1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. by Vice Chair Cynthia Chase.

Members present:
Cynthia Chase-Vice Chair Randy Johnson  
Jacques Bertrand Oscar Rios  
Ed Bottorff Virginia Johnson-Alternate  
Sandy Brown Patrick Mulhearn-Alternate  
Greg Caput Dave Reid-Alternate  
Ryan Coonerty Eileen Loe-(ex-officio)  
Norm Hagen

Staff present:
George Dondero Luis Mendez  
Yesenia Parra Rachel Moriconi  
Karena Pushnik Cory Caletti

2. Oral communications

Jack Nelson, Retired Planner and Campaign for Sensible Transportation, extended an invitation to a presentation titled “What Makes a Walkable City,” and reported that CO2 parts per million is increasing which is a risk to our civilization.

Frank “Buzz” Anderson, City of Santa Cruz resident, read a letter that he previously emailed to the Regional Transportation Commission and added that
he is a proponent of trail only on the rail line right-of-way to accommodate e-bikes and small driverless jitneys.

**Michael Saint**, Sensible Transportation and Aptos resident, expressed appreciation for the Unified Corridor Workshop and Mr. Dondero’s sensitivity to the guests that evening. He is concerned about the impacts to the environment and congestion by auxiliary lanes on Highway 1.

**Bill Smallman**, Santa Cruz resident, board member of the San Lorenzo Water District and civil engineer, expressed that he supports the Greenway plan and that the RTC should study it.

**Becky Steinbruner**, Aptos resident, thanked the RTC for funding the green bike lanes on 41st Avenue, and for the great UCS workshops. She expressed concern over the inbound Number 71 bus stop in Aptos Village and asked that the RTC not fund phase II of this project because it should be funded by the developer.

**Janneke Strauss**, Bike Santa Cruz County, wished the RTC a Happy Bike to Work Day and thanked RTC for funding the Green Bike Lanes on Soquel Drive. She invited the RTC to Open Streets Santa Cruz this Sunday and encouraged everyone to bike to the event.

**Josh Stevens**, resident of Santa Cruz County, thanked the RTC for the UCS workshop this week and he looks forward to continued progress. He invited the community to the Santa Cruz Mountain Brewing’s event “Rail/Trail Thursday” to raise funds for the Santa Cruz Land Trust to build the trail.

**Barry Scott**, resident of Aptos, thanked the RTC for work on the rail corridor because that is our future way to get around for the next several generations. Mr. Scott attended both UCS workshops where he calculated that out of the six scenarios being studied, the top three scores all had rail in the plan and the lowest three scores all did not have rail.

**Mark Messiti-Miller**, Civil Engineer, Chair of Friends of the Rail Trail and 34-year resident of the city of Santa Cruz, stated that an advertisement by Greenway states that 86% of the Santa Cruz Business Council members support trail-only Greenway’s plan for the rail line. Mr. Messiti-Miller stated that based on the number of yes votes (50) and the Business Council members listed on the ad (62) or the website (70) the result is not 86% presented facts to the contrary. He also noted that the statement by Greenway that the ad implies that all the companies listed support the trail-only plan but 12 did not in their ad as voting in favour of the Greenway’s plan have in fact not voted in favour of Greenway but are still listed in the ad.

**Gail McNulty**, Executive Director of Greenway, said that she agrees with Becky that the painted bike lanes are helpful but are not protection. She said that Open Streets is a glimpse of the future and aligned with Greenway’s plan. She noted that the Unified Corridor Investment Study workshops were
troubling as they did not include a trail only option. She added that a modern bus system is more flexible than a train system.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Item 21 was removed from the agenda and will return at a future date.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Chase moved Item 4 to the regular agenda as Item 17a. At the request of Commissioner Johnson, Chair chase placed Item 11 on the regular agenda as item 17b.

**Becky Steinbruner, resident of Aptos** noted her concerns that the September 12, 2017 Eldery and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee did not include a representative from the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department to discuss bust stop ADA compliance. She is also concerned that the Aptos Village project will use a work around instead of addressing the issue and asked that the Commission remove funding from the project.

