1. Roll call

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

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand  
Ed Bottorff  
Sandy Brown  
Greg Caput  
Trina Coffman-Gomez  
Randy Johnson  
John Leopold  
Aileen Loe (ex-officio)  
Bruce McPherson  
Patrick Mulhern (alt.)  
Mike Rotkin  
Andy Schiffirn (alt.)

Staff present:

George Dondero  
Luis Mendez  
Yesenia Parra  
Rachel Moriconi  
Cory Caletti  
Grace Blakeslee  
Sarah Christensen  
Shannon Munz  
Fernanda Dias Pini

2. Oral communications

Gail McNulty, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that she advocates for realistic and meaningful changes to the transportation. Ms. McNulty expressed disappointment that the local political machine is steered by those not affected by gridlock and unafraid of train because they know it will never happen.

Josh Stevens, Santa Cruz County resident, commended the RTC on recent transportation improvements and for announcements of new grants to modernize the bus fleet. Mr. Stevens asked the Commission to move forward with the rail operator agreement.
3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

        Replacement page for Item 10 and Handouts for Items 22, 23, 25, and 27.

        CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioners discussed: the importance of identification of Senate Bill (SB) 1 and Measure D-funded projects throughout the county; staff work with all jurisdictions to make a coordinated effort to promote these projects; a list of SB1 and Measure D funded projects to be made available; and appreciation for signage showing project funding sources.

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to accept the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn and Schiffrin voting “aye.”

MINUTES

4. Accepted draft minutes of the March 15, 2018 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

5. Approved draft minutes of the April 5, 2018 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

6. Accepted draft minutes of the April 9, 2018 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting

7. Accepted draft minutes of the April 10, 2018 Elderly and Disabled 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

9. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues and distribution
10. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claims for Volunteer Center, Community Bridges, and Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) (Resolutions 221-18, 23-18, and 24-18)

11. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claims for the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, the Ride ‘n’ Stride Program, and the Bike to Work Program (Resolutions 25-18 and 26-18)

12. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY) 2016-17 Fiscal Audit for the SCCRTC

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

13. Accepted staff recommendations for the appointments of a delegate and a representative to the California Association of Councils of Governments (CalCOG) and the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC)

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

15. Accepted correspondence log

16. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies – none

17. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues

18. Accepted information items
   b. Skoutelas, Paul, “A major victory on which to build”, Passenger Transport, April 6, 2018
   c. “FTA approves $22.5 million grant to SMART for commuter-rail extension”, www.progressiverailroading.com, April 10, 2018

REGULAR AGENDA

19. Commissioner reports – oral reports

   There were no Commissioner reports.

20. Director’s report – oral report

   George Dondero, Executive Director, reported on the implementation and
upcoming ribbon cutting ceremony of the City of Santa Cruz bike share program. Mr. Dondero also reported on the April 19, 2018 California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG) meeting, noting that it mostly focused on legislation and that the Air Resources Board is working on setting new guidelines for transportation agencies to comply with state mandates to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Dondero stated that Susan Branson, California Transportation Commission (CTC) Executive Director, will be meeting in June with project sponsors to discuss lessons learned from the first round of funding from Senate Bill (SB) 1. He said that CTC staff is recommending $1 million from the competitive SB 1 partnership program for the City of Scotts Valley’s Glennwood active transportation project, which consists of roadway rehabilitation, class 2 bicycle lanes, and the construction of a 5-mile trail on the Glennwood preserve. The project is funded by Scotts Valley’s share of Measure D funds and $130,000 from the Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG) funds provided by the RTC in December 2017. Mr. Dondero also noted that local jurisdictions adopted project lists showing which projects will be funded from the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 SB 1 Road Maintenance Rehabilitation Account (RMRA).

Mr. Dondero discussed the California Integrated Travel Conference, which he attended from May 1-2, 2018. The conference was focused on engendering an open discussion of how to facilitate a process for statewide journey planning and payment, with an aim to make travel simpler and more cost-effective.

