



**Santa Cruz County Regional  
Transportation Commission  
Transportation Policy Workshop**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 19, 2016  
9:00 a.m.**

**SCCRTC Conference Room  
1523 Pacific Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Introductions

The meeting was called to order at: 9:00 a.m.

Members present:

Don Lane	Randy Johnson
Ryan Coonerty	Dennis Norton
Ed Bottorff	Patrick Mulhearn (alt.)
Lowell Hurst (alt.)	Dene Bustichi (alt.)
Dave Reid (alt.)	Virginia Johnson (alt.)
Mike Rotkin (alt.)	Tim Gubbins (ex-officio)

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Jenn Rodriguez	Cory Caletti
Yesenia Parra	Kim Shultz

2. Oral communications

Commissioner Alternate Hurst provided a Highway 1 morning traffic report.

Commissioner Bottorff inquired about where the trolley car, "Daisy", will be operating on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) adopted the RTC staff recommendations for the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) programmed projects and has also allocated \$90K in design funds to segment 18 (a Watsonville segment) of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST). Mr. Dondero passed around "Let's Move" cards for Commissioners to distribute to support the Transportation Improvement Plan (TRIP).

**Jack Nelson**, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, said that there are concerns within the community about green house gases and we need to address the issue by looking into alternatives to widening Highway 1.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

A handout for Item 5 was distributed.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

No consent items

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

4. Highway 17 Access Management Plan (AMP) update

Kelly McClendon, Caltrans District 5 Transportation Planner, and Joe Erwin, Traffic Design Planner, provided a PowerPoint presentation. A flyer with information on the upcoming community workshops was distributed to the Commission.

Mr. McClendon reported that the key access management characteristics include: mobility, access, and safety; and the three main segments identified as having the highest needs are: Vine Hill Road, Sugarloaf Road/ Laurel Road/Glenwood Road, and Old Santa Cruz Road.

Mr. Erwin reported that the plans for the corridor include: eliminating at grade intersections; providing interchanges so motorists could access both sides of the highway; off-highway multimodal facilities; acceleration and deceleration lanes; median barriers; improving right in/right out; access denial; and driveway consolidation.

Commissioners discussed: making sure that the wildlife crossing at Laurel Curve does not conflict with the proposed road additions; the implementation schedule and funding; Caltrans qualifying for monies to help fund the AMP; working with Santa Cruz Metro to put flyers on the buses for public outreach; phasing information being available in the final report; and the impact and cost of existing right-of-ways and parcels.

George Dondero, stated that Caltrans is requesting to program enough money through the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) for the design and environmental work on the wildlife crossing. Mr. Dondero shared his appreciation to Mr. McClendon and Mr. Erwin for their work, and to the outreach consultants for their conceptual approach in attempting to get public input.

**Dana Bagshaw**, inquired about the public input at Old Santa Cruz Road for bus stops.

**Elise Casby**, stated that she would like additional information on the outreach efforts for public input. Ms. Casby said that she is concerned about funding for the AMP and the public's involvement in the decision making process.

5. North coast rail trail segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network – Proposed Phase 2

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. Ms. Caletti noted that preliminary designs are currently being prepared for the public open house on Tuesday, May 24<sup>th</sup>, 2016 from 6 to 7:30pm at the Veteran's Memorial Hall in Santa Cruz.

Commissioners discussed: moving the trail phase forward in higher density areas; the Federal Land Access Program (FLAP) grant's availability for federal lands in the north cost; recognizing forward looking attitudes from all transportation related organizations; STIP funding and South County projects; and monies allocated only to the trail and not to the maintenance of the adjacent rail.

**Pauline Seales**, thanked the RTC for their work on the rail trail.

Commissioner Alternate Rotkin moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded the staff recommendation to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to pursue implementation of "Phase 2" of the North Coast rail trail project to connect the currently funded "Phase 1" trail to the town of Davenport;
2. Re-commit \$300,000 originally committed in August 2015 but not utilized, in matching funds for preliminary work for the Phase 2 north coast project; and
3. Direct staff to submit an application for a \$300,000 Surface Transportation Block Grant/Regional Surface Transportation Improvement Grant or other grant sources available to fund the project.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Coonerty, Norton, Bottorff, and Johnson, and Commissioner Alternates Rotkin, Bustichi, Hurst, Reid, Johnson, and Mulhearn voting "aye".

6. 2016 Transportation Improvement Plan Ad Hoc Committee update– oral report

Chair Lane reported that the ad hoc committee has been working on: recommendations for the allocations of funds; a timeline and finalizing the poll to be administered in June; and finalizing ballot title language and the language of the ordinance for the TRIP. There will be a presentation at the June 16<sup>th</sup> Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) meeting to adopt the ballot measure and ordinance language.

**Elise Casby**, said that she hopes there will be more outreach, besides the polling, to those that will be adversely affected by the proposed sales tax measure.

**Jack Nelson**, said that we need to listen to environmental scientists and do our part to create a livable future by decreasing green house gases.

Commissioners discussed how the sales tax measure will impact taxes, and that not having a tax increase will mean cutting public transit.

## 7. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 2, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Watsonville Council Chambers, 275 Main St., Ste 450, Watsonville, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Santa Cruz Council Chambers, 809 Center St., Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 10:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Rodriguez, Staff

### Attendees:

Amelia Conlen

Dana Bagshaw

Eduardo Montesino

Elise Casby

Jack Nelson

Joe Jordan

Pat Malo

Paul Elerick

Pauline Seales

Steven Slate

Bike Santa Cruz County

Bike by Choice

Santa Cruz Metro

Campaign for Sensible Transportation

Santa Cruz Climate Action Network

Land Trust of Santa Cruz County