



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, November 7, 2019
9:00 a.m.**

**Watsonville City Council Chambers
275 Main Street, #450
Watsonville, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:01

Members present:

Trina Coffman-Gomez	Donna Lind (alt.)
Jacques Bertrand	Sandy Brown
Bruce McPherson	Randy Johnson
Aurelio Gonzalez	Aileen Loe (ex-officio)
John Leopold	Andy Schiffrin (alt.)
Greg Caput	
Patrick Mulhearn (alt.)	

Staff present:

Luis Mendez	Guy Preston
Tracy New	Grace Blakeslee
Ginger Dykaar	Sarah Christensen
Brianna Goodman	Shannon Munz
Yesenia Parra	Fernanda Dias Pini
Rachel Moriconi	

2. Oral communications

Received Public Comment From:

Barry Scott
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Brian Peoples- Trail NOW
Lowell Hurst-Councilmen, City of Watsonville

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas
Handouts for items 11, 29, 31, 32, 33, 34 and replacement pages for the agenda, and items 13 and 30

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Leopold second the consent agenda. Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Coffman-Gomez, McPherson, Gonzalez, Leopold, Caput and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye."

MINUTES

4. Accepted draft minutes of the September 19, 2019 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the October 3, 2019 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the October 7, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted minutes of the October 9, 2019 Regional Transportation Commission and Saint Paul Pacific Rail Santa Cruz Rail Line Coordinating Committee
8. Accepted draft minutes of the October 10, 2019 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

9. Accepted report on Federal August Redistribution
10. Approved Public Participation Plan
11. Approved Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) amendment for Aptos Village Improvements (**Resolution 56-19**)
12. Approved amendment to Measure D: San Lorenzo Valley/Highway 9 (SLV/Hwy9) 5-Year Program of Projects for pothole repair to provide a pedestrian and bicycle friendly surface for Farmer Street in Felton (**Resolution 57-19**)
13. Approve Bowman & Williams, Inc. Contracts and Amendments for 2017 Storm Damage Repairs (**[8] Resolutions: 58-19 through 65-19**)
14. Approve MNS Engineers, Inc. Contract Amendment for 2017 Storm Damage Repairs (**Resolution 66-19**)
15. Approved CMAG Engineering, Inc Contract for 2017 Storm Damage Repairs (**Resolution 67-19**)

16. Approved Pacific Crest Engineering, Inc. Contracts for 2017 Storm Damage Repairs (**[2] Resolutions 68-19 and 69-19**)
17. Approved Kittleson Environmental Consulting Contract Amendment for 2017 Storm Damage Repairs (**Resolution 70-19**)
18. Approved Clean Team Associates Contracts for Janitorial Services on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**[2] Resolutions 71-19 and 72-19**)
19. Approved contracts with Community Tree Service for on-call vegetation control along the Rail Property (**[2] Resolutions 73-19 and 74-19**)
20. Approved contract with Kimley Horn and Associates, Inc for Santa Cruz County Travel Demand Model-Transit Enhancements (**Resolution 75-19**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

23. Approved Nominating Committee for 2020 RTC Chair and Vice Chair

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

24. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
25. Accepted correspondence log
26. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies - none
27. Accepted information items - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

28. Commissioner reports – oral reports-none
29. Director’s Report – oral report

Executive Director reported on staff recruitments; a request for proposals (RFP) for project management services; Inaugural Strategic Implementation Plan for Measure D which will be updated at least every 5years and will be brought to the Commission in December; participation in Focus on the Future conference in San Diego. He also reported that the City of Watsonville has begun advertisement for bids on October 23, 2019 for Segment 18 of the MBSST. Construction will begin in Spring of 2020. Recruitment for the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee continues. RTC will participate in the November 23rd San Lorenzo Valley Environmental Town Hall

which will include Assembly Member Mark Stone.

Commissioners discussed the process for contract awarding and the request for proposal process and prevailing wage.

Received Public Comment From:
Brian Peoples- Trail NOW

30. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe reported that the new Caltrans director was sworn in on October 23rd. Ms. Loe also followed up on Commissioner questions on the 5310 program. She noted that although there is an effort allowing electric vehicles being purchased in the future, they do not qualify currently due to their cost.

She noted that ADA project upgrade to install sidewalks in Watsonville was completed in September. She responded to a question regarding the timeline to complete projects such as the guard rail improvement on Highway 1. The project was initiated 6 years ago. Once a project is programmed for funding, it is a 4-year timeframe to complete the project with the exception of safety projects. Bridge replacement projects will take longer than 4 years.

For the Highway 17 corridor projects funding sources must still be identified before the initiation process can begin. Pedestrian enhancements near Marchant Street near the high school in Watsonville will go to construction in February in 2020. Crosswalk enhancements on Highway 9 is also underway in part due to combining forces with RTC. Priority will be enhancements near the high school.

Commissioners discussed several projects that Caltrans is collaborating with. Commissioners requested that regular updates on EV funding be brought the Commission.

