



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, December 5, 2019  
9:00 a.m.**

**County Board of Supervisors Council Chambers  
701 Ocean Street, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Santa Cruz, CA**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 9:02 am

Members present:

|                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Aileen Loe (ex-officio) | Andy Schiffrin (alt)   |
| Jacques Bertrand        | Zach Friend            |
| Sandy Brown             | Virginia Johnson(alt)  |
| Donna Lind (alt)        | Ed Bottorff            |
| Trina Coffman-Gomez     | Aurelio Gonzalez       |
| Greg Caput              | Patrick Mulhearn (alt) |
| Tony Gregorio (alt)     | John Leopold           |

Staff present:

|                 |                   |
|-----------------|-------------------|
| Luis Mendez     | Guy Preston       |
| Amy Naranjo     | Grace Blakeslee   |
| Ginger Dykaar   | Sarah Christensen |
| Brianna Goodman | Krista Corwin     |
| Yesenia Parra   | Cory Caletti      |
| Rachel Moriconi |                   |

2. Oral communications

Received Public Comment from:

Rick Longinotti, Michael Saint, and Carey Pico

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas: Replacement pages for items 5, 13, 22, 24, and handouts for items 8 and 25.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Friend recused himself from items 7 and 12 due to a financial interest because his primary residence is within 500 feet of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

### Received public comments from:

Carey Pico, Aptos  
Sally Arnold, Board Chair of Friends of the Rail and Trail  
Barry Scott, Aptos  
Keith Otto  
Mark Mesiti-Miller

Chair pulled item 12 from the consent agenda and moved it to the regular agenda as item 25a.

Commissioners discussed item 10, requested a presentation from Community Bridges with more information about their public transit electric vehicle, and a quarterly cost-ridership compare/contrast between ParaCruz and LiftLine and traffic impact of auxiliary lanes with metering lights.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Coffman-Gomez seconded to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion passed with Commissioner Friend recusing himself from item 7 and 12 and Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Bottorff, Gonzalez, Coffman-Gomez, Caput and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Johnson, and Lind voting "Aye."

4. Accepted draft minutes of the November 5, 2019 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC) meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the November 7, 2019 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the November 21, 2019 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) meeting

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

7. Approved Engineering Services Contract for Phase I Bridge Repairs along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 78-19**)

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

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

10. Approved Amended Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Transportation Development Act (TDA)/State Transit Assistance (STA) claim for Community Bridges Lift Line **(Resolution 79-19)**
11. Approved Amended Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Transportation Development Act (TDA)/State Transit Assistance (STA) claim for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District **(Resolution 80-19)**

#### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

12. Approve consent for railroad crossing agreement at Aptos Creek Road-Moved to regular agenda as item 25a

#### **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

13. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
14. Accepted correspondence log
15. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies - none
16. Accepted information items - *none*

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

17. Commissioner reports -none
18. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston reported on staff attendance at the Self-Help Counties Coalition's Focus on the Future Conference in San Diego; Measure D-Strategic Implementation Plan; an update on RTC recruitments and noted the promotion of current RTC staff Tommy Travers to permanent Transportation Planner I. Updates for other vacancies will come to the board at its January meeting.

Commissioner Leopold arrived.

Executive Director Preston also reported on the 2019 San Lorenzo Valley Environmental Town Hall event, noting public excitement for the Highway 9 SLV-Complete Streets program; cooperative agreement with Caltrans to fund crosswalk enhancements in Felton near Highway 9 in the amount of \$50,000; groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate Segment 7, Phase 1 hosted by Ecology Action and Friends of the Rail and Trail on January 25, 2020; public input is requested to inform the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTIP); RTC Office closure to foot traffic from December 23 through January 2.

Received public comments from:

Brian Peoples, Executive Director of Trail Now

19. Caltrans report

Aileen Loe, Ex-Officio reported on Caltrans' recent unveiling of the draft California Freight Mobility Plan to support the increasing need to move freight around the state and to do so safely, effectively, and sustainably; investment of funds in the Highway 46 corridor to expand segments from a 2-lane highway to a 4-lane divided expressway and upgrades to Antelope Grade.

Commission thanked Caltrans for work on Hwy 129 - Riverside Dr. Caltrans clarified that project 19 pedestrian crossing is on schedule for construction this winter; project 18 Highway 152, now a bridge-widening, is still fully funded through SHOPP; project 18 is halfway through the environmental review phase and is on schedule for construction in spring of 2022.

Received Public Comment From:

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

Aileen Loe noted that she is still researching funding options for the purchase of electric wheelchair-accessible vans by Community Bridges; reported on solar high-powered fast chargers available for the first time at Camp Roberts.