Mr. Dondero also announced that the RTC is sponsoring a speaker series designed to help Commissioners and the community gain a deeper understanding of transportation issues. The first speaker of the series is Jarrett Walker, who will give a presentation at the May 17, 2018 Transportation Policy Workshop and lead an extensive workshop on May 16, on how he approaches transit planning and how to apply those principles in the county.

Commissioners discussed: RTC position in favor of SB 1 and Proposition (Prop.) 69; that signage should be displayed on projects sites showing that they are funded by SB 1.

21. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe, District 5 Deputy Director, reported that the District 5 worker memorial was held on May 3, 2018 and that Caltrans continues to ask drivers to be mindful of construction zones.

Ms. Loe shared that District 5 will receive significant funding from the California Transportation Agency (CalSTA) for transit and rail projects. Ms. Loe also reported on: the restriping of over 1,000 lane miles on Highway 101, which is a $4.9 million project funded by SB 1 that will increase visibility and safety; the Highway 152 American with Disabilities Act (ADA) project is now slated to have a 2018-19 construction year and that contract plans should be
ready for advertising in June 2018.

**Josh Stevens**, Santa Cruz County resident, commended Caltrans on the recent improvements made to Highway 236.

22. **9:30 am PUBLIC HEARING:** 2018 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, presented the staff report. The RTC solicits regular input from the public on unmet transit and paratransit needs to provide a useful tool to assess and prioritize needs in the county.

Commissioners discussed: Policy requiring paratransit service to only be provided within a quarter of a mile of one of Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District’s (METRO) fixed routes; 2017 METRO cuts to routes due to fiscal constraints; federal guidelines that limit paratransit fees; making a list of SB 1 funded projects to promote public awareness; that the Elderly and Disabled Committee creates and vets the unmet needs list; that METRO is the agency that can address these unmet needs; the need to wait until the November 2018 election to see if SB 1 will be repealed prior to committing SB1 funding.

The public hearing opened at 9:40 a.m.

**Walter Hoover**, La Selva Beach resident, stated that he was a frequent user of the bus line that went to and from La Selva Beach, and since that service has been cut, he has been forced to use taxis, which is much more expensive.

**Carol Childers**, Meals on Wheels of Santa Cruz County, noted that the bus routes available to disabled and senior citizens, especially along Highway 9, are improperly lit and do not offer expedient service to its users. Ms. Childers stated that a client often needs 3 hours of travel time when using the bus to make it to her doctor appointments.

**Jonathan Flint**, Camphill Communities California, stated that paratransit service is an integral part of services from licensed residential care and supported living for adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities. He noted that around 70% of the individuals supported by Camphill Communities utilize Paracruz at least once a week, and asked Commissioners to consider the long wait time windows given to paratransit users and the implications it has on their lives. Mr. Flint also stated support for the rail and trail noting that clear, direct, and predictable signage are crucial factors for ensuring greater independence and safety for users with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

**Josh Stevens**, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that unmet needs and slow circulation times on the bus system should take funding precedence over Wi-Fi expansion on buses.

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner McPherson seconded the
motion to approve the staff recommendations to:
   1. Adopt the *2018 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs*, with revisions as appropriate; and
   2. Consider unmet paratransit and transit needs as funding becomes available

With the addition that the testimony received by the RTC be formally submitted to Santa Cruz METRO.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn and Schiffrin voting “aye.”

23. Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing: Measure D Project Update and Funding Agreements

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report and introduced California Department of Transportation’s (Caltrans) staff, Aaron Henkle, Project Manager, Nancy Siepel, Mitigation and Wildlife Connectivity Specialist, and Morgan Robertson, Biologist, who updated the Commission on the project’s cost, schedule, scope, and coordination.

Commissioners discussed: project timeline; that Caltrans will cover the design cost; conservation easement and its effects on landowners; if it is a site for opportunistic predation; potential uses other than wildlife crossing; complexities of transportation projects; other wildlife tunnels in the Caltrans system; appreciation for the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for all the work done for this project; and if the bidding process timeline can be consolidated.

Steven Slade, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, thanked the RTC for its work and partnership in this endeavor and stated that he would like to see this project completed as quickly as possible.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to:
   1. Receive an update from Caltrans on the Measure D-funded Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing; and
   2. Approve the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into necessary agreements with Caltrans and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for funding construction of the project.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn and Schiffrin voting “aye.”
24. Measure D: Community Bridges/ Lift Line Five-Year Plan

Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner, gave an update on how Community Bridges/Lift Line plans to spend Measure D funds within the next five years.

