



**Santa Cruz County Regional
Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, January 19, 2017
9:00 a.m.**

**Santa Cruz City Council Chambers
809 Center Street
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Members present:

Zach Friend	John Leopold
Cynthia Chase	Ryan Coonerty
Greg Caput	Jimmy Dutra
Randy Johnson	Bruce McPherson
Jacques Bertrand	Ed Bottorff
Norm Hagen (alt)	Aileen Loe (ex-officio)

Staff present:

George Dondero	Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra	Jenn Eames
Grace Blakeslee	Amy Naranjo
Tegan Speiser	Kim Shultz
Karena Pushnik	

2. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 9:04 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

3. 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

4. Report on closed session

Commissioners reconvened to open session at 9:41 a.m. and there was no closed session report.

5. Oral communications

Jack Nelson, said that warnings from scientists about global warming are relevant to our local situation and the Commission should consider the impact of green house gas emissions when making decisions about local transportation.

6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

A replacement page for the agenda and a handout for Item 21 were distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Johnson asked that Item 14 be pulled from the Consent Agenda. Item 14 was placed on the Regular Agenda as Item 19.1. Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Chase seconded the consent agenda, as amended. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Friend, Chase, Leopold, Coonerty, Caput, Dutra, Johnson, McPherson, Bertrand, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate Hagen voting "aye".

MINUTES

7. Approved draft minutes of the December 8, 2016 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
8. Approved draft minutes of the December 8, 2016 Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies meeting
9. Accepted draft minutes of the December 12, 2016 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
10. Accepted draft minutes of the December 13, 2016 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
11. Accepted draft minutes of the December 15, 2016 Interagency Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

None

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

None

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

12. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
13. Approved City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act allocation request (**Resolution 13-17**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

14. Approve Executive Director's Employment Agreement

Chair Friend moved the item to the beginning of the regular agenda as Item 19.1

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

15. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
16. Accepted correspondence log
17. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies - *None*
18. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues
19. Accepted information items
 - a. Article from the December 2016 ITE Journal magazine "Implications of Autonomous Vehicles: A Planner's Perspective" by Ryan Snyder
 - b. Article from the January 3, 2017 Sacramento Bee newspaper "Why California can't afford more delay on roads" by Matt Cate and Carolyn Coleman
 - c. Memo dated on January 10, 2017 from the Self Help Counties Coalition (SHCC) regarding Governor's and Legislative Funding Proposals

REGULAR AGENDA

19.1 Approve Executive Director's Employment Agreement – *previously Item 14*

Commissioner Johnson requested clarification on the details behind the decisions made for the compensation package for the Executive Director.

Commissioners discussed: the comparative study completed to merit an appropriate compensation package for the Executive Director; the importance of ensuring a transparent process; and the RTC's obligations in respects to salaries and tax payer money.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Alternate Hagen seconded the ad-hoc Committee's recommendation to approve the following changes in the RTC Executive Director's contract: a one-time merit increase of 4%, effective January 1, 2017 and one additional week of vacation per year. The motion passed with Commissioners Friend, Chase, Leopold, Coonerty, Dutra, McPherson, Bertrand, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate Hagen voting "aye" and Commissioners Johnson and Caput voting "no".

20. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Commissioner McPherson reported that transportation funding bills are currently being discussed by the legislature and Matt Cate, Director for the California State Association of Counties (CSAC), stated that he is hopeful that Senate Bill (SB) 1 and Assembly Bill (AB) 1 will bridge the \$2 billion transportation funding gap between those bills and Governor Brown's proposal for transportation funding.

Commissioner Dutra reported that homes on Holohan Road at East Lake Avenue in Watsonville have been flooded due to the recent storms and he hopes that infrastructure issues in South County will be addressed and fixed in the near future.

21. Director's Report – oral report

George Dondero, Executive Director, reported on: the RTC sending letters of support to the legislature for transportation funding bills SB1 and AB1, and to advocate for an increase in funding to the Governor's transportation funding proposal; President-elect Trump's nominee for Secretary of Transportation, Elaine Chao, and her vague support of direct federal spending on transportation to rebuild the nation's infrastructure; a Measure D update to be presented at the February 2nd RTC meeting, discussions with entities that are to receive direct allocations, the all-day workshop for newly approved self help counties; and his trip to the Transportation Research Board (TRB) annual conference in Washington DC.

22. Caltrans report and consider action items

Aileen Loe, Caltrans District 5 Deputy Director, reported on: Caltrans crews working hard to keep people moving while they respond to damages caused by the recent storms; the Highway 129 curve realignment project being delayed due to the weather; the installation of more hydrogen and fast charging stations to give people confidence when taking trips and to promote alternative fueled vehicle usage; and the reframing of the selection process for the State Highway Operations and Protection Program (SHOPP).