20. Resolution for Appreciation of retiring RTC staff member, Cory Caletti.

RTC Chair Bottorff presented the resolution to Ms. Caletti. Ms. Caletti thanked the Commission for their commitment to sustainable transportation and for their support of staff members and expressed appreciation for the privilege to serve the Santa Cruz County community. She also thanked her partner John Caletti for his support of her career.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin to approve the resolution. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Leopold, Bottorff, Friend, Gonzalez, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Johnson, and Lind voting "Aye."

21. Election of 2020 RTC Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Bottorff reported that the nominating committee nominates Commissioner Bruce McPherson as the Chair and Commissioner Aurelio Gonzalez as the Vice-Chair for calendar year 2020. Commissioner Leopold motioned and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded to approve Commissioner McPherson as Chair and Commissioner Gonzalez as Vice-Chair for 2020. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Leopold, Bottorff, Friend, Gonzalez, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Johnson, and Lind voting "Aye."

Commissioner Friend left the meeting and was replaced at the dais by Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn.

22. **10:00 am PUBLIC HEARING** Adoption of the *2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* (RTIP)

Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi presented the staff report. The 2020 RTIP includes proposals from local jurisdictions to fund 17 different projects: \$200,000 to replace ParaCruz vans; roadway rehabilitation; additional funding for improvements to the Highway 1 & 9 intersection; sidewalk improvements in Scotts Valley, green bike lanes and trails in Watsonville, improvements to the Highway 152 and Holohan Road intersection, Aptos Village projects; pedestrian crosswalk in Davenport; bike signage and sharrows; \$6.5 million in STIP and HIP for Highway 1 & 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue auxiliary lane projects.

Public Hearing opened at 10:07.

Received Comments from:

Paulene Seales, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network.  
Rick Longinotti, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation.  
Carey Pico  
Jessica Evans, City of Santa Cruz  
Noel Bock, resident of Davenport and Chairperson of the Davenport North Coast Association  
Bob Morgan, Live Oak resident  
Michael Saint  
David Date, resident of La Selva Beach  
Brian Peoples, Executive Director of Trail Now  
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail  
Dana Bagshaw, resident of Santa Cruz  
Keith Otto  
Gina Cole, Executive Director of Bike Santa Cruz County  
Benjamin Ketcham, resident of Live Oak  
Mark Mesiti-Miller, civil engineer  
Robert Esposito, resident of Aptos  
C.J., resident of Santa Cruz  
Kristin Rogas, General Manager of Whale City Bakery in Davenport  
Barry Scott, resident of Aptos  
Nina, resident of Live Oak

Public comments closed at 10:51am.

Rachel Moriconi responded to a question noting that \$600,000 has been recommended for Segment 18 of the trail network which includes plans to integrate with Watsonville's planned trail network, linking downtown Watsonville to Ohlone Parkway residences.

Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works Principle Engineer, clarified that due to permitting issues, the City of Watsonville will complete the trail project segmentally. Although the initial segment may not appear to add capacity, completion of additional segments is expected to create transportation opportunities for pedestrians and bikes.

Chris Schneider, Assistant Director of Public Works of the City of Santa Cruz, provided clarification regarding timeline and funding for the Frederick Street and Soquel Avenue intersection widening and bike lane (Soquel only) projects. There is significant public interest in this project; however, complications have arisen and the funding is now insufficient to complete the projects on the original timeline. Chris reported that the projects may be completed separately with grant funding available in the future.

Commissioners expressed concerns about the lack of timeline and budget for the Frederick Street and Soquel Avenue intersection project. Mr. Schneider explained that the utility poles are low on PG&E's priorities and their inaction is causing the delay. The Commission urged the City to take a more aggressive stance with PG&E to get their commitment to move the project forward.

The Commission thanked the public for testimony on the Davenport crossing and emphasized that the willingness of Caltrans to collaborate with Commission staff and federal agencies will be key.

Executive Director Guy Preston explained that the new requirements to reduce vehicle miles traveled under the Governor's Executive Order N-19-19 are still under review by many agencies; Aileen Loe, Ex-Officio from Caltrans, assured the Commission that state guidelines are forthcoming, and that at this point the 2020 RTIP seemed low-risk given the RTC's commitment to alternative modes of transportation.

