



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**DRAFT MINUTES  
Thursday, May 2, 2019  
9:00 a.m.  
City of Capitola Council Chambers  
420 Capitola Ave.,  
Capitola CA 95010**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members present:

Sandy Brown  
Ed Bottorff  
Greg Caput  
Zach Friend  
Aurelio Gonzalez  
Randy Johnson  
John Leopold

Mike Rotkin  
Tony Gregorio (alt.)  
Lowell Hurst (alt.)  
Virginia Johnson (alt.)  
Andy Schiffrin (alt.)  
Sam Storey (alt.)  
Aileen Loe (ex-officio)

Staff present:

Guy Preston  
Luis Mendez  
Yesenia Parra  
Tracy New  
Sarah Christensen  
Grace Blakeslee

Cory Caletti  
Fernanda Dias Pini  
Joanna Edmonds  
Rachel Moriconi  
Shannon Munz  
Tracy New  
Amy Naranjo

2. Oral communications

**Brian Peoples**, Trail Now, stated that the Capitola coastal corridor is crucial for mobility in Capitola and that it is currently closed due to erroneous assumptions made by the RTC.

**Peter Stanger**, South County resident, stated that Beach Road conditions need to be improved for bicycle riders and he asked that RTC staff reconsider the planned route for Segment 17 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Handout for Item 27.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Chair Bottorff moved Item 16 to the regular agenda after Item 24.*

*Commissioner Friend recused himself from voting on Items 10 and 29, citing conflict of interest.*

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffirin seconded the amended consent agenda. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Brown, Bottorff, Caput, Friend (except for Item 10), Gonzalez, Johnson, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, V. Johnson, Schiffirin, and Storey voting "aye."

### **MINUTES**

4. Accepted minutes of the February 11, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
5. Accepted minutes of the March 21, 2019 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting
6. Approved draft minutes of the April 4, 2019 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the April 9, 2019 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Committee meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the April 18, 2019 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

### **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

### **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

9. Approved the Santa Cruz County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy Grant Award (**Resolution 23-19**)

10. Approved Construction Management for Five Storm Damage Repair Projects (Phase 1) on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 24-19**)

### **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

11. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
12. Accepted Measure D revenues and distribution
13. Accepted Fiscal Year 2017-18 Fiscal Audit for the SCCRTC Measure D Fund
14. Accepted Fiscal Year 2017-18 Fiscal Audit for the SCCRTC
15. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY) 2018-19 SCCRTC and Measure D Semi-Annual Internal Financial Statements
16. Approve Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claims for Volunteer Center, Community Bridges and Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (**Resolutions 25-19, 26-19, 27-19**)

*Chair Bottorff moved the item to follow Item 24.*

17. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 claims for the Community Traffic Safety Coalition, the Ride 'n Stride Program, and the Bike to Work Program (**Resolutions 28-19, 29-19**)

### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

18. Accepted appointments to the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

### **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

19. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
20. Accepted correspondence log
21. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
  - a. Letter to Senator Jim Beall regarding RTC's position of opposition, unless amended, to Senate Bill 152 from Guy Preston, Executive Director
22. Accept information items - *none*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

## 23. Commissioner reports on RTC related items – oral reports

*None*

## 24. Director's Report – oral report

Guy Preston, Executive Director, presented his report (available on the RTC's website: <https://scrtc.org/meetings/commission/agendas/>).

Commissioners comments: lauded the San Lorenzo River trestle bridge bicycle and pedestrian improvements.

**Brian Peoples**, Trail Now, congratulated the RTC for the completion of the San Lorenzo River trestle bridge improvements and stated that the Lift Line electric buses are an excellent example of investing in different uses of existing transportation infrastructure. Mr. Peoples also stated that the rail corridor needs to be open to the public as soon as possible.

**Peter Stanger**, South County resident, discussed the need for safety improvements in Mid and South County. He said that the majority of funding had been allocated to transportation improvements around the City of Santa Cruz.

