1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 a.m.

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand
Ed Bottorff
Sandy Brown
Greg Caput
Trina Coffman-Gomez

Randy Johnson
Virginia Johnson (alt.)
Patrick Mulhearn (alt.)
Andy Schiffrin (alt.)
Aileen Loe (ex-officio)

Staff present:

George Dondero
Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra
Sarah Christensen
Ginger Dykaar
Grace Blakeslee

Rachel Moriconi
Cory Caletti
Anais Schenk
Ben Wolfe
Thomas Travers
Fernanda Dias Pini

2. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Meeting adjourned for closed session at 9:03 a.m.

CLOSED AGENDA

3. 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)

4. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATOR (SECTION 54957.6)
Agency Negotiator: (RTC Commission)  
Unrepresented employee: Executive Director

5. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – EXISTING LITIGATION pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1) for Santa Cruz Superior Court Case No. 18CV02101

6. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4): one potential case

OPEN SESSION

Meeting reconvened in open session at 10:06 a.m.

7. Report on closed session

No report.

32. 10:00 AM State Legislative Report from Assemblymember Mark Stone, 29th California Assembly District – oral report  
(George Dondero, Executive Director)

Assemblymember Mark Stone, 29th California Assembly District, gave a report to the RTC on state legislation and transportation funding, where he discussed how Senate Bill (SB) 1 provides funding to address the backlog in transportation infrastructure projects and other transportation needs throughout the state. He also discussed the intersection between housing and transportation issues, the need to incentivize sustainable transportation modes, and expressed the continued need to have a commitment to subvert climate change.

8. Oral communications

Gail McNulty, Greenway, discussed the benefits of, and immediate need for, transportation planning that promotes active transportation for all ages.

Jack Nelson, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that carbon emissions and climate change must be a factor in transportation planning.

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, opposes highway widening as a solution for the region’s transportation issues and advocates for regular and frequent bus services.

Jessica Evans, Santa Cruz County resident, praised the recent improvements to bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure across the county, but noted that there
are still many improvements that need to be made, especially along Bay Street.

**Cary Pico**, Santa Cruz County resident, discussed the fiduciary responsibilities of the RTC and stated that it has not acted accordingly as a public agency.

**Tina Andreatta**, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that a rail and trail option for the corridor would benefit many populations within the county, especially the elderly, disabled, and children.

**Miles Rider**, Santa Cruz County resident, noted that transportation issues disproportionately affect south county residents, which he believes to be underrepresented on the RTC.

City of Watsonville Resident, stated that the congestion on Highway 1 is the number one issue in the county and supports the addition of a third lane on Highway 1 from Highway 17 to Aptos.

9. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Handout for Items 31 and 34, and a replacement page for Item 34.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner comment: *Item 17* – Commissioner Bertrand lauded collaboration between the RTC and the City of Capitola to allocate Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds for pedestrian and bicycle improvements on Park Avenue.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Brown seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion carried with Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, and Coffman-Gomez, and Commissioner Alternates V. Johnson, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting “aye”. Commissioner Johnson voted “no” on Item 23 for all other items on the consent agenda he voted “aye”.

**MINUTES**

10. Accepted minutes of the June 11, 2018 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting

11. Approved revised draft minutes of the August 16, 2018 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

12. Approved draft minutes of the September 6, 2018 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

13. Accepted draft minutes of the September 11, 2018 Special Elderly & Disabled Advisory Committee meeting
14. Approved draft minutes of the September 20, 2018 Transportation Policy Workshop meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

No consent items

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

16. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues and distribution

17. Approved City of Capitola Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Allocation Claim for Park Avenue Sidewalk Project (Resolution 04-19)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

18. Approved the Regional Transportation Commission meeting schedule for 2019

19. Approved the California Public Employees’ Retirement System (CalPERS) health benefit contribution rates for plan year 2019 (Resolutions 05-19, 06-19)

20. Approved Bicycle Advisory Committee membership appointments

21. Approved appointments to the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

22. Approved Coast Rail Coordinating Council Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

23. Approved 2018 Compensation Study Implementation

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

24. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

25. Accepted correspondence log

26. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
   a. Letter to Matt Machado, County of Santa Cruz Director of Public Works, stating the Bicycle Advisory Committee’s support for a countywide bikeshare system
   b. Letter to Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works Director, stating the Bicycle Advisory Committee’s support for a countywide bikeshare system
c. Letter to Steve Hammack, City of Scotts Valley Interim Public Works Director, stating the Bicycle Advisory Committee’s support for a countywide bikeshare system

d. Letter to Steve Palmisano, City of Watsonville Director of Public Works and Utilities, stating the Bicycle Advisory Committee’s support for a countywide bikeshare system

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

   a. September 3, 2018 email from Wayne Thompson requesting more information on Measure D fund allocation

28. Accepted information items

   a. Jonathan English, “Why did America Give Up on Mass Transit? (Don’t Blame Cars.)”, City Lab University, August 31, 2018

**REGULAR AGENDA**

29. Commissioner reports – oral report

   Commissioner Bertrand noted that compliance with the American Disability Act (ADA) is imperative to ensure the mobility and accessibility of all county residents.