Commissioners discussed: importance of supporting the various cities' jurisdictional priorities; insufficient funds for rural roads rehabilitation; planned improvements to pedestrian crossing at Soquel Drive and Thurber Lane and along Soquel Drive. Commissioners expressed support for moving Highway 1 & 9 dollars to the Soquel & Frederick intersection; appreciation for reworking RSTPX funding for current grant cycle, enabling construction of a Corralitos project. Commissioners emphasized public support of Measure D and the power of compromise to move the will of the voters forward; expressed reluctance to move Highway 1 & 9 interchange improvements forward out of concern for induced demand and emissions; noted the current interchange is already quite safe for bicyclists and pedestrians with the protected underpass and likely the project will have no impact on bicyclist/pedestrian safety; thanked staff for a professional package; noted shoulder on San Rafael Bridge has been replaced by a new bike lane with a physical barrier; everybody should take credit for the success of Measure D.

Executive Director Guy Preston expanded upon RTC funding strategy, noting that the majority of projects will be implemented by local jurisdictions, and elaborating upon other sources of funding such as SB1, the Solutions to Congested Corridor Program, and local partnerships that could provide a match for Measure D. He also noted that the auxiliary lanes included in the 2020 RTIP will enable innovative transportation projects like bus-on-shoulder, which stretch Measure D dollars and improve public safety by providing access for emergency vehicles.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Consider staff, Bicycle Committee, Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC), and Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) recommendations for programming anticipated regional shares of state and federal funds;
2. Hold a public hearing to receive comments on proposed projects and consider any written comments received; and
3. Adopt a resolution (Attachment 1):
  - a. Approving projects to receive the region's anticipated formula shares of regional, state and federal funds (Attachment 2);
  - b. Approving amendments to previously programmed projects, as requested by project sponsors, to reflect current project scopes, costs and schedules (Attachment 3);
  - c. Amending the RTC Budget and Work Program, as applicable; and
  - d. Requesting that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) incorporate project funding and amendments into the *2020 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)*, the Senate Bill 1 Local Partnership Program, and/or the *Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)*, as applicable.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Leopold, Bottorff, Gonzalez, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Johnson, Mulhearn, and Lind voting "Aye."

### 23. MyCruz511 (RideAmigos) Countywide Outreach and Marketing Contracts

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo presented the staff report and delivered the presentation on GoSantaCruz.

Commissioners discussed: impact metrics of the programs; cost-effectiveness and value of TDM programs; incentives for referrals to the program; anticipation of increase in bus ridership; thanked staff for their work.

Received public comments from:

Brian Peoples, Executive Director of Trail Now  
Piet Canin, Ecology Action  
Tawn Kennedy, Ecology Action  
Jessica Evans, City of Santa Cruz  
David Date, La Selva Beach

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the staff recommendation to approve distribution of \$100,000 Measure D Highway Transportation Demand Management (TDM) funds for sole-source contracts with Ecology Action (\$70,000) for countywide employer outreach and Miller Maxfield (\$30,000) for countywide marketing services and materials.

Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Leopold, Bottorff, Gonzalez, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Johnson, Mulhearn, and Lind voting "Aye."

24. On-Call Capital Project Management Services Contract Award

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen presented the staff report noting that CSG stood out for their diverse team of professionals, who are expert in the various modes of transportation that RTC staff will be planning under Measure D. Scope of work includes Capital projects including the highway projects, rail infrastructure preservation, and the MBSST. Fiscal need is calculated to be \$400,000 per year over the three-year term.

Received public comments from:

Brian Peoples, Executive Director of Trail Now  
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail  
Barry Scott, Aptos

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Coffman-Gomez seconded the staff recommendation to: Adopt a resolution (**82-19**) authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with CSG Consultants, Inc. for Capital Project Management Services to support staff with delivery of Measure D capital projects and other capital projects in Santa Cruz County, and amend the FY 19/20 budget and work program accordingly.

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

25. Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstration.

Commissioner Caput departed the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Gregorio stepped in.

Deputy Director Luis Mendez presented the staff report. Noting that Industrial Railways Company submitted the lowest quote for the work, including disposal of railway ties, at \$60,000. The work is expected to be finished in time for the rail demonstration in February 2020.

Commissioners discussed: inviting Monterey Bay Community Power to the demonstration; following up with TAMC as to why they declined to go ahead with their demonstration; TIG/m is covering the full cost of the operation aside from the track repair work; alternatives analysis; media component to promote public interest; potential to utilize Metro as a shuttle service to the demo; background on selection process of the segment to be repaired.

Mark Johannessen, TIG/m, reported that TIG/m will engage Bill Maxfield on the public outreach campaign; vehicle is a passenger commute vehicle, with a



capacity of 100 to 200 to scale up as need arises; vehicle is battery-electric with a hydrogen fuel cell top-off generator and water is the only emission; once the demo is in place, TIG/m plans to invite potential funders to the groundbreaking day (California Energy Commission Representatives, TAMC representatives, Monterey Bay Power, local representatives, and California Fuel Cell Partnership; the logistics and approvals process for the demo with Watsonville hosting the first; collection of data, adaptability of the unit's noise impact, and invited questions by email: [mfjlaw@gmail.com](mailto:mfjlaw@gmail.com). Demonstration will be free to the public.

