLOSED SESSION

28. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) for Santa Cruz Superior Court Case No. 18CV02101

29. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8
   Property: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line
   Agency Negotiator: George Dondero and Luis Pavel Mendez
   Negotiating Parties: Regional Transportation Commission and The Hall Family Trust
   Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

OPEN SESSION

30. Report on closed session

   No report.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.

Next meetings

A special RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 15, 2018 at 6:00 p.m. at the City of Watsonville Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Watsonville, CA.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Fernanda Dias Pini, Staff

Attendees:

Sally Arnold       Santa Cruz County Resident
Jack Carroll       Santa Cruz County Resident
Alex Clifford      Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Maria Esther Rodriguez City of Watsonville
Brett Garrett     Santa Cruz County Resident
Lowell Hurst       City of Watsonville
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<td>Keith Otto</td>
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