MINUTES

Thursday, June 15, 2017
9:00 a.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA

1. Introductions

Vice Chair Chase called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members present:
Cynthia Chase  Zach Friend
John Leopold  Jacques Bertrand
Norm Hagen  Ed Bottorff
Bruce McPherson  Sandy Brown
Randy Johnson  Oscar Rios
Greg Caput  Alternate Patrick Mulhearn

Staff present:
George Dondero  Karena Pushnik
Jenn Eames  Yesenia Parra
Ginger Dykaar  Grace Blakeslee
Cory Caletti  Cathy Judd

2. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

The commission adjourned to closed session at: 9:03 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

3. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-INITIATION OF LITIGATION (Paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code): One case

OPEN SESSION

4. Report on closed session

The commission reconvened to open session at 9:24 a.m. and there was no closed session report.
5. Oral communications

Jack Nelson, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, read an excerpt about how to build livable and sustainable communities from the book “Walkable City” by Jeff Speck.

Rob Quinn, Physicians for Trails, stated that the rail corridor is ideal for incorporating a trail to provide a safe place for people to ride bikes and exercise, and a safe path for people with disabilities.

Gail McNulty, Santa Cruz County Greenways, stated that the County needs safe and convenient bike routes to connect people to where they need to go. She said that increased utilization of efficient buses on Highway 1 and implementation of a trail-only plan on the rail corridor would reduce traffic congestion and greenhouse gas emissions.

6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

An informational handout, a handout for Item 10, and a replacement page for Item 11 were distributed.

George Dondero, Executive Director, went over the informational handout which provided details on the proposed allocation formula to Self-Help Counties for Senate Bill 1 (SB1), the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017, as addressed in a letter from the bill’s co-sponsors, California Senator Jim Beall and Assemblyman Jim Frazier, to the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

CONSENT AGENDA

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

7. Approved Amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17 Budget and Work Program (Resolution 44-17)

8. Approved rejection of claim from Paul and Nicole Cruz

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Resolution of appreciation for retiree: Cathy Judd, Administrative Assistant

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported that Cathy Judd, Administrative Assistant, will retire on June 30, 2017 after 15 years of exemplary service with the RTC. Mr. Dondero commended Ms. Judd for her support and dedication. Mr. Dondero noted that Jennifer Eames would also be departing on June 30th and thanked her for her 2 years of service with the RTC.
Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner McPherson seconded the recognition of appreciation (Resolution 45-17) for retiring Administrative Assistant, Cathy Judd. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Chase, Friend, Brown, McPherson, Caput, Johnson, Bertrand, Bottorff, Hagen, and Rios voting “aye”.

10. Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) – Draft Scenarios

Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner, presented the staff report with a PowerPoint presentation.

Commissioners discussed: the total number of participants in the most recent survey in comparison to previously conducted surveys and other comparable surveys; the lack of public awareness in Watsonville about plans for the rail corridor; the UCS’s triple bottom line approach and what considerations go into equity goals; performance measures of economic indicators; survey participants not matching the true community demographics and relying on scientific means instead to figure out what is important to the community’s transportation needs; the goal of the UCS being to look at all corridors and maximize efficiency rather than predetermining an outcome; the RTC having a responsibility to provide services and outreach efforts to marginalized citizens; the importance of the criteria updates from Kimley-Horn; weighing public expenditures and funding allocations to cover initial and on-going project costs; UCS scenario evaluations and direct goals that support economic vitality; population growth impacts on planning criteria for sustainability and strategizing efforts to better serve communities that have projected growth; and population increases being in correlation with median incomes.

William Kingsley, Community member, requested additional information regarding: the project timeline for the Highway 1 Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and when the Measure D Oversight Committee would be formed. He reiterated his comments previously submitted to the Commission concerning transportation crowding and unsafe speeds with motorized bikes.

Richard Marlais, Community member, said that no matter what scenario the Commission decides on, maps should accommodate density in the areas that have public transportation stops.

