



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, October 1, 2015
9:00 a.m.**

**County Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean Street, 5th floor
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 am:

Members present:

John Leopold	Randy Johnson
Cynthia Chase	Ed Bottorff
Jimmy Dutra	Greg Caput
Ryan Coonerty	Zach Friend
Bruce McPherson	Mike Rotkin (alt.)
Aileen Loe	

Staff present:

George Dondero	Jennifer Rodriguez
Luis Mendez	Ginger Dykaar
Yesenia Parra	Kim Shultz

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson, Co-Chair Campaign for Sensible Transportation, asked that Commissioners not forget about the invisible carbon dioxide gas that continues to accumulate into the air for every mile a vehicle is driven.

Diane Warren, group leader for Santa Cruz Citizens Climate Lobby, discussed about working to collect a carbon fee.

Peter Scott, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, reiterated Mr. Nelson's point on carbon dioxide gas emitted by every vehicle.

Howard Sosbee, distributed packets to Commissioners with a proposal entitled "MetroLink", consisting of electric trolley cars and electric-powered shuttle buses running along the rail corridor.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

A replacement page for Item 13, a handout for Item 20, and add-on pages for Item 22 were distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Alternate Rotkin moved and Commissioner Chase seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Johnson, Chase, Bottorff, Dutra, Caput, Coonerty, Friend, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin voting "aye".

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the September 3, 2015 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the September 16, 2015 SAFE on 17/Traffic Operations Systems meeting
6. Approved draft minutes of the September 17, 2015 Commissioner Retreat meeting
7. Approved draft minutes of the September 17, 2015 Budget and Administration/ Personnel Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

No consent items

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

8. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
9. Approved easements for Murray Street Bridge Widening Project (**Resolution 02-16**)
10. Approved Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Allocation Request from the City of Scotts Valley for \$33,800 for the Scotts Valley Crosswalk Safety Improvement Project (**Resolution 05-16**)

11. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for the RTC Administration, Planning, and Operations (**Resolution 03-16**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Approved the Regional Transportation Commission meeting schedule for 2016
13. Approved CalPERS health benefit contribution rates for plan year 2016 (**Resolution 04-16**)

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
15. Accepted correspondence log
16. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
17. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
18. Accepted information items

REGULAR AGENDA

19. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Chair Leopold noted that he appointed members for an ad hoc committee for the proposed tax measure .The committee members are: Commissioners McPherson, Friend, Lane, Norton, Dutra, and himself.

20. Director’s Report – oral report

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported on:

- The public release of the Highway 1 Tier 1 and Tier 2 environmental documents is on schedule for the end of October. Mr. Dondero reported that Caltrans agreed to extend the comment period to 75 days. He announced and invited all to an Open House on the environmental documents scheduled for December 3, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Live Oak Elementary School Multipurpose room;
- Mr. Dondero thanked the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for providing the additional \$300K in matching funds required for a federal grant award and for contributing a total of \$3.3M for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network. The previously approved RTC matching funds will not be

used; He also noted that staff will be applying for two Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grants: one for the Highway 9 San Lorenzo Valley Corridor Plan and the other for Phase 2 of the Unified Corridor Plan

- The January RTC meeting is being moved to January 21, 2016 and the Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) meeting will be cancelled; he reported some staff changes at the RTC: Amy Naranjo applied and was offered the position of Temporary Transportation Planner I. Brianna Goodman accepted the position of Temporary (6- month) Transportation Planning Technician;
- Mr. Dondero announced several upcoming events including the 17th Annual Bike to School/Work Day on October 8th; Open Streets along Cliff Drive on October 11th and a rail line clean-up day hosted by Ecology Action on October 24th; Detailed information can be found on the RTC Facebook page;
- Staff is working with Iowa Pacific to place "No Trespassing" signs on the rail line trestles. Other "No trespassing" and "No dumping" signs will be placed along the 32 mile property; Iowa Pacific Holding has notified the RTC that they will be storing freight trains at the north end of the rail line and that freight trains will be operating on the rail line;

Mr. Dondero said that the current transportation funding situation continues to be bleak making it even more important for Santa Cruz County to become a self-help county.

