



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission  
Transportation Policy Workshop**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, May 18, 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 9:02 a.m.

Members present:

Cynthia Chase	Zach Friend
Jacques Bertrand	Greg Caput
Ed Bottorff	Randy Johnson
Oscar Rios	Sandy Brown
Ryan Coonerty	Virginia Johnson (alt)
Mike Rotkin (alt)	

Staff present:

Luis Mendez	Jenn Eames
Yesenia Parra	Ginger Dykaar
Karena Pushnik	Cory Caletti
Daniel Nikuna	

2. Oral communications

Chris Giglio, RTC's Assistant in Washington DC, reported on: Congress approving the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017-18 budget; a 2% increase in funding towards programs in the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act; the Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) Discretionary Grant Program funded at \$500 million; the possibility of cuts to transportation funding that fall outside of the Highway Trust Fund; how President Trump's proposed infrastructure package is expected to utilize public-private partnership (P3) investments; and the Congressional Review Act used to repeal a Department of Transportation (DOT) regulation for coordination between metropolitan planning organizations (MPO).

**Community Member**, said that there should be a pilot program to provide public transit to those that need to travel within the area between Scotts Valley to Los Gatos and Downtown San Jose. A possible start could include a Highway 17 Express stop in Los Gatos.

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, reported on the advanced mitigation agreement for the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing recently approved by the California Transportation Commission (CTC).

Commissioner Caput reported on City of Watsonville Public Works' plans to build a new bridge on Smith and Casserly Road in Watsonville starting in June. He said that there will be a road closure that will affect Santa Cruz METRO bus service and provided details on the reroute options.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas - *None*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Alternate Rotkin moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Chase, Friend, Bottorff, Bertrand, Rios, Coonerty, Caput, Johnson, Brown, and Commissioner Alternates Virginia Johnson and Rotkin voting "aye".

4. Approved agreement for Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line tree removal due to storm damage (**Resolution 36-17**)

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

5. Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Funding and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Updates

Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. .

Commissioners discussed: the need for frequent updates on SB1 funding and the restrictions on the funds; impacts to project prioritization with new discretionary grant guidelines through SB1; the possibility of Scott Creek Bridge benefiting from an increase in State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) funds; projects included in the highway congestion program; the possibility of coordinating with Caltrans to rearrange prioritization of projects as funding becomes available; the benefits of determining funding allocation amounts on a formula basis versus a competitive basis; and concerns that transportation funding distributions in California may not be equal.

**Eduardo Montesino**, stated that transit funding should be used for services and not just for new buses.

Commissioner Friend moved the staff recommendations with additional direction for RTC staff to provide a non-action informational agenda item at a future Commission meeting should the SB 1 revenue estimates change requiring adjustments of the RTP project list. Commissioner Coonerty seconded the addition and staff recommendations to:

1. Receive an update on SB1: the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017;
2. In consideration of preliminary projections for new revenues from SB1, amend the 2040 RTP financially constrained project list; and
3. Authorize staff to make adjustments to the RTP project list, if necessary, as SB1 revenue and distribution estimates are updated by state agencies.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Chase, Friend, Caput, Coonerty, Bertrand, Bottorff, Johnson, Rios, Brown, and Commissioner Alternates Virginia Johnson and Rotkin voting "aye".

6. Measure D Allocations to Recipient Agencies

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: having a separate report for the RTC annual audit and for Measure D; expectations for project delivery and allocated Measure D funds being held by recipient agencies due to extenuating circumstances; the status of the Citizen's Oversight Committee and if funds could be spent before the Committee is established; higher administrative fees this year due to reimbursement to the County for the November 2016 election; prioritizing transit services needed rather than buying new buses; two-thirds of Santa Cruz METRO buses needing to be replaced and an upcoming deficit that could impact services; and performance measures in regards to Pavement Condition Index (PCI) standards.

**Eduardo Montesino**, said that the need for new Santa Cruz METRO buses is great; however, adequate services are also needed to be able to utilize the buses.

Commissioner Alternate Rotkin moved and Commissioner Friend seconded staff recommendations to:

1. Review and approve the Master Agreement and guidelines for Measure D formula funds allocated by formula to local cities, the County of Santa Cruz, Santa Cruz METRO, and Community Bridges Lift Line; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to sign agreements with the recipient agencies.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Chase, Friend, Caput, Coonerty, Bertrand, Bottorff, Johnson, Rios, Brown, and Commissioner Alternates Virginia Johnson and Rotkin voting "aye".

7. Draft Measure D 30-year Revenue Projection

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for the funding projection numbers being higher than estimated previously; the possibility of having reserve funds to better manage cash flow and to ensure funds are available to deliver priority projects; how Measure D funding will help with providing alternative transportation options; and recognition that public input will be sought for priority transportation projects.

Commissioner Friend moved and Commissioner Alternate Rotkin seconded to accept the draft Measure D 30-year revenue projection. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Chase, Friend, Caput, Coonerty, Bertrand, Bottorff, Johnson, Rios, Brown, and Commissioner Alternates Virginia Johnson and Rotkin voting "aye".

8. Next meetings

The next SCCRTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 1, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Suite 400, Watsonville, CA

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, June 15, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jenn Eames, Staff

Attendees:

Erich Friedrich

Eduardo Montesino

Dana Bagshaw

Mark Mesiti-Miller

Grant Wilson

Chris Giglio

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Bus By Choice

Friends of the Rail Trail

Community Member