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

1. Introductions

Members present:
Randy Johnson    Oscar Rios
Greg Caput        Ryan Coonerty
Zach Friend    John Leopold
Bruce McPherson    Ed Bottorff
Mike Rotkin (alt)    Donna Lind (alt)
Kristen Petersen (alt.)

Staff present
George Dondero        Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra        Rachel Moriconi
Ginger Dykaar        Cory Caletti
Virginia Vaquero

2. Oral Communications

Brett Garrett, Community member spoke in support of a letter from Campaign for Sustainable Transportation. He suggested that the SB1 funding include Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) and asked the Commission to consider this a viable means of transportation.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda- none

CONSENT AGENDA

No Consent Agenda items
REGULAR AGENDA

4. State Funding Updates: Senate Bill 1 (SB1), Cap and Trade, and the 2018 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner provided updates on State Funding. Ms. Moriconi noted the October 16, 2017 deadline to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for the local jurisdictions’ list of projects for SB1 funding.

Commissioners thanked Ms. Moriconi for her thorough report.

Michael Saint, a member of Campaign for Sensible Transportation, thanked the Commission for their hard work and service to our community. He reminded the Commission about goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 2030. He noted that prioritizing transportation projects to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction goal is crucial.

5. Santa Cruz County Measure D – Taxpayer Oversight Committee Draft Bylaws

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, discussed the proposed draft Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee Bylaws.

Commissioners discussed: the importance of clarity for the role of the oversight committee; training for members of the oversight committee and the selection process.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin second to:

1. Review and approve amendments to the Regional Transportation Commission Rules and Regulations to establish the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee and its bylaws including amendments to Section II, Exhibit 1 and Exhibit 2 (Attachment 1) and addition of Exhibit 2A (Attachment 2); and

2. Approve the application (Attachment 3) for Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee membership and direct staff to begin conducting outreach to fill the committee so that the committee can start their work when the first year Measure D audit of expenditures are expected to be ready in early 2019.

Motion passed unanimously with Commissioners, Johnson, Rios, Caput, Coonerty, Friend, Leopold, McPherson, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate’s Rotkin, Lind, and Petersen voting “aye”.

6. Creation of RTC Communications Specialist position and replacement of Accountant Technician position with an Accountant series

George Dondero, Executive Director, presented the staff report.
Commissioners discussed the possibility of current staff taking on outreach responsibilities; the perception that Measure D money is being used for staffing rather than transportation projects; the importance of having current and accurate information delivered to the community in a timely manner; the need for a bilingual Communications Specialist and the additional duties for staff due to the passing of Measure D.

Veronica Rodriquez, SEIU Local 521 noted the SEIU’s concern in eliminating the Accounting Technician position and the concerns for the current incumbent. Responding to a comment by Ms. Rodriguez, Executive Director Dondero said that staff has and will continue to work with the union to implement these new positions accordingly.

Mark Mesiti-Miller, community member voiced his support for the creation of a Communications Specialist position and encouraged the RTC to include a bilingual requirement to better serve the community.

Commissioner Leopold left the meeting.

Mike Saint, requested that the Communications Specialist be asked to reach out to advocacy groups.

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

1. Create a new staff position to be called Communications Specialist and authorize adding $157,000 to the Regional Transportation Commission FY 2017-18 budget for staffing to cover the wages and benefits for the position;

2. Replace the staff position titled Accounting Technician with a staff series titled Accountant (Accountant I, II and III); and

3. Direct the staff to begin recruitment to fill these positions.

Commissioners also directed staff to do their due diligence to encourage bilingual candidates to apply for the Communications Specialist and that the Communications Specialist reaches out to advocacy groups.

Motion carried with Commissioners Rios, Caput, Coonerty, Friend, McPherson, Bottorff, and Commissioner Alternate’s Lind, Petersen and Rotkin voting “aye” and Commissioners Caput and Johnson voting “no”.

7. Adjourn to a special meeting of the Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies

   The RTC meeting adjourned to the SAFE meeting at 10:01 a.m.

8. Reconvene to the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission meeting

   The RTC meeting reconvened at 10:10 a.m.
9. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 7, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 801 Ocean Street, 5th floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 21, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Office, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 10:11 am

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Staff

Attendees:

Micheal Saint Campaign for Sensible Transportation
Erich Friedrich Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Murrey Fontes City of Watsonville
Mark Mesiti-Miller Community Member
Veronica Rodriguez SEIU Local 521
Brett Garrett Community Member