



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, November 3, 2016
9:00 a.m.**

**Watsonville City Council Chambers
275 Main St., Ste 450
Watsonville, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:06 a.m.

Members present:

Don Lane	Jimmy Dutra
Ryan Coonerty	John Leopold
Greg Caput	Ed Bottorff
Bruce McPherson	Mike Rotkin (alt)
Karina Cervantez	Patrick Mulhearn (alt)
Randy Johnson	Michael Termini (alt)
Aileen Loe (ex-officio)	

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra	Jenn Eames

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 9:07 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

2. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL-EXISTING LITIGATION. (Paragraph (1) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9 of the Government Code) Santa Clara Superior Court Case No. 16CV293441

OPEN SESSION

Commissioners reconvened to open session at 9:51 a.m. and there was no closed session report.

3. Oral communications

Lowell Hurst, Watsonville resident, stated that traffic congestion in South County is substantial and the many infrastructure issues in the community make it challenging to use alternative transportation.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

A handout for Item 14 was distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Lane, Dutra, Cervantez, Caput, Bottorff, Leopold, Coonerty, McPherson, Johnson, and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn, Rotkin and Termini voting "aye".

MINUTES

5. Approved draft minutes of the October 6, 2016 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Approved draft minutes of the October 20, 2016 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

No consent items

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

No consent items

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

8. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
9. Accepted correspondence log
10. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies - None
11. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
12. Accepted information items
 - a. Article from the Santa Cruz Sentinel on October 8, 2016 "Measure D can get county moving again" by Mark Dettle, Scott Hamby, Steve Jesberg, Steve Palmisano and John Presleigh

REGULAR AGENDA

13. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Commissioner Alternate Rotkin reported that Santa Cruz Metropolitan District (METRO) voted unanimously to support Measure D and funding from the local sales tax measure would reduce the possibility of further cuts to METRO.

14. Director's Report – oral report

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported on: the recently released California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment ranking Santa Cruz County 51 out of 58 counties in the condition of local streets and roads and having low countywide Pavement Condition Index (PCI) ratings between 46 and 61; the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff's recommendation for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant to fund Segments 8 and 9 of the Coastal Rail Trail; and RTC staff presenting an update to the trail projects underway at the California Coastal Conservancy's next board meeting on December 1st in Santa Cruz.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation to RTC staff for their work on the ATP grant for Segments 8 and 9 of the Coastal Rail Trail.

15. Appointment of an ad-hoc committee for the performance review of the Executive Director

Chair Lane appointed Commissioners Lane, Friend, and McPherson to the ad-hoc committee for the performance review of the Executive Director.

16. Nominating Committee for 2017 RTC Chair and Vice Chair

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented the staff report.

Chair Lane appointed Commissioners Leopold and Friend for the 2017 RTC Chair and Vice Chair nominating committee.

17. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, District 5 Deputy Director, reported on: articles in the current issue of the *Mile Marker*; the recent approval of the 2040 California Transportation Plan (CTP); a pilot program to reduce the incidence of wrong-way drivers on freeways; volunteers needed for the first ever California Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan questionnaire at www.cabikepedplan.org; and expectation for traffic control delays in Watsonville.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for Boulder Creek Elementary School's retaining wall project completion; and for Caltrans' work on infrastructure and cleanup projects in South County.

18. Draft Highway 17 Access Management Plan (AMP)

George Dondero introduced Kelly McClendon and Joe Erwin, Caltrans District 5, to present on the findings and improvement recommendations of the Draft Highway 17 AMP. The long-range plan focuses on 7.1 miles between Granite Creek Road and Summit Road, and is intended to improve traffic flow and safety along Highway 17. Not included in the AMP are maintenance and safety projects, right-of-way information, and cost and schedule.

Commissioner discussed: appreciation for the outreach process and interaction with the community for inclusivity of the public's ideas; the process to get the AMP finalized and approved; improvement concepts being integrated into the planning phase and into the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP); prioritizing the recommended improvements; concerns with detour roads not being able to support the traffic flow during the construction phase; the value in sharing the study with the public and building good rapport; encouraging safe driving on Highway 17 and riding METRO as an alternative; and reducing the 59 access points along Highway 17.

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

Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works, gave a presentation on: nine projects programmed with existing funds; the existing road network conditions that continue to deteriorate; and the lack of funding resources. Mr. Fontes noted that funds from the passage of Measure D would be used throughout Watsonville to improve traffic flow, maintain roads, and develop pedestrian facilities.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation to the RTC and Watsonville Public Works; the importance of Measure D to be able to leverage grants for funds to complete more projects in the community; funding needed to complete the pedestrian bridge over Highway 1 and Harkins Slough Road; prioritizing funds for safety improvements; and Watsonville's annual road repair budget to be doubled if Measure D passes.

20. Highway 1 Mar Vista Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing: Consultant Services Agreement

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented the staff report. The construction phase of the project is projected to start in 2018.

Commissioners discussed: the selection of the consulting firm.

Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn moved and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin seconded the staff recommendations to adopt **Resolution 10-17**:

1. Awarding a consultant agreement to Moffat and Nichol, Inc. to perform duties required to complete the Project Approval and Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase of the Highway 1 Mar Vista Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing project at a cost of \$423,305; and
2. Amending the 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Plan (RTIP) to move \$252,000 in federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)

funds from the construction phase in FY 2018-19 to the environmental phase in FY 2016-17 of the Highway 1 Mar Vista Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing project; and

3. Authorizing the exchange of these federal RSTP funds for state RSTP Exchange (RSTPX) funds; and
4. Amending the FY 2016-17 RTC Budget and Work Program accordingly to reflect the programming, exchange and distribution of the additional \$252,000 to the Highway 1 Mar Vista Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing project.

The motion passed with Commissioners Lane, Dutra, Caput, Bottorff, Leopold, Coonerty, McPherson, Johnson, and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn and Rotkin voting "aye" and Commissioner Alternate Termini voting "no".

21. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 1, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St. 5th floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Eames, Staff

Attendees:

Maria Ester Rodriguez	City of Watsonville
Lowell Hurst	City of Watsonville
Gary Antonucci	Moffat and Nichol
Heather Adamson	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Alex Clifford	Santa Cruz METRO