Commissioner Alternate Rotkin moved and Commissioner McPherson seconded for the RTC to send a formal thank you letter to the Coastal Conservancy and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for their contribution to the north coast segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Johnson, Chase, Bottorff, Dutra, Caput, Coonerty, Friend, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin voting "aye".

21. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe said the 3rd Mile Marker report is now available on-line. She noted that the California Transportation Coalition (CTC) released a report on the success of Proposition 1B, which allowed issuance of \$20B in bond funds specifically for transportation. Santa Cruz received over \$47M, which was invested into four programs: Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), augmentation to the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and money for transit. Ms. Loe also announced that Highway 9 is now open and the Highway Realignment Project will be delayed until spring.

Commissioners discussed: current projects in Watsonville and the complications of the Highway 9 project; and expressed their appreciation for Caltrans' work in both Watsonville and on the Highway 9 Corridor.

22. Rail Motorcar Excursion on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented his staff report noting that the RTC received several comments both against and in favor of the excursion.

Pat McDonald, Paradise Park motorcar speeder, said that people enjoyed watching the motorcars and invited those who wanted to go for a run to meet in Watsonville.

Commissioner Coonerty moved and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin seconded to approve:

1. A rail motorcar excursion on the Santa Cruz Branch Line for October 10, 2015 organized by the North American Railcar Operators Associations (NARCOA) for a fee of \$300.00;
2. Authorizing the Executive Director or his/her designee to approve licenses for future rail motorcar excursions to a maximum of two per year as long as the RTC is indemnified, appropriate insurance is provided, all appropriate safety requirements and practices are followed, approval is secured from SC&MB Railway and a reasonable fee for the license is paid.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Johnson, Chase, Bottorff, Dutra, Caput, Coonerty, Friend, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin voting "aye".

23. 2040 Regional Transportation Plan and Environmental Impact Report

Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner, presented a PowerPoint presentation recommending that the RTC receive information and provide input on the development of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Commissioners asked if the STARS program goals and policies would be incorporated into the plan. Ms. Dykaar said that they would.

Jack Nelson, congratulated the Commission on the generational shift and being leaders to fix the current climate issues. Mr. Nelson said that the RTP is a great step forward and hopes the minor updates are an improvement.

Commissioner Caput moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded to:

1. Authorize staff to coordinate with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC), and the San Benito Council of Governments (SbCOG) on the 2040

Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and RTPs;

2. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements related to the 2040 MTP/RTPs including an agreement with AMBAG to contribute \$60,000 for environmental review of the 2040 MTP/RTPs.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Johnson, Chase, Bottorff, Dutra, Caput, Coonerty, Friend, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin voting "aye".

24. Amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015-16 Budget and Work Program

Luis Mendez presented his staff report.

Commissioners discussed: outreach and inclusion of South County; the fiscal impact of carryovers; federal and state money exchanging; Caltrans maintenance of freeway congestion detectors to regain revenues for the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP); and the decrease of federal planning funds from Association of Monterey Bay Governments (AMBAG).

Commissioner Dutra moved and Commissioner Friend seconded to adopt the resolution (**Resolution 06-16**) approving the amended FY 2015-16 budget and work program and to include the renewal of the lease for the RTC Watsonville office for 1 year and addition of \$29,744 in State Transit Assistance Funds for Santa Cruz Metro.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Johnson, Chase, Bottorff, Dutra, Caput, Coonerty, Friend, McPherson, and Rotkin voting "aye".

25. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 10:28 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

26. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code) Santa Cruz Superior Court Case No. CV182123
27. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to paragraph (2) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government code: one case
28. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-ANTICIPATED LITIGATION. Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government code: one case

OPEN SESSION

29. Report on closed session

No report

30. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 5, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Suite 400, Watsonville, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted

Jennifer Rodriguez, Staff

Attendees:

Howard Sosbee
Jack Nelson
Heather Adamson
Chris O'Connell
Peter Scott
Diane Warren
Brett Garrett
Eric Child
Pat McDonald
Carl Arnett
Robert Frank

MetroLink
Campaign for Sensible Transportation
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Santa Cruz Friends of the Rail Trail
Campaign for Sensible Transportation