



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

Thursday, September 5, 2019

9:00 a.m.

**County Board of Supervisors Chambers
701 Ocean Street, 5th Floor**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:12

Members present:

Jack Dilles (alt.)

Randy Johnson

Andy Schiffrin (alt.)

Zach Friend

John Leopold

Jacques Bertrand

Donna Lind (alt.)

Aurelio Gonzalez

Sandy Brown

Greg Caput

Bruce McPherson

Ed Bottorff

Aileen Loe (ex-officio)

Virginia Johnson (alt.)

Trina Coffman-Gomez

Staff present:

Guy Preston

Yesenia Parra

Shannon Munz

Cory Caletti

Ginger Dykaar

Yolanda Gomez

Luis Mendez

Fernanda Pini

Tracy New

Rachel Moriconi

Grace Blakeslee

Brianna Goodman

2. Oral communications

Public comments received from:

Brian Peoples

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Handouts for items 2, 8, 16a, 18, 20, 22, and replacement page for item 13.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Schiffrin requested that item 16a be pulled off the consent agenda and placed on the regular agenda. Chair Bottorff placed the item on the regular agenda as item 16a.

Commissioner Schiffrin moved approval of the consent agenda as amended and Commissioner Leopold seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioner Bottorff, Bertrand, Brown, Loe, R. Johnson, Caput, Friend, McPherson and Commissioner Alternates Lind and Schiffrin voting "aye".

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the August 1, 2019 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the August 15, 2019 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

6. Accepted Legislative Updates
7. Approved Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendments (**Resolution 48-19**)

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

8. Accepted Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program Update

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

9. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
10. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues and distribution

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

11. Approved staff recommendations for the appointments of a delegate and a representative to the California Association of Councils of Government (CalCOG) and the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC)
12. Approved New Job Classification and Staff Reclassification

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

13. Accepted monthly meeting schedule

14. Accepted correspondence log
15. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
 - a. Letter to Sharon Beasley, Compliance Liaison, Caltrans Division of Rail and Mass Transportation regarding the Draft State Management Plan – Federal Transit Programs from Guy Preston, RTC Executive Director
16. Accepted information items –Item moved to regular agenda as item 16a.

Letter from the County of Santa Cruz regarding Designing and Constructing a Safe Crossing of Highway 1 in Davenport

REGULAR AGENDA

- 16a. Accept information items- Item pulled from Consent agenda
 - a. Letter from the County of Santa Cruz regarding Designing and Constructing a Safe Crossing of Highway 1 in Davenport

Public comments received from:

Rachel Spencer
Ken Fine
Tina Andreatta
Brian Peoples
Jessica Evans
John Mc Keenan

Stephanie Raugust
Knou Garinbauch
Paul Hannon
Jessica Wolfe
Cesar De Santos

Commissioners Coffman-Gomez and Gonzalez joined the meeting at 9:36 am.

Commissioners discussed that this has been a long standing need; funding has been delayed and that it is a multi-agency project.

Commissioner Schiffrin motioned to direct RTC staff to meet with Santa Cruz County Public Works Directors and Caltrans to develop a proposal for design and construction of traffic safety improvements in Davenport. Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners: Brown, Coffman-Gomez, McPherson, Friend, Bottorff, Leopold, Gonzalez, Bertrand, Johnson, Caput and Commissioner Alternates Lind and Schiffrin voting aye.

17. Commissioner reports – oral reports – Commissioner Friend disclosed that he would recuse himself from voting on items 22 and 23 as he has a financial conflict because his primary residence is within 500 feet of the rail property and items 22 and 23 are related to the rail property.
18. Director’s Report – oral report

Guy Preston, Executive Director, reported that after 23 plus years, Senior Transportation Planner Cory Caletti would be retiring. Her last day with the RTC is

sometime at the end of the year. Mr. Preston also reported on the MBSST, Triennial audit, an ongoing discussion with SEIU regarding a possible need to hire a project management consultant through an RFP and the upcoming agency assessment RFP.

Commissioners thanked Cory for her many years of service to the RTC noting her leadership work on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, staffing the Bicycle Committee and the many Bicycle projects.

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner also thanked Cory noting her work and the loss to the RTC. Members of the public also thanked Cory.

19. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe, District 5 Deputy Director: reported on Santa Cruz County project updates; announced they have a new Director, Adetokunbo Toks Omishakin who came from the Tennessee Department of Transportation and has planning background. She also noted that the new Chief Deputy Director, Jim Davis also comes with a planning background. She thanked the community for their comments on the needs in Davenport and noted that it is also good feedback for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Caltrans plan currently underway. She also noted the October 11 2019 grant deadline.

Commissioners discussed: Appreciation of Caltrans for being responsive and for their cooperative efforts for projects in San Lorenzo Valley; asked that Caltrans prioritize the light crossing at merchant and Watsonville and noted that Davenport has changed with an increase in cars and population.

20. Programming Process for Regional Transportation Funds

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report noting that the staff recommendation is based on conversations with all stake holders.

Commissioners discussed: the importance of understanding the breath of available funds; how funds will be distributed; the fact that jurisdictions can make allocations to other organizations and nonprofits; whether the area loses funding because a formula-based distribution is used;

Public comments received from:

Brian Peoples
Gina Cole
Jessica Evans
Michael Saint
Chris Schneiter

Sally Arnold
Matt Machado
Piet Canin
Daniel Henderson

Commissioners discussed the benefits of formula-based funding; leveraging funds; retaining commitment from RTC to fund Ecology Action and Bike Santa Cruz County; ensuring that jurisdictions remain whole; clarification on the Federal August Redistribution; and the commitment to the Bus on Shoulder project.

Commissioner Friend moved recommendation C and all other staff recommendations. Commissioner Leopold seconded the motion with a change to increase the competitive pot from \$350,000 to \$550,000.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved to amend the motion to approve option C/D combo and all other staff recommendations. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion to amend failed with Commissioners: Lind, Bottorff, McPherson, Brown and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting aye and Commissioners: Bertrand, R. Johnson, Coffman-Gomez, Friend, Leopold, Gonzalez, Caput voting no.

The question was called to vote on Commissioner Friend's motion to accept option C with a change to delete the \$200,000 to METRO and increase the competitive amount to \$550,000. The motion failed with Commissioners: Leopold, Friend, R. Johnson, Bertrand voting aye and Commissioners Caput, Gonzalez, Lind, Bottorff, McPherson, Coffman-Gomez, Brown and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting no.

Commissioner Alternate Lind motioned to accept option C as presented and all other staff recommendations – Commissioner McPherson second the motion to:

1. Set aside \$200,000 in STBG/RSTPX off the top for METRO (non-competitive), plus \$350,000 STBG/RSTPX (part of Option B) for non-city, non-county, non-METRO entities, for a total of approximately 5% (\$550,000) set-aside of STBG/RSTPX funds this cycle.
2. In order to leverage potential state grants and continue to implement regional priorities in the preferred scenario of the Unified Corridor Investment Study, indicate intent to program the RTC's formula shares of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Local Partnership Program (LPP-f), and one-time Highway Improvement Program (HIP) funds to the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes/Bus on Shoulders and Chanticleer Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing regional projects.
3. Indicate intent to allocate \$100,000 per year of the RTC's population shares (PUC 99313) of FY19/20-FY21/22 State Transit Assistance (STA) funds to Community Bridges Lift Line and to pass through the balance of the RTC's FY19/20-FY21/22 shares of State Transit Assistance (STA) (estimated \$2,586,000 in FY19/20) and 100% of the region's population shares (PUC 99313) of FY19/20-FY21/22 SB1-transit State of Good Repair funds (approximately \$374,000 in FY19/20) to Santa Cruz METRO (*see separate agenda item*), thereby holding in abeyance for three years a 2017 RTC policy that would have gradually reduced direct allocations to METRO and made some of the region's population shares of new SB1 STA and SGR funds available for eligible community transportation or METRO projects and services (approximately \$1.5 million over 3 years; 15% in FY19/20, 20% in FY20/21 and 25% in FY21/22).
4. Direct staff to work with the County of Santa Cruz, Caltrans, and METRO to apply for Senate Bill 1 competitive grant funds (which may include Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), Local Partnership Program (LPP-c), Active Transportation Program (ATP), and/or Trade Corridor Enhancement Program (TCEP) funds for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes/Bus on Shoulders, Chanticleer Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge, and Soquel Corridor bikeway projects, using Measure D and STIP funds to leverage these state grants;

5. Request that project sponsors submit cost, schedule, project scope/description and other programming information as may be needed for projects proposed for the funding sources identified above; and
6. Direct staff to schedule public hearings, as needed, to program funds no later than December 15, 2019; and
7. Direct staff to return with clarification of the Federal August Redistribution

The motion passed with Commissioners: Bertrand, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Friend, Leopold, McPherson, Bottorff, Gonzalez, and Commissioner Alternate Lind voting aye and Commissioners: R. Johnson, Caput, and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting no.