30. Unified Corridor Investment Study Review Committee – oral report (Commissioner Bertrand)

   Commissioner Bertrand proposed creating a Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) review committee comprised of Commissioners to review and analyze the UCS in-depth.

   Commissioners noted that all Commissioners are individually responsible to their constituents to review the report; that it is appropriate for Commissioners to gather and discuss the UCS within the bounds of the Brown Act; and that the UCS is a critical report that must be studied and analyzed meticulously by all Commissioners.

   **Cary Pico**, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that there is a credibility issue with the UCS and the RTC, and that he supports a review committee.

   **Bud Colligan**, Monterey Bay Economic Partnership and Greenway, urged Commissioners to not be constricted by timelines and take the time needed to reach a decision on the report with the broadest public support.
**Jessica Evans**, Santa Cruz County resident, opposes a UCS review committee and urged all Commissioners to individually review the report.

**Gail McNulty**, Greenway, supports the UCS review committee and suggested that it include stakeholder groups.

**Barry Scott**, Aptos resident, opposes the UCS review committee and potential inclusion of stakeholder groups.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Brown seconded a motion to take no action on a Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) Review Committee. Commissioner Alternate V. Johnson requested a friendly amendment to the motion to encourage Commissioners to get together on an ad-hoc basis to discuss the UCS in non-Brown Act meetings. The amendment was accepted by the makers of the motion.

A roll call vote was taken and Commissioners Bertrand, Bottorff, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, and Commissioner Alternates V. Johnson, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voted “aye”.

### 31. Director’s Report – oral report
**(George Dondero, Executive Director)**

George Dondero, Executive Director, discussed the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approval of a City of Santa Cruz plan to replace the existing path on the San Lorenzo River railroad trestle with a 10-foot wide multi-use path.

Mr. Dondero reported that the North Coast Rail Trail (NCRT) Draft Environmental Report (EIR) was released in August, that the public comment period ended on September 24, 2018, and that the Final NCRT EIR is expected to be released this winter. He also reported that two RTC staffers will be traveling out of state to attend the Rail~Volution Conference in Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, from October 21 through 24, 2018.

Mr. Dondero also highlighted the projects approved by the RTC which would be at risk of losing funding if Proposition 6 passes this November. He noted that Assemblymembers Mark Stone and Anna Caballero recently visited the Agron biofuels plant in Watsonville and met with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) inspectors, the president of Western Iowa Energy, and Howard Cohen, marketing director of the St. Paul and Pacific Rail Road.

Commissioner noted that the San Lorenzo River railroad trestle project was also approved by the California Coastal Commission, and that Commissioner Coonerty and Secretary of Resources John Laird were instrumental in securing state-funding for the project.
33. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe, District 5 Deputy Director for Planning and Local Assistance, noted that Caltrans recently released the 2018 California State Rail Plan which lays out plans to integrate transportation systems and modes across the state. Ms. Loe reported on the kick-off of the development of the District 5 Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan, and the placement of a charging station in the Camp Roberts Rest Area. Ms. Loe also reported on several planning grants that could be suitable for projects in Santa Cruz County.

Ms. Loe noted that Caltrans is working to relieve the backlog of transportation projects with funding from Senate Bill (SB) 1.

Commissioners asked that Caltrans follow-up on the possibility of contracting with the Downtown Streets Team to do clean up on the North Coast on Highway 1.

34. Unified Corridor Investment Study – Draft Step 2 Scenario Analysis (Ginger Dykaar and Grace Blakeslee, Sr. Transportation Planners)

George Dondero, Executive Director, gave an introduction to the Unified Corridor Investment Study – Draft Step 2 Scenario Analysis (UCS) and introduced the team behind the study (UCS team), composed of, RTC staff Ginger Dykaar and Grace Blakeslee, Kimley-Horn consultants Fredrick Venter, Michael Schmitt and Darryl dePencier, and Strategic Economics consultant Sarah Graham.

The UCS team presented to the RTC the draft Step 2 Analysis results of the Unified Corridor Investment Study.

Commissioner Caput left the meeting.

Commissioners discussed: UCS timeline; incoming RTC Executive Director; Progressive Rail contract; freight services; cost estimates; scenario selection process; funding; Proposition 116; the independent nature of the study; Commission and public involvement in the study; forecast models used; need to agree on a common set of facts; a peer review of the UCS; need to review the UCS and continue discussion.

