



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 7, 2019  
9:00 a.m.**

1. Roll call

Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand  
Ed Bottorff  
Sandy Brown  
Trina Coffman-Gomez  
Tony Gregorio (alt.)  
John Leopold  
Randy Johnson

Virginia Johnson (alt.)  
Bruce McPherson  
Patrick Mulhearn (alt.)  
Mike Rotkin  
Andy Schiffrin (alt.)  
Aileen Loe (ex-officio)

Staff present:

Guy Preston  
Luis Mendez  
Yesenia Parra  
Sarah Christensen

Rachel Moriconi  
Shannon Munz  
Fernanda Dias Pini  
Keith Rayburn-Garcia

2. Oral communications

**Brian Peoples**, Trail Now, does not support the contract with Progressive Rail, Inc., asked that the RTC consider highway and alternative technological solutions instead of rail service and that the rail corridor be made available for public use expeditiously. Mr. Peoples also asked for greater public outreach and said that the RTC board members should be elected.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Guy Preston, Executive Director, informed the RTC that a closed session would not be needed.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**Rick Longinotti**, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, stated that auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 would be very costly and that they are not

necessary to implement a Bus on Shoulder (BOS) facility. Mr. Longinotti asked that the RTC redirect Measure D funds from the auxiliary lanes project to the BOS project.

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Gregorio, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

## **MINUTES**

4. Accepted draft minutes of the October 29, 2018 Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee
5. Approved draft minutes of the January 17, 2019 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

6. Accepted Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program- Next Steps

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

7. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
8. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues and distribution

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

9. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
10. Accepted correspondence log
11. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies - *none*
12. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues - *none*
13. Accepted information items
  - a. Daniel C. Vock, "As Shutdown Stretches on, Transportation Officials Worry About Long -Term Effects", Governing, The State and Localities, January 14, 2019

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

14. Commissioner reports on RTC related items – oral reports

Commissioner Johnson welcomed the RTC to Scotts Valley and introduced

Taylor Bateman, City of Scotts Valley Community Development Director, who updated the RTC on current and planned transportation projects in the City of Scotts Valley.

Commissioners commented on the imperative need for safe routes to schools, commended Scotts Valley for the Glenwood Open Space Preserve and asked for a map on trails in the area.

*Commissioner Leopold joined the meeting.*

Commissioner McPherson stated that state legislators are considering withholding Senate Bill 1 funds from municipalities that do not meet the state's regional housing production targets and the Commissioners and RTC staff should keep apprised of any developments on this topic.

15. Director's Report – oral report  
(Guy Preston, Executive Director)

Guy Preston, Executive Director, reported: on the release of the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the North Coast Rail Trail (NCRT) project on February 7, 2019 (available at <http://www.sccrtc.org/north-coast>), which will have a public hearing at 9:30 am at the March 7, 2019 RTC meeting, and that staff was notified that the NCRT EIR was nominated to receive a merit award from the Association of Environmental Professionals; that the comment period for the mitigated negative declaration of the Santa Cruz Rail Trail Segment 7, Phase 2 closed on February 6, 2019; that Phase 1 of Segment 7 is scheduled to be rebid for construction by the City of Santa Cruz in the Spring of 2019; that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$2.57 million to prepare the final plans and specifications for the Highway 1 auxiliary lanes and bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing project from Soquel Drive to 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, for which project design is expected to be completed in 2020, and construction is expected to begin by the end of 2020.

**Brian Peoples**, Trail Now, stated that farmers on the North Coast have asked staff to consider the Trail Now and farmer's proposed plans for the North Coast rail trail and that Trail Now and the farmers requested a meeting with RTC staff to craft a win-win option...

16. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5, stated that the transportation system is handling winter rains reasonably and that additional information on State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects is available. Ms. Loe also commented that Caltrans is pleased to be a sponsor of the Highway 9/ San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan.

17. **9:30 a.m. PUBLIC HEARING:** Draft Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report on the Highway 9/ San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan which

provides a vision, guiding principles, and realistic strategies to improve mobility around the San Lorenzo Valley.

Public hearing opened at 9:55 a.m.

