



**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee**
(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

FINAL MINUTES

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

**City of Watsonville Old City Council Chambers
250 Main Street, Watsonville, CA 95076**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:36 p.m.

Members present:

Kirk Ance, CTSA – Lift Line

Deborah Benham, 5th District

Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA

Veronica Elsea, 3rd District

Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider – Persons of Limited Means

Clay Kempf, Social Service Provider – Seniors

Alternates present:

Daniel Zaragoza, Metro

Excused absences:

John Daugherty, Metro

Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User

Unexcused absences:

Jon Bailiff, Social Services Provider – Disabled

RTC staff present:

Grace Blakeslee

Joanna Edmonds

Others present:

Gus Alfaro, Caltrans

Amelia Conlen, Ecology Action

Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville

Doug Hensing, Caltrans

Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville

2. Introductions

3. Oral communications

Member Lisa Berkowitz acknowledged E&D TAC member Clay Kempf for securing State funding for issues that affect seniors.

Member Clay Kempf announced that Governor Newsom has signed an executive order to begin development of the Master Plan on Aging and recommended that the E&D TAC track this effort.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved minutes from April 9, 2019

A motion (Berkowitz/Ance) was made to approve the minutes from April 9, 2019. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Clay Kempf, and Daniel Zaragoza voting in favor.

6. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report

7. Received RTC Meeting Highlights

8. Received Information Items

9. Recommended that the Regional Transportation Commission approve reappointments to the E&D TAC Committee

10. Accepted correspondence from the public

11. Received information about Caltrans District 5 Active Transportation Plan

A motion (Ireland/Kempf) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Clay Kempf, and Daniel Zaragoza voting in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

12. Received Program Updates

- a. Volunteer Center – FY 18/19 TDA 3rd Quarter Report
- b. Community Bridges – FY 18/19 TDA 2nd Quarter Report
- c. Santa Cruz Metro

Alternate Daniel Zaragoza shared that METRO is hiring a land use consultant to evaluate the potential for a new ParaCruz facility at the recently closed Soquel/Paul Sweet park and ride lot.

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, announced that the scope of work for the Rail Corridor Alternatives Analysis Study, a joint effort between METRO and the RTC, would be reviewed by the METRO Board in

June.

d. SCCRTC

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, shared that the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV)/Highway 9 Complete Streets Plan will be reviewed by the RTC at the June 27th meeting.

e. Special Projects - None

No action taken.

13. City of Watsonville Traffic Safety Plan, Downtown Complete Streets Plan, and Transportation Project Updates

Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville, provided updates on the City of Watsonville Traffic Safety Plan, Downtown Complete Streets Plan, and other Transportation Projects.

Committee members discussed proposed improvements and how pedestrians who are seniors or people living with disabilities interact with audible signals, bulbouts, and pedestrian push buttons at crosswalks. Committee members also discussed how survey data was gathered for the Downtown Watsonville Complete Streets Plan.

No action taken.

14. Scotts Valley, Unincorporated Santa Cruz County, and Watsonville Safe Routes to School Plan Update

Amelia Conlen, Ecology Action, provide updates on the Scotts Valley, Unincorporated Santa Cruz County, and Watsonville Safe Routes to School Plans.

Committee members discussed the proposed improvements and requested that the plan evaluate potential challenges pedestrians who are seniors or people living with disabilities might face when interacting with the proposed improvements, such as offset crosswalks. Committee members also discussed the need for a continuous sidewalk on Blue Bonnet Lane in Scotts Valley.

No action taken.

15. Federal Transit Administration Section 5310 Grant Cycle & Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, gave an overview of the Section 5310 grant cycle and application process. Ms. Blakeslee described the purpose of the local review committee and asked for committee members to consider volunteering.

Committee members discussed the potential projects that could apply for 5310 grant funds, including the need for regularly scheduled senior shopping trips and ways to fill the gaps in taxi services available for seniors and people living with disabilities.

No action taken.

16. Pedestrian Planning and Projects

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, explained that the E&D TAC provides input on project funding and design as it relates to access for seniors and people living with disabilities, as needed. Ms. Blakeslee requested input on pedestrian planning and projects and the potential for a "temporary advisory committee" to discuss a particular issue. Veronica Elsea, chair, provided committee members with a description of possible topics for a temporary advisory committee to focus on. Committee members requested that a list of possible topics be provided in the packet for the next E&D TAC meeting.

Ms. Blakeslee introduced Gus Alfaro and Doug Hessing from Caltrans District 5. Mr. Alfaro and Mr. Underhill provided information about the San Lorenzo River and Kings Creek Bridge Restoration project, which will replace two bridges on Highway 9 in the SLV area. Mr. Hessing explained that Caltrans originally had planned for 6 foot sidewalks and a 4 foot bike lane along the bridges, but was now proposing to construct 8 foot wide multiuse shoulders that would be shared by pedestrians and bicyclists.

Committee members discussed challenges pedestrians, particularly those who are seniors or people with disabilities, could experience utilizing multiuse shoulders in a rural area and recommended lighting and striping options to prevent motorists from entering the multiuse shoulder area.

A motion (Ance/Berkowitz) was made to support the 8 foot shoulder proposed in the Caltrans San Lorenzo River and Kings Creek Bridge Restoration project, provided there was a clear delineation with two lines of striping with crosshatches in the middle, in reflective paint, between the travel lane and the multiuse shoulder. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Clay Kempf, and Daniel Zaragoza voting in favor.

17. Santa Cruz County Community Safety Net Services — CORE Grant Program Funding Tools

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, explained that in 2017-18, the County and City of Santa Cruz transitioned from a historical Community Programs funding model to the new model of Collective of Results and Evidence-based (CORE) Investments program.

Committee members discussed evaluation criteria for Santa Cruz County community safety-net services grants provided through the CORE Investment program. Committee members requested that this item be brought back to the August 13, 2019 E&D TAC meeting.

No action taken.

18. SB 1376 Transportation Network Company Access for All Act

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, announced that Senate Bill 1376, the "TNC Access for All Act," requires the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to establish regulations requiring transportation network companies (TNCs), such as Uber and Lyft, to provide services accessible to people with disabilities through online-enabled applications or platforms.

Joanna Edmonds, Transportation Planning Technician, explained that the CPUC has established three tracks for the issues regarding the implementation of SB 1376 and on May 24, 2019, issued their proposed decision on Track 1 issues. The CPUC's proposed decision for Track 1 issues establishes that a \$0.10 per-trip fee will be added to each TNC trip (identified as the "Access for All Fee") and these fees will be due to the CPUC on a quarterly basis to be deposited in the TNC Access for All Fund on a county-by-county basis. Beginning in 2020, there will be a process for access providers to submit applications to receive moneys from the Access Fund and the CPUC will be required to select on-demand transportation programs or partnerships to receive funding based on criteria adopted by the CPUC in consultation with stakeholders.

Committee members discussed the challenges that seniors and people with disabilities face when trying to access TNC rides, the decline in wheelchair accessible taxi service in Santa Cruz County, and the opportunities that the implementation of this legislation could provide in Santa Cruz County.

No action taken.

19. Public Participation Plan – Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, announced that the *Draft 2019 Public Participation Plan* covers a four-year period from 2019-2023 and is being updated to comply with the federal transportation act – Federal Surface Transportation Act, Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act).

No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:30 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 13, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the RTC Office at 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz.

Respectfully submitted, Joanna Edmonds, Staff