Commissioner Coonerty moved and Commissioner Johnson seconded the consent agenda with the removal of Item 4 and 11. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Chase, Coonerty, Hagen, R. Johnson, Rios and Commissioner alternates Mulhearn, Reid and V. Johnson voting ‘aye’.

**MINUTES**

4. Approve minutes of the September 7, 2017 Regional Transportation Commission meeting. Item moved to Regular Agenda as item 17a.

5. Accepted draft minutes of the September 12, 2017 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

6. Accepted draft minutes of the September 18, 2017 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting

7. Accepted draft minutes of the September 21, 2017 Interagency Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

**POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

**PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

*No consent items*
BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS
8. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS
9. Approved with State Department of Tax and Fee Administration designating RTC positions and selected consultant to receive confidential information for Measure D purposes (Resolution 01-18)
10. Approved the Regional Transportation Commission meeting schedule for 2018
11. The California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) health benefit contribution rates for plan year 2018) item moved to the Regular Agenda as Item 17b

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS
12. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
13. Accepted correspondence log
14. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
   a. Letter to County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, Director John Presleigh regarding hiring considerations for new Traffic Engineer from the Bicycle Advisory Committee
   b. Letter to City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, Nathan Nguyen, Civil Engineer regarding comments on Segment 7 of the Rail Trail (Phase I) Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
15. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
16. Accepted information items
   a. Article from The Press Democrat-September 20, 2017: SMART reports higher-than-expected ridership over first three weeks of paid service

Becky Steinbruner, resident of Aptos shared concerns that the September 12, 2017 Eldery and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee did not include a representative from the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department to discuss bust stop ADA compliance. She is also concern that the project will use a work around instead of addressing the issue and asks that the Commission not continue with this project.

REGULAR AGENDA

17a. Approve minutes of the September 7, 2017 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
Commissioners directed staff to revise the minutes to better reflect the comments of Ted Burke.

17b. The California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) health benefit contribution rates for plan year 2018 (Resolution)

Commissioner Randy Johnson asked if there would be any cost increases. Deputy Director Luis Mendez said that due to a decrease in premium costs, there would be a slight decrease.

Commissioner Coonerty moved and Commissioner Bottorff seconded to approve the staff recommendations to adopt two resolutions (Attachments 1 and 2) to continue providing CalPERS Health Benefits to RTC employees pursuant to the approved Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs). The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Chase, Rios, Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Coonerty, Hagen, R. Johnson and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn, Reid and V. Johnson voting ‘aye’.

17. Commissioner reports on RTC related items – oral reports

Commissioner Bertrand requested that the Commission add the Aptos Bus Stop ADA concern on a future agenda.

18. Director’s Report – oral report

19. Executive Dondero noted that the SMART commuter line reported a higher than expected initial ridership.

Executive Dondero noted the media kickoff event for the Owl viewer which is part of the Visualizing Sustainable Transportation project; the RTP call for projects with a due date of October 22, 2017; and the update for the draft guidelines for SB1 local partnership program.

He also reported that the City of Santa Cruz has prepared a mitigated negative declaration for the segment of the rail trail between Swift Street and Bay Avenue and that tonight their planning commission will consider the adoption of the mitigated negative declaration; and the work being done by CALCOG to support SB1.

Executive Director George Dondero announced the retirement of Senior Transportation Planner Karena Pushnik. Ms. Pushnik has worked for the RTC for over 27 years. She will be greatly missed. A Resolution listing some of her numerous accomplishments was presented to Karena Pushnik.

Senior Planner Karena Pushnik expressed her deep gratitude for having the opportunity to work at the RTC as well as her pride in the agency which works extremely hard for the community. She pointed out that transportation
touches everyone and that people care deeply about it. She is especially proud of the work being done for the elderly and people with disabilities. She acknowledged that there is no simple answer to transportation problems.

Commissioners expressed their appreciation for her dedicated service of 27 years to the Commission.

20. October 2017 Measure D Update

Executive Director Dondero presented an update on Measure D. Highlights include projects in Capitola and Scotts Valley which include green bike lane markings, related signs, the increase of space for vehicles making left turns, the improvements of sidewalks, curb ramps, striping and pavement markings. He noted that the RTC will be seeking applications from individuals interested in serving on the oversight committee in the next few months.