Commissioners R. Johnson, and Friend left the meeting at 11:47.

21. FY19-20 State of Good Repair (SGR) PUC Section 99313 & 99314 Project List

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report.

Commissioner Alternate Jack Dilles joined the meeting at 11:49 am.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner McPherson seconded approval of the staff recommendation to:

1. Allocate \$56,137 (15%) in FY19/20 State of Good Repair (SGR) population-based formula (PUC 99313) funds to Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) in addition to the \$318,112 (85%) in FY19/20 SGR population-based formula (PUC 99313) funds and \$313,111 FY19/20 SGR revenue-based formula (PUC 99314) funds allocated to METRO as part of the annual FY19/20 TDA/STA Claim process approved in May 2019 for a total of \$687,360 in FY19/20 SGR funds to METRO (Resolution 49-19); and,
2. Approve the Santa Cruz County Project List for the region's shares of FY19/20 State of Good Repair Program (SGR) distributed per Public Utilities Code Section 99313 & 99314 which programs 100% (\$687,360) of FY19/20 SGR funds to METRO for bus replacements ([Attachment 1](#)).

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bottorff, Brown, Leopold, Bertrand, Coffman-Gomez, Gonzalez, McPherson, and Commissioners Alternates Dilles, Lind, and V. Johnson voting "aye".

Commissioner McPherson left the meeting at 11:53.

22. Potential Rail Vehicle Demonstration

Commissioner Alternate Virginia Johnson joined the meeting at 11:56.

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director, gave a brief summary of the proposed request for a Potential Rail Vehicle Demonstration. Mr. Mendez introduced Mark Johansson and

Brad Reed who gave a presentation on the TIG/m rail vehicles and discussed the technology used on the train cars.

Commissioner comments: commented on the innovative technology, the need to have the demonstration in Watsonville; bicycle capacity important for Santa Cruz County residents. That this would be good information for the Alternatives Analysis study.

Mr. Johansson stated the demonstration could be ready in November.

Public comments received from:

Brian Peoples	Lauren Spades
Jessica Evans	Tina Andreatta
Sally Arnold	Faris Sky

23. Ad-Hoc Committee for the Alternatives Analysis for High Capacity Public Transit on the Rail Right-of-Way

Ginger Dykaar, Senior Transportation Planner, presented the staff report and noted that this committee will oversee key milestone of the project prior to soliciting input from the entire METRO and RTC boards.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Bottorff seconded to approve RTC's Chair appointments to an ad-hoc committee composed of Commissioners Ed Bottorff, Mike Rotkin, Trina Coffman-Gomez, John Leopold, Ryan Coonerty, and Bruce McPherson for the alternatives analysis to oversee key milestones of the project prior to soliciting input from the entire METRO and RTC boards.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Brown, Caput, Leopold, Bertrand, Coffman-Gomez, Gonzalez, and Commissioners Alternates Dilles, Lind, and V. Johnson.

24. Review of items to be discussed in closed session- Adjourned to closed session at 12:59 p.m.

CLOSED SESSION

25. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION.
Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) of Section 54956.9:
One Case

Commissioners discussed the closed session on the Conference with Legal Counsel – anticipated litigation. Initiation of litigation pursuant to paragraph (4) of subdivision (d) Section 54956.9: One Case, behind closed doors

OPEN SESSION

26. Report on closed session – Reconvened to open session at 1:29 p.m. no report.
27. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 3, 2019 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 19, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra

Attendees:

Doug Underhall	Community Bridges
Stephanie Raugust	
Lee Steinbeg	
Mark Mesiti-Miller	FORT
Barry Scott	Coastal Rail Santa Cruz
Mike Saint	CFTS
Cesar De Santos	SCSO
Tina Andreatta	Private Citizen
Jessica Evans	
Gina Cole	
Brian Peoples	Trail Now
Chris Schneider	City of Santa Cruz
Sally Arnold	FORT
Matt Machado	County of Santa Cruz
Daniel Henderson	
Rachel Spenser	
Ken Fine	
Paul Hannon	
Aris Sky	