Will Menchine, City of Santa Cruz resident and Bicycle Advisory Committee member, believes that the trail only results presented in the UCS are not accurate and that Scenario A should have included bus rapid transit on Highway 1.

Cary Pico, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that the numbers provided in UCS are incorrect and biased, and asked for the report to be fair, honest, and responsible.

Bruce Sawhill, Friends of the Rail and Trail, asked if the travel demand model used in the study considered the effects that each scenario would have on other modes of transportation.
Casey Beyer, Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce, noted that Commissioners and the public have engaged in extensive discussion of the UCS over several RTC meetings and that Commissioners should decide on a scenario that best serves the community.

Michael Saint, Santa Cruz County resident, expressed that the scenarios proposed did not offer a substantial improvement over the no built scenario and that those scenarios may not be financially responsible. Mr. Saint stated that he prefers Scenario B, but that he would eliminate ramp metering, Mission Street intersection widening, and the excursion rail within that scenario.

Brett Garrett, Santa Cruz County resident, encouraged elevated pod car systems (Personal Rapid Transit) to be analyzed in the UCS.

Jessica Evans, Santa Cruz County resident, encouraged the Commission to consider Scenario B, but to add freight services to Watsonville and potentially to the rest of the county.

Barry Scott, Santa Cruz County resident, stated freight service should be retained in Watsonville and that Scenario B provides the best results.

Jack Nelson, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, asked for a less auto-centric scenario to be included in the UCS, which would not include auxiliary lanes on Highway 1, and that induced travel should be a factor in the UCS analyses.

Piet Cannin, Ecology Action, asked if the scenario analyses considered recent developments that impact the number of cyclists, such as the bike sharing program of the City of Santa Cruz, the Arana Gulch facility, and the increase in electric bicycle usage. Mr. Cannin asked that Commissioners include investments to active transportation and transit as part of the long-term solutions for the county.

Gail McNulty, Greenway, does not agree that the trail only scenario should be tied to adding high-occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes on Highway 1 and stated that this pairing makes the trail only option less favorable. Ms. McNulty stated that the UCS does not provide an independent analysis and asked the Commission to look to Davis, CA, Boulder, CO, and Copenhagen, Denmark for solutions to create a people-centered community.

Tina Andreatta, Santa Cruz County resident, asked that Commissioners consider low-income, disabled, and south county residents when reviewing the UCS. Ms. Andreatta stated that the rail with trail option offers the most equitable transportation options for the county.

Mark Mesiti-Miller, Friends of the Rail and Trail, supports Scenario B because it provides the greatest decrease in traffic collisions and CO2 emissions, and the greatest number of bike-share and public transit usage. Mr. Mesiti-Miller also stated that he would like Scenario B to further explore rail usage and to have greater consideration of the 2018 State Rail Plan.

Ryan Sarnataro, Santa Cruz County resident, stated that staff bias influenced consultants and directed the results conveyed in the report, and that because
the trail only option was not properly vetted in the study, Commissioners cannot make an informed decision on the best option for the county.

*Commissioner Johnson and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin left the meeting.*

35. Cruz 511 Program Update
(*Anais Schenk, Transportation Planner*)

Anais Schenk, Transportation Planner, presented an update on the Cruz511 program and the plans to continue modernizing mobility options and access by taking a “mobility as a service” approach.

Commissioner asked about the difference between full service and limited service platforms and the cost factors.

**Jack Nelson**, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation, noted that while new technologies can have future unknown negative impacts, the RTC should continue to explore new innovations in transportation technology.

**Janneke Strause**, Bike Santa Cruz County, supports the direction that Cruz511 is going and that the future of transportation is multi-modal.

**Tegan Speiser**, Santa Cruz County resident, noted that the RTC and Cruz511 were only able to gather transportation management resources in one website (cruz511.org) three years ago, and that technological advancements pose a major challenge for future transportation planning. Ms. Speiser encouraged the RTC to continue thinking of creative solutions and making investments to assist users to fully benefit of all transportation modes available in the area.

36. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 1, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Ste 450, Watsonville, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 18, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean St., 5th Floor, Santa Cruz, CA.

Meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fernanda Dias Pini, staff
Attendees:

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<tr>
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<td>Heather Adamson</td>
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<td>Tina Andreatta</td>
<td>Santa Cruz County Resident</td>
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<td>Casey Beyer</td>
<td>Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce</td>
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<td>Yvette Brooks</td>
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<td>Russell Brutsche</td>
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<td>Piet Canin</td>
<td>Ecology Action</td>
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<td>Karen Card</td>
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<td>Eric Child</td>
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<td>Diana Haydi</td>
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<td>Daryl Jordan</td>
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<td>Bruno Kaiser</td>
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<td>The Next Generation</td>
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