Commissioners asked that frequent updates be available to the Commission from the Unified Corridor Investment Study project.

21. Caltrans report

Eileen Loe reported that applications are being accepted for planning grants with a deadline of October 20, 2017.

Responding to a question, Ms. Loe said that information would be brought to the Commission in regards to Highway 17 and the Pasatiempo exit.

22. 2018 California State Rail Plan

a. 2018 California State Rail Plan Fact Sheet
   (This item was removed and will return on a future agenda)

23. City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Allocation Claim for bikeway striping, minor improvements and bike parking

Cory Caletti presented her staff report and acknowledged Sr. Transportation Planner Karena Pushnik, and stated that on behalf of the RTC staff we will miss Karena. Her enthusiasm and humility has set the tone of dedication to the Commission and the community. She really looks out for the community much more than she looks out for herself.

**Gail McNulty**, thanked Cory Caletti for the work being done and said she is glad to see the letter from the bicycle advisory committee to the County of Santa Cruz asking that a traffic engineer with knowledge on bicycle infrastructure design be hired.
Commissioners Rios moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the staff recommendation to approve by resolution the following City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Allocation Claim and request:

1. $32,000 in FY 17/18 TDA funds for bikeway striping and minor improvements and $2,000 for bike parking; and
2. Reallocation of $14,449.66 previously apportioned to the San Lorenzo River Trestle bike connection to the bikeway striping and minor improvements fund.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Chase, Rios, Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Coonerty, Hagen, R. Johnson, and Commissioner alternates Mulhearn, Virginia Johnson and Reid voting ‘aye’.

24. City of Scotts Valley Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim for the Mount Hermon Road/Scotts Valley Drive/Whispering Pines Intersection Project

Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report Jessica Kahn from the City of Scotts Valley communicated that the schedule for the project has been delayed due to the delay of delivery of the signal mast. So the project will begin in January.

Commissioner Rios moved and Commission Brown seconded to approve the staff recommendation to approve by resolution the City of Scotts Valley’s Transportation Development Act (TDA) claim in the amount of $93,963 for bicycle and pedestrian facilities included in the Mt. Hermon/Scotts Valley Rd/Whispering Pines Intersection Improvement Project.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Chase, Rios, Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Coonerty, Hagen, R. Johnson, and Commissioner alternates Mulhearn, Virginia Johnson and Reid voting ‘aye’.

25. State Transit Assistance Fund programming-oral report

Commissioner Bottorff gave a brief summary of the ad-hoc committee meeting’s discussions with staff of Santa Cruz METRO and RTC. He noted that the ad-hoc committee has settled on giving all of the STA funds to Santa Cruz METRO in the first two years and then weaning SC METRO from that so that funds can be available to others in the county. However, this should come back with the full ad-hoc committee recommendation for a discussion of the full commission. Commissioners clarified that the ad-hoc committee recommendation would return to the December RTC meeting to also see whether any other entities are interested in the funds and Commissioners directed staff to agendize the item accordingly.

Gail McNulty expressed concerns about the timing of reducing funding to Metro. That with careful planning and investment we could realistically improve our Metro system.
26. Next meetings
   The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Suite 450, Watsonville, CA

   The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 19, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA

Meeting adjourned at 10:41 a.m.

Attendees:
Micheal Saint- Sensible Transportation
Mark Mesiti-Miller FORT
Buzz Anderson Resident of Santa Cruz County
Jessica Kahn Scotts Valley
Thomas Hiltner Santa Cruz Metro
Gail McNulty Santa Cruz County Greenway
Debbie Kinslow Santa Cruz Metro
Barry Scott Resident of Aptos
Josh Stephens Resident of Santa Cruz
Jack Nelson Campaign for Sensible Transportation
Bill Smallman Resident of Santa Cruz County
Erick Friedrick AMBAG
Angela Aitken Santa Cruz Metro
Becky Steinbruner Resident of Aptos
Chris Schneider City of Santa Cruz
Marilyn Garrett Resident of Aptos