



**Santa Cruz County Regional  
Transportation Commission**

---

**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 7, 2016  
9:00 a.m.**

**County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean St., 5<sup>th</sup> floor  
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at: 9:08 a.m.

Members present:

|                 |                         |
|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Don Lane        | Zach Friend             |
| John Leopold    | Greg Caput              |
| Bruce McPherson | Ryan Coonerty           |
| Dennis Norton   | Ed Bottorff             |
| Cynthia Chase   | Aileen Loe (ex-officio) |

Staff present:

|                |                    |
|----------------|--------------------|
| George Dondero | Luis Mendez        |
| Yesenia Parra  | Jennifer Rodriguez |
| Cory Caletti   | Grace Blakeslee    |
| Kim Shultz     | Daniel Nikuna      |

2. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 9:10 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

3. Conference with Real Property Negotiator Pursuant to Government Code 54956.8 for lease of property on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

Property: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Agency Negotiator: George Dondero, Executive Director and Luis Mendez, Deputy Director

Negotiating Parties: RTC and Golden Gate Railroad Museum

Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

## OPEN SESSION

### 4. Report on closed session

Commissioners reconvened to open session at 9:33 a.m.

Chair Lane appointed Commissioners Friend, Leopold, Coonerty, and himself to an ad-hoc committee to assist in negotiations with Golden Gate Railroad Museum (GGRM) for property lease on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

### 5. Oral communications

**Eduardo Montecino**, Santa Cruz Metro and Monterey Bay Central Labor Council, stated that the Monterey Bay Central Labor Council endorsed the Transportation Improvement Plan because of the many benefits it will bring to the community. He also said that the impending Santa Cruz Metro service cuts will negatively impact the entire county.

**Jack Nelson**, Campaign for Sensible Transportation (CFST), said that climate scientists have found that sea levels are rising due to temperature changes. Mr. Nelson stated that he is currently petitioning for a sales tax measure that does not include widening Highway 1 and handed out CFST informational flyers for sustainable transportation events. He noted that the Commission consists of important decision makers that can lead the county to a sustainable future.

### 6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

## CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Norton seconded approval of the items listed under the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Friend, Caput, Coonerty, Leopold, McPherson, Norton, Bottorff and Chase voting "aye".

Commissioner Caput asked for clarification on Item 12.

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer, clarified that the current Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Community of RTC Employees (CORE) dictates that the full 7% employee contribution for CalPERS retirement costs be shifted to RTC staff effective April 1, 2016.

## MINUTES

### 7. Approved draft minutes of the March 3, 2016 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

8. Accepted draft minutes of the March 9, 2016 Safe on 17/TOS Task Force meeting

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

9. Approved Caltrans grant funded contract authorization for the Sustainable Transportation Prioritization Plan (**Resolution 14-16**)

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

10. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
11. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY)15-16 SCCRTC Semi-Annual Internal Financial Statements

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

12. Approved CalPERS Employer Paid Member Contributions Change (**Resolution 15-16**)
13. Approved the Bicycle Advisory Committee membership appointments

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
15. Accepted correspondence log
16. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
  - a. Letter to the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District regarding an invitation to attend the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee May 10, 2016 special meeting to discuss Santa Cruz Metro's service reduction, from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
  - b. Letter to Senator William Monning, Assemblymember Luis Alejo, and Assemblymember Mark Stone regarding the Strategic Growth Council's Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program, from RTC Staff

17. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
18. Accepted information items – *none*

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

19. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Chair Lane reported that the Central Coast Coalition Legislative Day in Sacramento on March 9<sup>th</sup> was helpful to meet key players and learn the dynamics of what is happening with transportation funding at the state level. He stated that although there are areas of concern, both the Governor and Legislature are actively engaged in making improvements. Commissioner Friend noted that there is an understanding of the collective needs; however, there is no agreement on the action needed to address them.

Commissioners and staff shared their condolences for the recent passing of Commissioner Dutra's father.

20. Director's Report – oral report

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported on: the Central Coast Coalition Legislative Day; concerns that the legislature has not passed a bill to improve transportation funding; RTC discussions with the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP); Caltrans' and the consultants' work on responses to the numerous comments on the Highway 1 environmental document; renaming the ballot measure expenditure plan the Transportation Improvement Plan (TRIP) and the support it is gathering; and an inspection trip on the "Daisy" trolley motorcar, for rail line tours from Santa Cruz to Davenport.

21. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5 Deputy Director, announced that the newest *Mile Marker* is available. Ms. Loe reported on: updates to the Road User Charge Pilot program; Caltrans partnering with the Netherlands to test solar cells in concrete transportation infrastructures for electricity; and a regional workshop for District 5 being held on May 5<sup>th</sup> in San Luis Obispo for the statewide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

Commissioners discussed specific deadlines for projects to be finished; and expressed their appreciation to Caltrans for continuing work on transportation projects despite funding shortages, utilizing local businesses to complete projects, and the improvements to the fishhook.

22. City of Watsonville Rail Trail project update

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. Ms. Caletti introduced Murray Fontes, Principal Engineer with the City of Watsonville.

