The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m.

1. Introductions

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand        Aileen Loe (ex-officio)
Ed Bottorff            Bruce McPherson
Greg Caput             Patrick Mulhearn (alt.)
Cynthia Chase          Randy Johnson
Trina Coffman-Gomez    Mike Rotkin
John Leopold

Staff present:

George Dondero        Shannon Munz
Luis Mendez           Brianna Goodman
Yesenia Parra         Fernanda Dias Pini
Sarah Christensen

2. Oral Communications

**Jack Nelson**, Santa Cruz County resident, urged the Commission to plan transportation sustainably and to keep in mind the dangers of climate change.

**Gail McNulty**, Greenway, stated that Greenway supports freight rail service in South County and preserving future transit options for the rail corridor while ensuring safe routes for bicycle commuters.

**Brett Garrett**, Santa Cruz County resident, commented that innovations in suspended Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) is making it an increasingly more viable
option that could replace rail by providing a service that reduces carbon emissions, is less costly, with greater capacity, more convenient, and safer than rail.

**Michael Saint**, Campaign for Sustainable transportation, said that transportation induced pollution is rising and that there is a need to plan transportation to cut carbon emissions.

**David Lieby**, City of Santa Cruz resident, spoke on his positive experience riding the SMART train and supports keeping a rail option in the county.

**Nick Bulaich**, City of Santa Cruz resident, communicated that he supports the Capitola Greenway corridor initiative.

**Steve Trujillo**, City of Watsonville resident, stated that there is more enthusiasm for a rail and trail that would connect the county than a Highway 1 expansion.

**Barry Scott**, Aptos resident, commented on the potential benefits of having a rail line that would connect Santa Cruz County to the rest of the state and that trains would likely be powered by renewable energy.

**Peter Stanger**, City of Watsonville resident, commented on the need for greater funding for bike lanes in South County.

**Lowell Hurst**, City of Watsonville Mayor, noted the problematic traffic congestion affecting the county.

Commissioner Bertrand requested an agenda item to consider appointing a “side commission” of RTC commissioners to thoroughly review the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS). Commissioners noted that the UCS is an important document and all Commissioners should thoroughly review the UCS report.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda - none

**CONSENT AGENDA**

*No consent agenda items*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

4. Innovators in Transportation Speakers Series: The State Rail Plan, Funding, and other Considerations for Rail in the Monterey Bay Area – Guest Speaker: Kyle Gradinger, Acting Division Chief, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transit

George Dondero, Executive Director, introduced Kyle Gradinger the Acting Division Chief, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transit.

Mr. Gradinger conducted an interactive presentation on the State Rail Plan, funding, and other considerations for rail in the Monterey Bay area.
Commissioners discussed: California State Rail Plan funding; CO2 emissions and climate change; bikes and trains; ADA accessibility; the high-speed rail project; changing transportation technologies and infrastructure; ridership; first and last mile planning; freight rail; and housing and transportation policy.

**Jack Nelson**, Sierra Club, stated that unlike highway expansion, trains would not create the problem of induced travel.

**Peter Stanger**, La Selva Beach, stated that certain sections of the rail corridor are not wide enough for both a rail and a trail; that there is no bus service in La Selva Beach; and that the Highway 17 Express Bus schedule should be synched with the train schedule at Diridon Station.

**Mark Mesiti-Miller**, Friends of the Rail and Trail, asked for accelerated integration of Santa Cruz County’s rail planning with the State’s Rail Plan. He also spoke on creative thinking around funding for transportation and housing.

**Michael Saint**, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, discussed the impacts of rideshare in transportation planning and asked when commuter rail would be made available in the area.

**Brett Garrett**, Santa Cruz County resident, spoke on elevated train systems; high costs of high speed trains; and podcar transit systems.

**Janneke Strause**, Bike Santa Cruz County, stated that having a transit system would be a transformative opportunity for the county; that Jump bikes are a first and last mile solution; and asked the commission to continue to explore a passenger rail option in the county.

**Gail McNulty**, Greenway, stated that the Speaker’s Series should offer a greater diversity in topics; that high-occupancy toll lanes and other transit options not being studied should have been studied in the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) because they might be the most equitable and climate friendly solutions for the region.

**Barry Scott**, Aptos resident, stated that the county should take advantage of the funding available for passenger rail service and hopes that a decision is made to move forward with a passenger and freight rail service for the county.

5. **Highway 1 Bus on Shoulder Feasibility Study and Implementation**


Sarah Christensen, Senior Transportation Engineer, discussed the proposed cooperative agreement between the RTC and the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) to implement buses on the shoulders of Highway 1 in coordination with the auxiliary lanes projects on Highway 1 in Santa Cruz County.
Commissioners discussed: funding; potential costs and need for capital improvements; auxiliary lanes on Highway 1; Measure D; specialized buses; constituent outreach; bus service volume and project timeframe.

*Commissioners Chase and McPherson left the meeting.*

**Jack Nelson**, Sierra Club, noted that the Bus-on-Shoulder (BOS) is a solution that has been hiding in plain sight and discussed potential additional funding sources for the project.

**Michael Saint**, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, stated that widening the shoulder by 10 feet without adding auxiliary lanes until the Rio del Mar exit, could be a faster and cheaper solution.

**Brett Garrett**, Santa Cruz County resident, commented that some alternatives being studied in the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) might be more efficient congestion relief solutions than the Bus-On-Shoulder project.

**Gail McNulty**, Greenway, stated that she hopes that this project does not preclude other transit options for Highway 1.

**Mark Mesiti-Miller**, Friends of the Rail and Trail, supports this project and stated that it might be worth keeping the focus on the highway shoulders instead of adding auxiliary lanes.

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded the staff recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations for a Cooperative Agreement with the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) to fund the preparation of the operating concept for the Bus on Shoulder facility on Highway 1 between Soquel Drive and 41st Avenue Interchanges. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Leopold, Johnson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn voting “aye.”

6. Items to be discussed in closed session

   No comments given.

Commissioners adjourned to closed session at 12:09 p.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

7. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

Commission Negotiators: Lozano Smith and Yesenia Parra
Bargaining Units: RTC Association of Middle Managers (RAMM) and Community of RTC Employees (CORE)
OPEN SESSION

Commissioners reconvened in open session at 12:30 p.m.

8. Report on closed session

   No report.

9. Next meetings

   The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 6, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 801 Ocean Street, 5th floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

   The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Santa Cruz Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fernanda Dias Pini, Staff

Attendees:

Diana Adamic   Santa Cruz County Resident
Nick Bulaich   City of Watsonville Resident
Brett Garrett  Santa Cruz County Resident
Kate Giberson  Hams + Associates
Kyle Gradinger Caltrans DRMT
Paul Hierling  AMBAG
Lowell Hurst    City of Watsonville
Yvette Iveta    Santa Cruz County Resident
Pat Johnman    City of Watsonville
David Lieby    Santa Cruz County Resident
Geri Lieby     Santa Cruz County Resident
Gail McNulty   Greenway
Mark Mesiti-Mesiti-Miller   Friends of the Rail and Trail
Jack Nelson    Sierra Club
Rebecca Raney  Santa Cruz County Resident
Mike Saint    CFST
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