1. **Roll call**

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

Members present:

- Jacques Bertrand
- Ed Bottorff
- Sandy Brown
- Greg Caput
- Cynthia Chase
- Randy Johnson
- Virginia Johnson (alt.)
- John Leopold
- Patrick Mulhearn (alt.)
- Mike Rotkin
- Andy Schiffrin (alt.)
- Kelly McClendon (ex-officio)

Staff present:

- George Dondero
- Luis Mendez
- Yesenia Parra
- Sarah Christensen
- Rachel Moriconi
- Fernanda Dias Pini

2. **Review items to be discussed in closed session**

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, reviewed items to be discussed in closed session.

**Veronica Rodriguez**, SEIU 521, stated that the Community of RTC Employees (CORE) members felt that the proposed contract was fair and that they unanimously ratified it.

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

3. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

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

OPEN SESSION

Commissioners reconvened in open session at 9:51 a.m.

4. Report on closed session

No report.

5. Oral communications

Dean, Santa Cruz County resident, discussed a study which contended that adding rail transit to cities transportation systems has a net effect of less usage of public transit and asked the Commission to investigate this thesis.

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation (CFST), invited Commissioners to an educational event. Mr. Saint clarified that CFST does not advocate for high-occupancy vehicle lanes, but that it primarily advocates for a no build option or a dedicated shoulder for mass transit on Highway 1. Mr. Saint also stated that highway widening for single-occupancy cars has a high environmental cost.

Barry Scott, Santa Cruz County resident, thanked the RTC for entering into a contract with Progressive Rail, for ensuring freight service in Watsonville, and for the Speakers Series. Mr. Scott hopes that the Speakers Series is continued because the public benefits from having greater access to information on transportation policy.

6. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Handout for Item 23.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner comments: Item 9 – Commissioner Schiffrin noted that the RTC is paying for the Highway 1 project but Caltrans will make the decisions; therefore, RTC should still be very involved in the project. Item 10 – Commissioner Schiffin noted that when advancing the design of a project prior to completion of the environmental document there is a risk that the design will change but it is understandable.
Chair Leopold moved Item 8 to the regular agenda as Item 25.1 at the request of Commissioner Bertrand.

Commissioner Alternate Schifrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the modified consent agenda. The motion carried with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Chase, Johnson, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates V. Johnson, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting “aye”. Commissioner Johnson voted “nay” on Item 14.

MINUTES

7. Approved draft minutes of the August 2, 2018 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

POLICY ITEMS

   No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

9. Approved Highway 1 41st/ Soquel Auxiliary Lanes PS&E Cooperative Agreement (Resolution 01-19)

10. Approved Highway 1 41st/ Soquel Auxiliary Lanes PS&E Consultant Selection (Resolution 02-19)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

12. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues and distribution

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

13. Approved Title VI Civil Rights Program & Language Assistance Plan (Resolution 03-19)

14. Approved the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Extensions

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

15. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

16. Accepted correspondence log

17. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies

   a. August 24, 2018 letter from George Dondero, Executive Director, to California Department of Transportation’s Division of Local Assistance regarding the City of Santa Cruz’s Cycle 9 application for the Santa Cruz Rail Trail Segment 7 Phase 2 Construction
18. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues

19. Accepted information items

**REGULAR AGENDA**

22. State Legislative and Funding Updates – Adopt Position Opposing Proposition 6

Chair Leopold introduced State Senator William Monning, 17th California Senate District.

State Senator William Monning, 17th California Senate District, updated the RTC on state legislation and transportation funding. Senator Monning urged the RTC and voters to oppose Proposition 6 on the November 2018 ballot, which would eliminate state funding for road repairs, transit service, buses, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, congestion relief, safety, and other transportation projects. He also noted that the gas tax is a user fee that is needed to address the huge backlog in road repairs and is a win-win for the transportation system and local economy. "The beauty of [Senate Bill] 1 is that it is a guaranteed source of revenue for roads, bridges, and safety projects. The money raised can only be used for transportation and benefits residents in every county in the state”.

**Janneke Straus**, Bike Santa Cruz County, expressed support for the staff recommendation and appreciation for Senate Bill 1.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded staff recommendation to adopt an “oppose” position on Proposition 6. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Chase, Johnson, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates V. Johnson, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting “aye”.

20. Commissioner reports – oral reports

Commissioner Bertrand reported on the Climate Adaptation Forum noting that the Fourth Climate Assessment is available and may be of interest to Commissioners.