Michael Saint, Aptos resident, stated that door to door Spanish outreach is needed in Watsonville to raise public awareness about the Rail Trail. He reported that recently passed Senate Bill 100 (SB100) doubled California’s clean energy goal and set requirements for wide-scale transportation electrification and noted that auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 will hinder future sustainability efforts.

Stanley Sokolow, Community member, said that transportation agencies look at transit oriented development (TOD) to measure economic vitality. He noted that comparative studies have shown bus rapid transit (BRT) to be more efficient than trains.

Jack Nelson, stated that he is concerned with measuring the efficiency of the proposed scenarios and would love to see individual components studied before combining them into scenarios and that the induced travel demand model be included in the study.
Gail McNulty, said that she is concerned with the validity of the survey results and that the scenarios may predefine what the consultants should be looking at. She noted that economic vitality correlates with a bike path and that individual components should be studied.

Brett Garrett, Community member, stated that he felt that there was disconnect on the questions asked in the survey and the feedback that he wanted to give. He noted his hopes for personal rapid transit (PRT) to be included in the UCS.

Commissioner Friend left the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn joined the meeting.

Bruno Kaiser, Seaview Ranch Homeowners Association, said that Highway 1 needs to be expanded to three lanes down to Aptos to allow for efficient driving.

Community member, stated that the added auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 were a waste of time and money.

Mark Mesiti-Miller, Community member, stated that the online survey successfully captured what the public felt should be studied and that quality research should be relied on before moving forward with decisions. He noted that he trusts and sees that all components are included in the scenarios and that it is important that additional criteria are included to measure efficiency.

David Fyfe, Transportation Consultant, said that the challenges of the corridors being studied are unique because Santa Cruz County is nestled between ocean and mountains and there is no room for expansion. He noted that he is glad that the UCS is being conducted so that safety and traffic congestion improvements can be made to Highway 1 and for the possibility of having a train.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Chase seconded staff recommendations to:

1. Review and approve the scenarios to be evaluated in the Unified Corridor Investment Study; and
2. Review and approve the minor revisions to the goals, criteria, and performance measures as recommended by Kimley-Horn and Associates.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Chase, Brown, Caput, McPherson, Johnson, Bertrand, Bottorff, Hagen, Rios, and Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn voting “aye”.

Commissioner Johnson left the meeting.

11. North Coast Rail Trail Segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Network – Environmental Impact Report

Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report and reported that Rincon Consultants were chosen by the evaluation committee to perform the Environmental Impact Report (EIR).
**Stanley Sokolow,** requested clarification on the alternate routes proposed in the scope.

**Gail McNulty,** requested clarification on the alternate routes proposed in the scope and the timeframe for public participation.

**William Kingsley,** asked if the North Coast Rail Trail EIR was included in the outlined expenditures in Measure D.

**Community member,** requested clarification on the EIR review in relation to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

**North Coast Resident,** requested clarification on the timeline for the NEPA and CEQA process, if the federal government will do a Notice of Preparation (NOP) as well, and if the EIR will include Davenport.

Commissioner Hagen moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded staff recommendation to adopt **(Resolution 46-17)** authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Rincon Consultants to perform an Environmental Impact Report for the North Coast Rail Trail Project. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Leopold, Chase, Brown, Caput, McPherson, Bertrand, Bottorff, Hagen, Rios, and Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn voting “aye”.

12. Next meetings

There are 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 is scheduled for Thursday, August 17, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Suite 400, Watsonville, CA.

The meeting adjourned at: 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Eames, Staff

Attendees:

- Brett Garrett
- Bruno Kaiser
- David Fyfe
- Erich Friedrich

Community member
Seaview Ranch Homeowners Association
AECOM
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
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<td>Forest Goodhart</td>
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<td>Gail McNulty</td>
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<td>Santa Cruz County Cycling Club</td>
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<td>Stanley Sokolow</td>
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<td>Stephen Slade</td>
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<td>Susan Cavelieri</td>
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<td>William Kingsley</td>
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