**Sally Arnold**, Friends of the Rail and Trail, congratulated the RTC on the completion of the San Lorenzo River trestle bridge bike and pedestrian improvements and stated that she looks forward to seeing the completion of more active transportation projects throughout the county.

## 16. Approve Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Transportation Development Act (TDA) claims for Volunteer Center, Community Bridges, and Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)

Commissioners discussed: update on the status of the Pacific Station/Metro Center-Station Rehabilitation project; requested a Pacific Station project progress report in the fall; City of Santa Cruz is looking forward to bringing this project to fruition; potential opportunities for state funding; that the METRO board is working with the Association on Monterey Bay Area Governments and state legislators to find funding sources for the Pacific Station project.

**Alex Clifford**, METRO CEO/General Manager, stated that years of planning and discussion with stakeholders has led to the decision on the future of the Pacific Station and bus operation system in Santa Cruz County, and that the METRO Board approved a project to start the rehabilitation of the Pacific

Station which is contingent on funding availability.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded a motion to approve the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee and staff recommendation to:

1. Adopt **Resolution (25-19)** approving the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 funds claim in the amount of \$739,977 from Community Bridges to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, contingent on approval from the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant;
2. Adopt the **Resolution (26-19)** approving the FY2019-20 TDA Article 8 funds claim in the amount of \$88,093 for the Volunteer Center to administer the volunteer driver transportation program primarily serving seniors, contingent on approval from the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant; and
3. Adopt **Resolution (27-19)** approving the TDA Article 4 funds claim in the amount of \$7,531,910 from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) to provide operating assistance for fixed route public transit and Americans with Disabilities Act complementary paratransit operations.

And staff recommendation to:

4. Adopt **Resolution (27-19)** approving the State Transit Assistance (STA) claims from METRO in the amounts of \$5,162,192.

With direction from Commissioners for staff to:

5. Provide a progress status report on the Pacific Station/Metro Center-Station Rehabilitation project in the Fall of 2019.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Brown, Bottorff, Caput, Friend, Gonzalez, Johnson, Leopold, Roktin and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, V. Johnson, Schiffrin, and Storey voting "aye."

## 25. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe, District 5 Deputy Director, stated that District 5 observed the Caltrans Workers Memorial and Worker Safety day on May 2, 2019 and asked that all be mindful and careful when driving, especially around construction zones. Ms. Loe also reported that there may be opportunities for collaboration to implement Highway 9/ San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan projects and that Caltrans has a commitment to the safety of all users.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for Caltrans work in South County; the importance of caution while driving around construction zones; and the risk faced by Caltrans workers while making infrastructure improvements.

At the request of Chair Bottorff, the RTC held a moment of silence in honor of the 189 Caltrans workers who have been killed in the line of duty.

26. City of Capitola Public Works Update – oral report

*(Kailash Mozumder, Capitola Public Works Project Manager)*

*Chair Bottorff moved the item to follow Item 27.*

27. **9:30 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING:** 2019 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, reported that the RTC regularly solicits input on transportation needs in Santa Cruz County to assess and prioritize the needs of transit-dependent or disadvantaged persons, and highlighted a few high-priority needs.

Commissioner comments: the positive impact of Measure D funding in addressing high-priority unmet needs.

Chair Bottorff opened the Public Hearing at 9:48 a.m.

**Peter Stanger**, South County resident, stated that the absence of a bus route in La Selva Beach has limited transportation options and that bus service for that area is needed.

**Brian Peoples**, Trail Now, stated that the unmet needs list shows that there are many areas that need transportation funding and that no money should go towards rail or rail-related projects. Mr. Peoples asked that the RTC be transparent in its funding allocations.

**Carol Childers**, Meals on Wheels and San Lorenzo Valley Seniors Commission, stated that there is a great need to provide transportation options for isolated seniors and low-income seniors living in the San Lorenzo Valley, and throughout the county.