**Janneke Strause**, Bike Santa Cruz County, thanked the RTC for moving forward with this project and for its complete streets elements. Ms. Strause urged the RTC to prioritize bicycle and pedestrian facilities to the San Lorenzo Valley School campus and to prioritize bicycle and green lanes in town centers.

**Stacey Croft**, Ben Lomond resident, stated that the planned changes to lane widths and the placement of parking lanes in between bicycle lanes and sidewalks would not lead to bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements.

**Jim Helmer**, Ben Lomond resident, stated that speeding on Highway 9 is the main transportation-related safety issue in the San Lorenzo Valley and asked that the RTC work with state legislators and Caltrans to lower speed limits on Highway 9. Mr. Helmer also stated that the current plan does not address the need for drainage improvements, tree removals, and wider sidewalks.

**Brian Largay**, Felton resident, spoke on the precarious nature of Highway 9 due to its geographical constraints and the need to improve infrastructure to ensure safer routes to schools, crosswalks, active transportation alternatives, and to relieve traffic congestion and assist in greenhouse gas reductions. Mr. Largay urged for sustained RTC leadership to ensure that these projects are brought to fruition.

Commissioner comments: appreciation for staff and project partners; that the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) is an urban center and needs to have a bus service that is responsive to its demands; directed staff to work with state representatives to modify the California Vehicle Code to allow for prima facie 25 mph on state highways that go through urban centers and to incorporate it on the RTC's legislative programs; support for bicycle infrastructure improvements; the need to ensure that SLV emergency routes remain open; appreciation for Commissioner McPherson's office and staff for holding public meetings and for the extensive public involvement in this project; Measure D and Senate Bill 1 funding for safety improvements; glad to see a community driven plan coming to fruition; that it would be helpful to obtain a work program or project timeline to track project implementation; and on the efforts to obtain funding for planned projects.

18. 2019 State and Federal Legislative Programs  
(*Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner*)

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report on the recommended legislative priorities for 2019.

Commissioners discussed: sales tax revenue distribution; definition of disadvantaged communities and impact on grant funding; legislative consultants; reducing speeds on state highways that function as main streets,

opposition to connecting housing production and transportation funding; enhanced financing infrastructure districts for funding transportation projects; Transportation Development Act funds; the taxes and fees that the RTC has authority to control; and unfunded mandates.

**Janneke Strause**, Bike Santa Cruz County, stated support for reduced speeds on town highways, a representative on the Vision Zero Task Force, and for an improved definition of disadvantaged communities.

*Commissioner McPherson left the meeting and was replaced by Commissioner Alternate Virginia Johnson.*

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded a motion to approve the staff recommendation to approve State and Federal Legislative Programs (Attachment 1) to assist in analyzing the transportation impacts of legislative activities in 2019 with the following direction to staff:

- work to modify the vehicle code to allow for the reduction of speed limits on local roads and state routes, especially on state routes that serve as main streets and participate with the state's zero traffic fatalities task force to allow for reduction of speed limits on local roads and state routes;
- work with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) staff to address potential Transportation Development Act (TDA) modifications to help ensure more funding for all TDA funding recipients rather than take funding from some recipients to better fund others and to provide updates on this matter at future RTC meetings during the Director's Report.
- support modifications to state defined disadvantaged communities to better address the needs of Santa Cruz County residents.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Gregorio, V.Johnson, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

19. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Guy Preston, Executive Director, informed the RTC that a closed session would not be needed.

**CLOSED SESSION**

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

21. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9 (d)(4): One case

22. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8

Property: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Agency Negotiator: Guy Preston and Luis Mendez

Negotiating Parties: Regional Transportation Commission and the Hall Family Trust

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

**OPEN SESSION**

23. Report on closed session

None

24. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 7, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St., 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Meeting adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fernanda Dias Pini, Staff

Attendees:

Brianna Goodman	Felton resident
Brian Largay	Felton resident
Brian Peoples	Trail Now
Janneke Strause	Bike Santa Cruz County
Jim Helmer	Ben Lomond resident
Kirk Ance	Community Bridges
Rick Longinotti	Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Stacey Croft	Ben Lomond resident
Taylor Bateman	City of Scotts Valley