Executive Director George Dondero called the meeting to order at 9:01 am and communicated that Chair Friend and Vice-Chair Chase were both absent from the RTC meeting. Commissioner Hagen moved to have Commissioner Leopold chair the meeting and Commissioner McPherson seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

1. Roll call

Members present:
- Greg Caput
- Ryan Coonerty
- Oscar Rios
- Jacques Bertrand
- Randy Johnson
- Patrick Mulhearn (alt)

Staff present:
- George Dondero
- Jenn Eames
- Cory Caletti

John Leopold
Bruce McPherson
Ed Bottorff
Norm Hagen
Aileen Loe (ex-officio)
Tony Gregorio (alt)

Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra
Karena Pushnik

2. Oral communications

Brian Peoples, Trail Now, said that Trail Now’s support contributed to the success of Measure D and that trains will not sufficiently address the County’s transportation issues.

Josh Stephens, Community member, thanked the Commission for pursuing sustainable transportation options and said that rolling back on the plans for a rail with trail would undermine California’s goal to reduce green house gas emissions.

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, stated that Watsonville residents who were not previously informed about plans for the Rail Trail were
excited upon learning about the possibility of having a train to relieve traffic congestion on Highway 1.

Lowell Hurst, Watsonville citizen, gave a traffic report on the morning commute and an update on Harkins Slough road projects.

Theresa Rogerson, Santa Cruz County Public Health, invited the Commission to attend a Vision Zero forum on June 29th at the Simpkins Center from 4pm to 6pm.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas
   Additional materials for Items 11 and 21 were distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Caput moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Rios, Caput, Hagen, Coonerty, McPherson, Leopold, Bottorff, Bertrand, Johnson, and Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn voting “aye”.

MINUTES

4. Accepted draft minutes of the April 17, 2017 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting

5. Approved draft minutes of the May 4, 2017 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

6. Approved draft minutes of the May 18, 2017 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

POLICY ITEMS

None

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) amendments (Resolution 37-17)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

9. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 Claims for the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, the Ride ‘n’ Stride Program, and the Bike to Work Program (Resolutions 38-17, 39-17)

10. Approved contracting for Measure D Revenue Analysis, Reporting, and Auditing services

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

11. Approved amendments to the RTC Rules and Regulations and Administrative and Fiscal Policies

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS
12. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

13. Accepted correspondence log

14. Accept letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies - None

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

16. Accept information items - None

**REGULAR AGENDA**

17. Commissioner reports on RTC related items – oral reports

Commissioner McPherson reported on the Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Transportation Corridor Open House that was held last night at the Felton Community Hall.

Commissioner Rios thanked Caltrans for the road repairs completed on Main Street in Watsonville.

Commissioner Caput reported on the reroute options due to the road closure for the construction starting next week to build a new bridge on Smith and Casserly Road in Watsonville.

**Chair Leopold moved Item 18 to come after Item 23 and moved Item 19 to come after Item 20.**

20. Project Updates from City of Watsonville Public Works – oral presentation

Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works, provided a PowerPoint presentation with updates on several transportation projects in Watsonville, which included: multiple roadway projects; road and trail maintenance; traffic control projects; planning, outreach, and education projects; and pedestrian and bicycle safety improvement projects. He stated that Senate Bill 1 (SB1) funds would be used to supplement Measure D funded projects and backfill high construction costs. Mr. Fontes also reported that the City of Watsonville was recently awarded the Bicycle Friendly Community Bronze Award from The League of American Bicyclists and that Saturday is National Trails Day.

Commissioners discussed: their appreciation for the City of Watsonville’s work to meet the goals of Measure D; appreciation for bike and pedestrian safety improvements; and the Struve Slough Trail being a great bike and pedestrian resource.

19. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe, District 5 Deputy Director, reported on: the recent approval of “Toward an Active California” plan to increase active transportation; storm damage costs reaching $1 billion; the land slide in Big Sur being the largest in California history;
and Caltrans’ excitement for additional funds for road repairs with the passage of Senate Bill 1 (SB1).

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for work performed by Caltrans.

21. 9:30 PUBLIC HEARING  Adoption of Regional and Community Bridges Lift Line Five-Year Programs of Projects for Measure D

Karena Pushnik, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. Ms. Pushnik reported that the 5-year programs of projects identify how each agency will utilize their Measure D allocations and provided details on RTC projects that will be funded through Measure D.

Chair Leopold opened the Public Hearing at: 9:35 a.m.

Jessica Evans, said that following through with public process in a transparent way is important to improve community trust and that community outreach beyond social media is needed to accurately reflect the opinion of the community. She noted her hope that segments 7 and 8 of the Rail Trail will continue in an expeditious manner.