**Kirk Ance**, Community Bridges/Lift Line, stated that the unmet needs list has greatly assisted Lift Line in obtaining grants to provide transportation services for the community.

**Johanna Lighthill**, Seacliff resident, stated that it is imperative for senior citizens to have safe mobility and transportation options to remain independent and have access to basic amenities.

**Sally Arnold**, Friends of the Rail and Trail, stated that system-wide solutions to different mobility needs are available through high-capacity service on the rail corridor.

Public Hearing was closed at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioners discussed: the importance of outreach; maintaining the unmet needs list; and lauded the increased collaboration between the local transportation agencies or organizations.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded the staff recommendation to:

1. Adopt the 2019 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs with revisions as appropriate; and
2. Consider unmet paratransit and transit needs as funding becomes available

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Brown, Bottorff, Caput, Friend, Gonzalez, Johnson, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, V. Johnson, Schiffrin, and Storey voting "aye."

*Commissioner Friend left the meeting.*

26. City of Capitola Public Works Update – oral report

Kailash Mozumder, Capitola Public Works Project Manager, presented on various transportation projects funded by the RTC or Measure D in the City of Capitola.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for the presentation and work that is being carried out, especially for the 38<sup>th</sup> and Brommer Streets improvement projects.

28. Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Program – 2018 Annual Report

Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner, presented the staff report on the Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Program.

CHP Lieutenant Ian Troxell responded to Commissioner questions about safety, collision numbers and cost and officer availability for additional enforcement on Highway 17.

Commissioners discussed: contributors to increased collision rates; importance of safe driving education and enforcement; funding for a greater California Highway Patrol (CHP) presence on Highway 17; Measure D funds for safety

improvements on Highway 17; if there is capacity and what would be the cost to increase CHP patrol on Highway 17; inclusion of Safe on 17 reports in the RTC Agenda packets; and collaboration with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission-Service Authority for Freeway Emergencies to increase CHP presence on Highway 17; CHP officer overtime.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Brown seconded the staff recommendation to:

1. Accept the 2018 Annual Report for the Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Program; and
2. Approve **Resolution (30-19)** authorizing the Executive Director to amend the current agreement with the California Highway Patrol to increase annual funding for extra enforcement on Highway 17.

With additional direction from the Commission for staff to:

3. Coordinate with the California Highway Patrol (CHP) to do an analysis of additional CHP officer patrol hours on Highway 17 and what would it take for the RTC to support it; and
4. Provide an analysis of the financial and bureaucratic implications to the RTC to fund an additional CHP officer to be regularly assigned to patrol Highway 17.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Brown, Bottorff, Caput, Gonzalez, Johnson, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, V. Johnson, Schiffrin, and Storey voting "aye."

*Commissioner Johnson left the meeting.*

## 29. Measure D: Five-Year Program of Projects for Regional Projects

*Commissioner Alternate Storey recused himself from this item citing a conflict of interest and stepped off of the dais.*

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report and asked for input on the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 to 2023-24 "5-Year Program of Projects" for Measure D regional project categories: Active Transportation, Highway Corridors, San Lorenzo Valley Highway 9 Corridor Improvements, Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing, and Rail Corridor.

Commissioners discussed: process to amend the Measure D 5-year program of projects plan; the broad and extensive impact of Measure D funding; Measure D program fact sheets; trail from North Coast to Aptos could be completed by 2025; need improved pedestrian and bicyclist crossing facilities on Highway 1



and Harkings Slough Road; Measure D presentation to the City of Watsonville City Council; funding for the San Lorenzo Valley Safe Routes to Schools; and critical need to lobby Congress to increase federal transportation funding.

**Brian Peoples**, Trail Now, stated that the RTC should not spend limited funds on an unaffordable rail system and that segments 7 and 18 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail are examples of inefficient fund allocation.