Commissioners directed staff to work with consultants to devise metrics for Alternatives Analysis and to collect more specific details (location of stops, schedule) for review at the January meeting.

Received public comment from:  
Brian Peoples, Executive Director of Trail Now  
Keith Otto  
Tina, Aptos  
Jessica Evans, City of Santa Cruz  
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail  
Johanna Lighthill, Aptos  
Gina Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County  
Mark Mesiti-Miller  
Barry Scott, Aptos  
Michael Saint, Aptos  
David Date, La Selva Beach  
Robert, Aptos  
David Van Brink, City of Santa Cruz

RTC staff provided clarification in response to public comment that trespassing on the rail corridor and any unauthorized physical alteration to the structures is dangerous and illegal. Law enforcement has been contacted regarding the issue.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Enter into a prevailing wage no bid contract with Industrial Railways Company (IRC) to upgrade the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line track between Capitola and Santa Cruz to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class I standards for a contract value not to exceed \$60,000 and a term ending on December 31, 2020;
2. Enter into a temporary license agreement with TIG/m for demonstration of its passenger rail trolley vehicle between Capitola and Santa Cruz and in Watsonville;
3. To create a report for the January meeting with more details addressing the items discussed.

The motion carried unanimously, with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Leopold, Bottorff, Gonzalez, Coffman-Gomez, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Johnson, Mulhearn, Gregorio and Lind voting "Aye."

- 25a. Approve consent for railroad crossing agreement at Aptos Creek Road moved from the consent agenda

Commissioner Leopold departed the meeting

Deputy Director Luis Mendez explained that the private crossing is being turned over to a public crossing as part of the Aptos Village plan. As the RTC is the current owner of the rail line, agreements for crossings between Santa Cruz Co and the railroad operators requires RTC concurrence, even though the RTC is not a party to the agreements.

Commissioners discussed ways of ensuring that the RTC would not be held responsible for costs associated with hazardous materials clean-up in the same way they inadvertently assumed part of those costs with the Trout Gulch project. RTC staff communicated that such costs have already been included as part of the project costs by the Santa Cruz County Public Works Department.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Brown seconded staff recommendation to: grant its concurrence for the attached (Attachment 1) new public railroad crossing agreement at Aptos Creek Road in the County of Santa Cruz with an update to the agreement noting that the RTC will not be responsible for any costs associated with hazardous materials clean-up.

Motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Bottorff, Gonzalez, Coffman-Gomez, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Johnson, Lind, Mulhearn and Gregorio voting "Aye."

26. Review of items for discussion during closed session.

Adjourned to closed session at 1:05

### **CLOSED SESSION**

27. Review Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957) Position: Executive Director
28. Conference with Labor Negotiator (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957) Position: Executive Director

Agency Designated Representative: Ed Bottorff

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

**OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened to open session at 1:20 p.m.

30. Report on closed session

Chair Bottorff reported that the Executive Director, Guy Preston was given his 1-year evaluation reflecting a satisfactory rating.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded to approve a 2.5% step increase in compensation for Executive Director, Guy Preston pursuant to Employment Agreement Section 3.3.

Motion passed unanimously with commissioners Coffman-Gomez, Gonzalez, Bottorff, Brown, Bertrand and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Johnson, Mulhearn and Lind voting "Aye."

31. Next meetings- Meeting adjourned at 1:23

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 16, 2019 at 9:00 a.m. at the City of Santa Cruz Council Chambers, 809 Center Street, Santa Cruz, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 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

Keith Otto

Tina, Aptos

Jessica Evans

Sally Arnold

Johanna Lighthill

Gina Cole

Mark Mesiti-Miller

Barry Scott

Michael Saint

David Date

Robert, Aptos

David Van Brink

Piet Canin

Executive Director of Trail Now

City of Santa Cruz

Friends of the Rail and Trail

Aptos resident

Bike Santa Cruz County

Aptos resident

Aptos resident

La Selva Beach

City of Santa Cruz

Ecology Action

Tawn Kennedy  
Heather Adamson  
John McKeon  
Kirk Ance  
Dan Henderson  
Teresa Buika  
Noel G Bock  
Rachel Spencer

Ecology Action  
AMBAG  
Davenport  
Community Bridges/Lift Line  
UCSC  
UCSC  
DNCA  
Davenport