Nancy Faulstich, Regeneration-Pajaro Valley Climate Action, stated that basing decisions on the minority will affect future generations and maintaining the trail is vital to ensure equity for those with communication hurdles that would utilize a rail service.

Jeannie LePage, Ecology Action, stated that Ecology Action supports Measure D and appreciates the RTC’s efforts to improve safety for cyclists with the Rail Trail.

Josh Stephens, said that there is great potential in keeping the train tracks and that the community would like to see sustainable transportation options sooner rather than later. He noted that it is vital to continue efforts for a public process and that he is looking forward to the completion of segment 7 of the Rail Trail.

Michael Saint, said widening the freeway will not reduce congestion but rather will encourage people to drive more miles because drivers are not being charged for using roads. He noted that induced demand is bad for the environment and a waste of funds.

Becky Steinbruner, stated that she supports bike bridges to enhance bike safety near schools and supports maintaining the rail as long as it doesn’t hold back building of the trail. She noted that development in Aptos Village will bring more cars and that alternatives to Highway 1 are needed.

Stephen Slade, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, said that the Land Trust committed $6 million to assist with building the North Coast Rail Trail segment as soon as possible. He noted that RTC plans are consistent with the Land Trust’s and Measure D’s plans.

Barry Scott, stated that he hopes that the possibility of having a passenger rail will be revisited and that the majority of the community supports utilizing the rail
Jannika Strauss, said that she is happy that the day has come to adopt the 5-year plan for the Rail Trail and that cyclists want to see the trail built as soon as possible. She noted that she is also looking forward to bike improvements on Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV), supports future studies for passenger rail, and is eager to see the results of the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS).

Mark Mesiti-Miller, Community member, urged the Commission to support the 5-year plans as outlined and stated that the north coast segments will improve community awareness of the Rail Trail and will encourage reduced commutes. He said that he is excited about the possibility of the plans and noted that voters deserve action and results.

Gail McNulty, said that there are some people in the community that are unaware of the plans for the Rail Trail. She noted that keeping the tracks won’t accommodate a trail width for pedestrian and cyclist simultaneous use and that the rail corridor ultimately won’t get people to where they need to go.

Lowell Hurst, encouraged the RTC to be brave and bold with move forward with plans.

Commissioner Caput left the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Gregorio arrived.

Chair Leopold closed the Public Hearing at 9:58 a.m.

Commissioners discussed: how Measure D fund allocations will be used to maintain the tracks on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line; costs associated with railroad bridge rehabilitations; including the Freedom Blvd extension of service to Watsonville in the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS); the need to increase outreach and public awareness of plans; utilization of alternate means of outreach for seniors; the possibility of a separate measure to gather voter support for rail service from Watsonville to Santa Cruz; Measure D being a brilliant campaign that helps the community collaborate to discuss transportation issues; anticipation of results from the UCS to provide details on transportation issues and assist with making policy decisions; the current state of economics having a major impact on policy decisions; encouragement for the public to research RTC projects and engage in the public process; appreciation to RTC staff for compiling information in an understandable way, with a collective approach that addresses various needs; the importance of looking at both the scope of the plan and the size of the infrastructure when considering plans for multi-modal investments; making infrastructure improvements that are adaptable to future transportation changes; the community’s quality of life improvements with more access to transportation options; moving forward towards the County’s transportation goals with a thoughtful approach; having a fast track on Highway 1 for buses; Highway 1 being the backbone of the community and focusing on expediting construction start dates; appreciation for the public’s input and voter’s support; the Rail Trail estimated opening in the first 5 years of the 30-year implementation plan; Caltrans’ function and role with the Highway 1 Environmental Impact Report (EIR); and the proposed 5-year plans being in line with the promises made to voters in Measure D.
Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Rios seconded staff recommendations to hold a public meeting and adopt (Resolution 40-17):

1. Approving the Measure D 5-year programs of projects for the regional projects overseen by the RTC -- Highway Corridors, Active Transportation and Rail Corridor investment categories, -- the San Lorenzo Valley Highway 9 Corridor Improvements, the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing and Community Bridges-Lift Line (Exhibits A through F); and
2. Amending the FY 2017/18 RTC budget to reflect these approved Measure D 5-year programs of projects; and
3. Authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreements with implementing agencies, as may be necessary, to ensure requirements of the Measure D Ordinance are met and to proceed with projects as outlined in the approved Measure D “5-year programs of projects.