Mr. Fontes gave a PowerPoint presentation on the preliminary designs for the 1.2 mile rail trail being developed from Lee Road to Walker Street in Watsonville. He noted the City's appreciation for the RTC's support, donated funds from the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and donations collected by Ecology Action.

Commissioners discussed: the usefulness and beauty of the Watsonville slough trails in an urban environment for a walk or bicycle ride; having alternatives for corridor access to neighboring farms; forming a committee, once funding is identified, for outreach efforts to the local community; and appreciation to staff for getting public input.

**Jack Nelson**, said the Watsonville trail segment is one more piece toward a sustainable future. Mr. Nelson shared a story on how the University of California Santa Barbara campus has continued to grow with bicycles rather than cars.

23. Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee's - Committee Report 2012-2015

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. Ms. Blakeslee introduced the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee's (E&DTAC) Chair, Veronica Elsea and Vice-Chair, John Daugherty.

Ms. Elsea reported on the the Pedestrian Safety Work Group (PSWG), and highlighted some of the group's accomplishments and activities for specialized transportation needs throughout Santa Cruz County.

Mr. Daugherty provided information on the diversity of the members that make up the E&DTAC and the collaboration efforts to provide input and advice for projects that benefit the community as a whole.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for the E&D TAC's contribution to the community and commented on the Santa Cruz Metro board unanimously voting to not make any more cuts to the paratransit service.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Friend seconded the staff recommendation to accept the Committee Report – 2012-2015 for the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Friend, Caput, McPherson, Leopold, Coonerty, Norton, Bottorff, and Chase voting "aye".

## 24. User Oriented Transit Planning Project

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. She noted that the User Oriented Transit Planning Project will provide information needed to understand and strategize effective individualized marketing techniques to encourage alternate modes of transportation that will reduce greenhouse gases and relieve traffic congestion in Santa Cruz County.

Commissioners discussed: the selection of targeted neighborhoods; the importance of the information received to determine the success of development strategies; identifying individuals according to a baseline survey; having options for receiving information; valuable results from surveys to aid in an increase of transit ridership; the cooperative effort with Santa Cruz Metro; and the impact that the results will have in addressing traffic congestion in the county.

**Jack Nelson**, said this type of project is part of a Travel Demand Model and he is thrilled to see that the Commission is looking into alternatives to driving.

**John Daugherty**, stated that Santa Cruz Metro has been doing marketing through its accessible services program. He asked for clarification on which streets divide the neighborhoods that are to be targeted.

**Pauline Seales**, said Dana Bagshaw, with Bus by Choice, has been working with Santa Cruz Metro to encourage bus riding trips.

Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded the staff recommendation to adopt **(Resolution 16-16)**:

1. Authorizing the Executive Director to execute a Memorandum of Understanding between RTC and Santa Cruz Metro to support the development of the User Oriented Transit Planning Project and reimburse Santa Cruz Metro for up to \$10,000 for its advisory work;
2. Releasing a Request for Proposals for consultant services to advise RTC in the design of the User Oriented Transit Planning Project to ensure consistency with industry standards and to complete an analysis of project effectiveness; and
3. Authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement between RTC and the selected consultant to advise on the User Oriented Transit Planning Project design and to complete an analysis of effectiveness.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Friend, Caput, McPherson, Leopold, Coonerty, Norton, Bottorff, and Chase voting "aye".

Commissioner Friend left the meeting.

25. Highway 1 Corridor Environmental Document – Status Report

Kim Shultz, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. Mr. Shultz noted that the completion of the final environmental documents is anticipated for summer 2017.

**Rick Longinotti**, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, said that the Commission should review the comments from the public on the Highway 1 environmental document before moving ahead with a transportation ballot measure.

**Jack Nelson**, stated that he would like an agenda item to review the comments from the public on the Highway 1 environmental document. Mr. Nelson noted that he hopes the environmental document will be an analytical process rather than a ritual for widening the highway.

George Dondero stated that the comments from the public on the Highway 1 environmental document will be presented to the Commission, with Caltrans' responses before the final report is brought to the RTC board.

26. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commissioners adjourned to close session at 11:06 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

27. 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

28. 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

**OPEN SESSION**

29. Report on closed session - *No report*

30. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the Capitola City Council Chambers, 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Rodriguez, Staff

Attendees:

|                   |   |
|-------------------|---|
| Alex Clifford     | Santa Cruz Metro                              |
| Becky Steinbruner |   |
| Eduardo Montecino | Santa Cruz Metro & Monterey Bay Labor Council |
| Eric Child        | Golden Gate Railroad Museum                   |
| Heather Adamson   | Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments  |
| Jack Nelson       | Campaign for Sensible Transportation          |
| John Daugherty    |   |
| John Mills        |   |
| Mark Abadi        |   |
| Murray Fontes     | City of Watsonville                           |
| Paul Elerick      |   |
| Pauline Seales    |   |
| Rick Longinotti   | Campaign for Sensible Transportation          |
| Veronica Elsea    |   |