Received Public Comment From:
Michael Saint- Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

31. Request to begin Environmental Phase of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes between State Park Drive and Freedom Boulevard Project.

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen presented the staff report. Noting that a contract request will come back to the Commission in February.

Commissioners discussed timeline, funding availability, the need for bonding, status of current lawsuit, Soquel to 41st being priority, no injunction expected; an update on the bus on shoulder project; Watsonville residents anxious to get this project done; new bridge construction capacity for possible HOV lanes; "Aptos Strangler" is an issue and moving forward with Auxiliary lanes will help; possibility of ramp metering in the long term plan; continuous movement reduces commute time; Highway Safety and Congestion programs in Measure D, allows for Auxiliary Lanes.

Received Public Comment From:

Michael Saint
David Van Brink
Brian Peoples

Commissioner Bertrand moved and Commissioner Caput seconded staff recommendation to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to enter into negotiations with Caltrans for a cooperative agreement outlining the responsibilities of the RTC and Caltrans District 5 for the environmental phase of the Highway 1 State Park/Freedom Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project.
2. Authorize the Executive Director to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) to procure a professional engineering consultant to prepare the preliminary engineering and environmental documentation for the Highway 1 State Park/Freedom Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project.
3. Commissioners also directed staff to provide periodic updates on the current EIR Highway 1 lawsuit.

Motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Coffman-Gomez, McPherson, Gonzalez, Leopold, Caput and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye."

32. Davenport Crossing Project Update

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report. She noted that this item will come to the December meeting to request Measure D funding.

Commissioners thanked staff for all the work and for combining this project with phase 2 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) project. Ms. Blakeslee noted that staff is working with county staff for public meetings opportunities in the spring.

33. Amendments to Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Budget and Work Program

Director of Budget and Finance, Tracy New presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed funding going to agencies like the Volunteer Center, Lift Line, and ParaCruz; funding sources used for UAL CalPERS payments does not include Measure D; and thanked staff for new accessible budget format.

Commissioner Coffman-Gomez moved and Commissioner Leopold second staff recommendation to:

1. Adopt a resolution approving the proposed amended fiscal year (FY) 2019-20 Budget and Work Program
2. Apportion the \$587,787 additional TDA revenues received in FY2018-19 as follows:

- Apportion \$57,390 to the TDA reserve to ensure that it meets the 8% goal established by the RTC in its rules and regulations; and
- Apportion \$55,000 to the RTC's Countywide Bike Signage Project; and
- Apportion \$20,000 for improvements to the Santa Cruz County Travel Model; and
- Apportion the remainder of TDA to the Santa Cruz METRO, Community Bridges, the Volunteer Center and the local jurisdictions in accordance with the formula established in the RTC rules and regulations.

Motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Coffman-Gomez, McPherson, Gonzalez, Leopold, Caput and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye."

34. Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor - Environmental Permitting Contract Award

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner presented the staff report.

Commissioners discussed that this is a plan for 5 years and help to do work on needed repair without asking for permission throughout the process. Capitola Trestle use analysis will be done after the Alternatives Analysis project completion; rail line is inspected twice annually as part of the RTC's preventative maintenance program; timing of storm damage repairs and how they align with the requirement for Progressive Rail to offer excursion service. Rail line will be in construction by fall 2020 and by early 2021 the track from Watsonville to Santa Cruz will be operational. RTC is responsible to get track from milepost 7 to milepost 30 to Class 1 then Progressive Rail is responsible for maintenance.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded the staff recommendation to adopt a resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director to execute a contract with Harris & Associates in an amount not to exceed \$606,198 for environmental permitting and analysis for storm damage sites 5 & 6, high-priority bridge repairs, and maintenance and preservation activities on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

Motion passed unanimously Motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Coffman-Gomez, McPherson, Gonzalez, Leopold, Caput and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye."

35. Review of items to be discussed in closed session- Adjourned to closed session at 10:48

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL – ANTICIPATED LITIGATION, initiation of litigation pursuant to Government Code 54956.9 (d)(4): One Case

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—EXISTING LITIGATION (Gov. Code section 54956.9(d)(1).) Name of Case: *Save our Big Trees v. City of Santa Cruz, et al.* (Case No: 19CV02062, Santa Cruz County Superior Court)

OPEN SESSION

36. Report on closed session- Closed session ended at 11:05 am and there was no report from closes session
37. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 5, 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, November 21, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully Submitted

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Brian Peoples	Trail Now
David Van Brink	
Michael Saint	Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Lowell Hurst	City of Watsonville
Steven Mattas	RTC Counsel
Matt Machado	County of Santa Cruz
Steve Wiesner	County of Santa Cruz
Heather Adamson	AMBAG
Gina Cole	BSCC
James Sandoval	SMART
Grace Voss	SCCCC
Shannon Bane	Harris Associate
Wendy Young	Harris Associate