George Dondero, Executive Director, reported that the draft report of the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) will be presented at the October 4, 2018 RTC meeting as an information item. Mr. Dondero noted that there will be several outreach events for public input on the UCS report throughout
October 2018. These will include meetings with stakeholders, partner agencies, focus group meetings with community organizations, public workshops in North and South County, RTC advisory committee meetings, and presentations at city council meetings. Email announcements of locations and times will be sent, information will also be available on the RTC website.

Mr. Dondero reported that the Thursday, November 15, 2018 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting will be held in the evening, starting at 6:00 p.m. The second draft of the UCS, along with the recommended preferred scenario, will be presented at this meeting as information items.

The final draft of the UCS will be presented at the December 6, 2018 RTC meeting where approval of a preferred scenario will be requested.

Mr. Dondero also noted that the final Innovators in Transportation Speakers Series event will happen on Wednesday, September 19, 2018 at 6:30 pm, at the Veterans Memorial Building in Santa Cruz. Becky Steckler, AICP, Program Manager for Urbanism Next at the University of Oregon, will be speaking on the impacts of emerging technologies on communities.

23. Caltrans report

Mr. Kelly McClendon reported that the California Transportation Commission will host a town hall meeting on September 19, 2018 at the Gonzales City Hall. Mr. McClendon also announced a call for projects from the California Strategic Growth Council as part of the Transformative Climate Communities Program.

Commissioners commented on: Litter control on Highway 1 north of the City of Santa Cruz; Highway 152 sidewalk project schedule and Highway 129 projects schedule.

24. Santa Cruz County Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, presented the staff report. Staff recommended that the Commission appoint Janet Edwards, Michael Machado, Abel Rodriguez, Carmen Herrera Mansir, and Todd Guin to the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee.

Commissioners noted that the diversity of the appointees represents the county well.

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Schiffrin seconded the staff recommendation to appoint Janet Edwards, Michael Machado, Abel Rodriguez, Carmen Herrera Mansir, and Todd Guin to the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee and to authorize staff to work with the appointed members to convene the committee, provide orientation, and begin their work. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Chase, Johnson, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates V. Johnson, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting “aye”.
25. Innovators in Transportation Speakers Series: Measuring What Matters – Guest Speaker: Jeffrey Tumlin, Principal and Director of Strategy at Nelson/Nygaard – oral report

George Dondero, Executive Director, introduced Jeffrey Tumlin, Principal and Director of Strategy at Nelson/Nygaard.

Mr. Tumlin gave a presentation on how transportation planning affects communities.

Commissioners commented on: Challenges in changing social values to incentivize greater public transit usage; values consolidation; the economics and regulatory polices of parking; challenges of creating equitable transportation options; Level of Service vs. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT); VMT and housing density; suggestion that RTC actions be tied back to overarching policies and priorities established in the Regional Transportation Plan and other planning efforts; highway widening and auxiliary lanes; congestion reduction; housing and transportation equity; performance metrics; street cleaning; Accessory Dwelling Units.

Commissioners Caput, Chase, and Johnson left the meeting.

Brett Garrett, Santa Cruz County resident, supports the creation of a high-occupancy vehicle lane from existing lanes on Highway 1. He also stated that he voted for Measure D despite objecting to the proposed fund allocation for highway widening, and asked for the RTC to consider alternatives to highway widening.

25.1 Draft minutes of the August 16, 2018 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner V. Johnson seconded a motion to direct staff to review the August 16, 2018 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting minutes for accuracy regarding Commissioner Bertrand’s comments and revise accordingly, and to include an item on the next RTC agenda for consideration of an RTC committee to review the Unified Corridor Investment Study, if that was a request made by Commissioner Bertrand at the August 16, 2018 meeting. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates V. Johnson, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting “aye”.

26. Next Meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 4, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, 5th floor, Santa Cruz, CA.
The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 20, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz METRO Administrative Offices, 110 Vernon Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

Meeting adjourned at 12:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fernanda Dias Pini, Staff

Attendees:

Heather Adamson AMBAG
Rachel Bickert Senator Monning
Candice Elliott SCDTA
Todd Guin Santa Cruz County Resident
Wendy Harris Santa Cruz County Resident
Diana Hayden Seacliff Improvement Association
Kelly Jacobs Senator Monning
Lizann Keys Santa Cruz County Resident
Geri Lieby Santa Cruz County Resident
David Lieby Santa Cruz County Resident
Senator Bill Monning Santa Cruz County Resident
Lee Otter California Coastal Commission
Mike Saint Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Barry Scott Santa Cruz County Resident