Commissioners discussed: the fast charging stations completing a full charge in approximately 20 minutes; how fast charging stations installed at privately owned gas stations rather than only on Caltrans property could fill the location gaps; the procedures for Caltrans maintenance workers when dealing with homeless encampments; and California having the highest homeless population in the nation.

23. Presentation from City of Santa Cruz Public Works – oral report

Chris Schneiter, City of Santa Cruz Assistant Public Works Director, reported on current transportation projects in Santa Cruz, including: the Pacific Avenue Contra-flow Bike Lanes Project that will start in the spring; the Branciforte Creek Bike and Pedestrian Bridge and Trail project that will start in April; schematic design development for segment 7 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST); the Highway 1 and 9 intersection safety project; safety improvement projects that were awarded grants for installation of rapid flashing beacons at marked crosswalks; and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County matching grants for design and environmental review for segment 8 and 9 of the MBSST, and for designs to widen the walkway on the San Lorenzo Trestle.

Commissioners discussed: the distance required between flashing light beacons and the criteria for the locations; appreciation to the Public Works department for their success in obtaining grants for safety improvements and for coordinating with other jurisdictions; and appreciation for the Pacific Avenue Contra-flow Bike Lanes Project.

24. Agreement with the State Board of Equalization for Administrative Functions Related to the New Measure D Transportation Sales Tax Program

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented the staff report. Mr. Mendez reported that on behalf of the RTC, the State Board of Equalization (BOE) will be administering the collection of the new Measure D ½-cent sales tax program that will take effect on April 1, 2017. He noted that there are administration fees associated with the BOE and staff will provide an update on development of the implementation plan in February.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Dutra seconded staff recommendations to adopt **(Resolution 14-17)** authorizing RTC managers to execute the Preparatory Agreement and Administrative Agreement with the State Board of Equalization; and to adopt **(Resolution 15-17)** authorizing examination of tax records. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Friend, Chase, Leopold, Coonerty, Caput, Dutra, Johnson, McPherson, Bertrand, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate Hagen voting "aye".

25. Cruz511 Program Update

Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. Ms. Naranjo gave a live-feed tour of the Cruz511.org website and an update to the Cruz511 program, which included information on: real-time traffic conditions; construction and traffic alerts; information help desk services; the countywide bike map; online ride matching; outreach efforts for public information and awareness; online activity data tracking; and social media integration. Ms. Naranjo noted that the new user-oriented transit travel planning project will be aimed at acquiring new Metro bus riders, upgrading and expanding park and ride facilities for commuters, and inclusive targeted marketing for seniors and South County residents. Tegan Speiser, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that marketing plans to spread awareness about the program are currently being developed.

Commissioners discussed: their appreciation for the user-friendly services provided by the Cruz511 program; how Cruz511.org is mobile responsive and a great resource for finding information on traffic conditions, road closures, and ridesharing; how information is relayed and linked from other databases to Cruz511.org to show notices and alerts; utilizing the significant growth rate of users on Cruz511.org, that are checking on current road conditions impacted by the recent storms, to advocate for carpooling; partnering with other applications to leverage the program's budget and to track Cruz511 referred ridesharing; comparing the Cruz511 program to similar programs at different agencies and making messaging consistent while incorporating the needs of the community; the need for targeted outreach to seniors in South County; consideration of personalized marketing plans when testing strategies for different neighborhoods and businesses; how the frequently refreshed Caltrans traffic still frames are available on the Cruz511.org map from Highway 17 through Highway 1 to Watsonville; satisfying the demands for additional Park and Ride locations in neighborhoods and updating signage; and appreciation to Tegan Speiser for developing the Cruz511 program.

Jack Nelson, Campaign for Sensible Transportation, said that the Bay Area Commuter Benefits Program has been shown to be successful and is an alternative to traffic congestion. Mr. Nelson noted that there is a crisis of imagination and a similar commuter program should replace plans for widening Highway 1.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Chase seconded staff recommendation to accept the Cruz511 program update. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Friend, Chase, Leopold, Coonerty, Caput, Dutra, Johnson, McPherson, Bertrand, Bottorff and Commissioner Alternate Hagen voting "aye".

26. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 2, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St., Ste 450, Watsonville, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Eames, Staff

Attendees:

Erich Friedrich

Alex Clifford

Jack Nelson

Kara Guzman

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Campaign for Sensible Transportation

Sentinel