The motion passed with Commissioners Rios, Hagen, Coonerty, McPherson, Leopold, Bottorff, Bertrand, and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn and Gregorio voting “aye” and Commissioner Johnson voting “no”

Commissioner Johnson left the meeting.

22. **10:30 Special Appreciation** for key supporters of Measure D – Casey Beyer, Ken Kannappan, and Bill Tysseling

George Dondero, Executive Director, presented awards of appreciation to Casey Beyer, Ken Kannappan, and Bill Tysseling. Mr. Dondero shared the leadership efforts made by Mr. Beyer, Mr. Kannappan, and Mr. Tysseling at key moments during the campaign to assist with raising community support for Measure D.

Commissioners discussed: their appreciation for Mr. Beyer’s, Mr. Kannappan’s, and Mr. Tysseling’s civic engagement, dedication, tenacity, leadership, support, broad visions, and for playing an incredible role early on in the campaign to help show the community how Measure D could leave a lasting impact on transportation infrastructure in Santa Cruz County; and Measure D being a collaborative effort that has ultimately made the community a better place.

Bill Tysseling, thanked the Commission for their efforts to improve the community’s quality of life and stated that he is grateful for his participation and that the success of Measure D has been a great outcome for all.

Ken Kannappan, thanked George Dondero for his leadership and stated that the Measure D campaign provided a wonderful experience for himself and Plantronics in forming partnerships with the community.

Casey Beyer, thanked the Commission for their dedication to addressing Santa Cruz County’s transportation issues and stated that it took collaborative efforts to make Measure D successful and that leadership is not a place in line, but rather it is action. Commissioner Caput rejoined the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Gregorio left the meeting.
Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Coonerty seconded recognitions of appreciation (Resolutions 41-17, 42-17, 43-17) for Casey Beyer, Ken Kannappan, and Bill Tysseling, for their vision and leadership in supporting Measure D. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Rios, Caput, Hagen, Coonerty, McPherson, Leopold, Bottorff, Bertrand, and Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn voting “aye”.

23. Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 Work Program

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: the critical need to pass Measure D to be able to address the transportation needs of Santa Cruz County; and increasing outreach efforts to the public.

Jessica Evans, urged the Commission to include Spanish outreach in print form.

Barry Scott, stated that increased outreach is needed in the Spanish communities.

Commissioner Coonerty moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the staff recommendation to approve the draft final Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 RTC Work Program. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Rios, Caput, Hagen, Coonerty, McPherson, Leopold, Bottorff, Bertrand, and Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn voting “aye”.

18. Director’s Report – oral report - moved to come after Item 23

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported on: the progress of the Unified Corridor Investment Study (USC) online survey and outreach efforts; prioritization of sustainable transportation projects; a Design Charette held for the Visualization Sustainable Transportation project; utilization of new technology to improve outreach; and upcoming RTC staff retirements and staffing changes.

Commissioners discussed their appreciation for RTC staffs’ proactive outreach efforts.

Chair Leopold opened up Oral Communications again at the end of the meeting:

Becky Steinbruner, Aptos resident, requested that efforts be made to ensure that adequate built-in public noticing for all construction to be done is included in the plans for projects that are being considered for grant awards.

Janneka Strauss, Bike Santa Cruz County, thanked the Commission and the community for supporting Open Streets Watsonville on May 21st and noted that sustained support is what allows for the ethos of the event and supports community oriented success for everyone.

Gail McNulty, Santa Cruz County Greenways, stated that loud voices are needed to represent the minority of community and that the Citizen’s Oversight Committee should have all options and views represented. She noted that the majority of people who supported Measure D were in support of safe transportation options.
25. Next meetings

There will be no meetings in July.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 3, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers, 1 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, CA

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA

The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Eames, Staff

Attendees:
Jessica Evans          Community Member
Barry Scott            CoastalRail.org
Brian Peoples          Trail Now
Gail McNulty           Santa Cruz County Greenway
Janneka Strauss        Bike Santa Cruz County
Lowell Hurst           City of Watsonville
Theresa Rogerson       Santa Cruz County Public Health
Becky Steinbruner      Aptos Resident
Michael Saint          Campaign for Sensible Transportation
Mark Mesiti-Miller     Community Member
Nancy Faulstich        Pajaro Valley Climate Action Network
Josh Stephens          Community Member
Jeannie LePage         Ecology Action
Stephen Slade          Land Trust of Santa Cruz County
Heather Adamson        Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Keith Severson         Granite Rock
Steve Snodgrass        Granite Rock
Chris Schneider        City of Santa Cruz
Kristen Petersen       Office of Representative Panetta
Stephen Svele          Rincon Consultants
John Mukhar            MNS Engineers