Kirk Ance, Lift Line Program Director, discussed Measure D-funded projects that Community Bridges implemented this fiscal year; outreach efforts to promote Community Bridges and increase client base; efforts to build an operational facility; acquisition of electric vehicles, and installation of a charging station in the Community Bridges Watsonville maintenance facility which will also be available to the public.

Commissioners congratulated Community Bridges in acquiring electric vehicles and a charging station installation. Commissioners discussed: how units of service are calculated; commended the service provided by Lift Line and how it complements the service provided by METRO; if Lift Line is involved with the 211 program; appreciation for efforts made to help pass Measure D, how Community Bridges/Lift Line is an identifiable service resulting from the measure and for Measure D bus signage.

Commissioner McPherson moved and Commissioner Coffman-Gomez seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Review and provide input on the draft “5-year Programs of Projects” for Community Bridges, serving as the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency, for the direct allocation of Measure D funds under the Transit for Seniors and People with Disabilities category, and;
2. Schedule a public hearing for June 14, 2018 to consider public input on the Measure D Five-Year Plan under the Transit and Seniors and People with Disabilities category.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Leopold, McPherson, Johnson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Mulhearn and Schiffrin voted “aye.”

25. Measure D: Five-Year plans for Regional Projects

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report asking for input on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 – 2022-23 five-year programs of projects for regional investment categories.

Commissioners discussed: The feasibility of adding a hawk light pedestrian crossing on Highway 1 in Davenport; $10 million funding for Highway 9 and preliminary discussions on the draft report on May 7 – 9, 2018; improvements needed in San Lorenzo Valley; Highway 1 auxiliary lanes project; progress report discussing action to address Highway 1 issues; update on Measure D Oversight Committee; funding for preliminary design for Segment 10 and a need to remain focused on the trail construction; that a project cannot be accepted until its Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is approved.
**Gail McNulty**, Greenway, inquired about the design documents for Segment 10, and recommended the following: rail track and infrastructure projects should wait until completion of the Unified Corridor Study (UCS); no funding for retaining walls for the active transportation project; right-of-way research and surveying should be prioritized; any preliminary work done prior to the completion of the UCS must include non-rail options; funding towards annual corridor encroachment and maintenance should not be included in the active transportation line-item; and for the RTC to consider collaborating with Cruzio or utilities to assist with conduit installation.

26. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, announced that Item 27 would not be discussed in closed session and reviewed the remaining items.

Commissioners discussed: Public release of the draft rail operator agreement.

**Gail McNulty**, Greenway, stated that Greenway filed a public records request, that staff has responded slowly to it, and the information received shows communications between RTC staff and Progressive Rail (PRG) prior to the December 2017 release of the request for proposals (RFP) for a rail operator. Ms. McNulty stated that PRG wants to bring industrial development to the region, which will impact the possibility for either passenger rail or a trail on the corridor and she asked the Commission to think carefully about PRG before entering into an agreement with them.

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 11:13 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

27. CONFERENCE WITH REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR pursuant to Government Code 54956.8

Property: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line
Agency Negotiators: George Dondero and Luis Pavel Mendez
Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC and Progressive Rail
Under Negotiation: Price and Terms

28. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

Commission Negotiators: Lozano Smith and Yesenia Parra
Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit (RAMM) and Community of RTC Employees (CORE)

*Commissioner Caput left at 11:36 a.m.*
OPEN SESSION

The Commission reconvened in public session at 1:06 p.m.

29. Report on closed session

   Nothing reported.

30. Next Meetings

   The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 14, 2018 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, May 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Santa Cruz Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fernanda Dias Pini, Staff

Attendees:

   Carol Childers   Meals on Wheels of Santa Cruz County
   Gail McNulty    Greenway
   Jonathan Flint  Camphill Communities California
   Josh Stevens    Santa Cruz County Resident
   Steven Slade    Land Trust of Santa Cruz
   Walter Hoover   La Selva Beach Resident