**Chris Schneider**, City of Santa Cruz Assistant Director of Public Works/ City Engineer, expressed the need for Measure D funding for Segment 7 to match City of Santa Cruz funds and to leverage other grant funds. Mr. Schneider also provided an update on the status of the other MBSST segments within the City of Santa Cruz.

**Sally Arnold**, Friends of the Rail and Trail, expressed excitement about the progress that has been made on different segments of the MBSST and the benefits this project will bring to the county.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Alternate V. Johnson seconded the staff recommendation to:

1. Review the preliminary draft FY19/20-23/24 "5-Year Program of Projects" for Measure D regional investment categories and projects: Active Transportation, Highway Corridors, San Lorenzo Valley/ Highway 9 Corridor Improvements, Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing, and Rail Corridor;
2. Identify any additional items Commissioners would like staff to evaluate;
3. Schedule a public hearing for the June RTC board meeting to consider public input and approve update.
4. Adopt a resolution (Attachment 2) amending the RTC budget to add FY 2018/19 Measure D funds to match rail alternatives analysis grant (\$13,000) and add funds (\$150,000) to cover actual final costs of the Unified Corridor Investment Study

With additional direction from the Commission for staff to:

5. Provide a presentation on Measure D funding to the City of Watsonville City Council.

Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Brown, Bottorff, Caput, Gonzalez, Leopold, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, V. Johnson, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

*Commissioner Leopold left the meeting.*

*Commissioner Caput left the meeting and was replaced by Commissioner Alternate Gregorio.*

30. Measure D: Community Bridges/ Lift Line Five-Year Plan

*Commissioner Alternate Storey rejoined the meeting.*

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report and asked the RTC to provide input on the draft "5-Year Program of Projects" for Community Bridges/Lift Line for Measure D funds available under the Transit for Seniors and People with Disabilities category.

**Kirk Ance**, Community Bridges/Lift Line, stated that Measure D funding has allowed Lift Line to provide extended services, transportation to and from activities that are part of the Downtown Senior's Center, acquire electric buses and installation of electric vehicle charging stations, and secure a new operations facility.

Commissioners discussed: eligibility to use Lift Line buses; Lift Line's out-of-county transportation to medical facilities services; and appreciation of Lift Line's services to low-income, disabled, and senior residents in the Santa Cruz County community.

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the staff recommendation to:

1. Review and provide input on the draft "5-Year Program 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 6, 2019 to consider public input on the Measure D Five-Year Plan under the Transit and Seniors and People with Disabilities category.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Brown, Bottorff, Gonzalez, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Gregorio, Hurst, V. Johnson, Schiffrin, and Storey voting "aye."

31. 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Environmental Impact Report

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report and asked for the RTC to provide input on the development of the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the staff recommendation to:

1. Receive information and provide input on the development of the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP);
2. Authorize staff to coordinate with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC), and the San Benito Council of Governments (SBCOG) on the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy and RTPs;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with AMBAG to contribute \$60,000 for environmental review of the 2045 MTP/RTPs.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Brown, Bottorff, Gonzalez, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Gregorio, Hurst, V. Johnson, Schiffrin, and Storey voting "aye."

32. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

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

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 11:49 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

33. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2): One Case

34. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4): One Case

**OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened to open session at 12:29 p.m.

35. Report on closed session

None.

36. Meeting adjourned Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 6, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main St., Watsonville, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 20, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 12:29 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Fernanda Dias Pini

Attendees:

Brian	Abrams	City of Capitola
Heather	Adamson	AMBAG
Kirk	Ance	Community Bridges/Lift Line
Sally	Arnold	Friends of the Rail and Trail
Carol	Childers	Seniors Community Center
Alex	Clifford	Santa Cruz METRO
Nancy	Crowley	Disabled son
Johanna	Lighthill	Seacliff Resident
Matt	Machado	Santa Cruz County
Kailash	Mozumder	City of Capitola
Brian	Peoples	Trail Now
James	Sandoval	SMART Local 0023
Chris	Schneiter	City of Santa Cruz
Peter	Stanger	South County Citizen