



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

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**MINUTES**

**Tuesday, November 5, 2019**

**RTC Office  
1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95062**

1. Roll call

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

***Members present:***

Kirk Ance, CTSA – Lift Line  
Deborah Benham, 5<sup>th</sup> District  
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA  
John Daugherty, Metro  
Veronica Elsea, 3<sup>rd</sup> District  
Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider – Persons of Limited Means  
Patty Talbot, Social Service Provider – Seniors  
Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User  
Daniella Zaragoza, Metro

***Unexcused absences:***

***RTC staff present:***

Grace Blakeslee  
Shannon Munz  
Rachel Moriconi

***Others present:***

Jean Brocklebank, Live Oak Resident  
Michael Lewis, Seniors Council  
Janet Edwards, District 1  
Pat McVeigh, Live Oak Resident  
Len Burns, City of Santa Cruz Resident  
Clair Fliesler, City of Santa Cruz  
Joann Edmonds, City of Santa Cruz  
Wondimu Mengistu, Metro  
Ingrid Roberts, Caltrans District 5  
Terri Persons, Caltrans District 5

2. Introductions
3. Oral communications

Chair Veronica Elsea announced that METRO has a new policy in affect starting November 2019 that provides free rides for visually impaired individuals on fixed route transit.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

*E&D TAC Chair Veronica Elsea informed members that Item #18 will be moved to Item #12, Item #12 to Item #13, Item #16 to Item #14, Item #17 to Item #15, and Item #13 to Item #16.*

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

5. Approved minutes from August 12, 2019
6. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report
7. Received RTC Meeting Highlights
8. Received Appointments - None
9. Received Information Items
10. Accepted correspondence from the public – None
11. Received Pedestrian Hazard Reports

*A motion (Ance/Lamb) was made to approve the consent agenda and the minutes as amended to remove reference to Cara Lamb expressing interest in the participating in the temporary, ad-hoc committee focused on intersection design. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Patty Talbot, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor. Member John Daugherty was not present for the vote.*

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

12. (Moved from Item 18) Caltrans District 5 Active Transportation Plan

Caltrans staff provided an overview of the Caltrans District 5 Active Transportation Plan. The plan will focus on bicycle, pedestrian and transit access on or near the State highways within District 5. The plan looks at pedestrian, bicycle and transit needs and gaps in facilities. Caltrans staff reviewed the draft plan goals and discussed how potential projects and concepts will be evaluated. Committee members inquired about how Caltrans is making this information available to individuals who are visually impaired. Caltrans staff recommended individuals who are not able to view the information on the website call their staff by phone.

Committee Member Deborah Benham noted that as part of the Scotts Valley Active Transportation Plan development concerns have been expressed about bicyclists and pedestrians at Highway 17 on and off ramps at Granite Creek Road and Scotts Valley Drive. Ms. Benham also requested that materials refer to pedestrian safety, in addition to bicycle safety. Chair Veronica Elsea inquired about the status of the Caltrans Statewide Accessibility Committee and suggested that Caltrans District 5 staff request input from the Statewide Accessibility Committee on the Caltrans District 5 Active Transportation Plan.

13. (Moved from Item 12) Received Program Updates

a. Volunteer Center

Member Tara Ireland provided information about outreach for new volunteer drives in San Lorenzo Valley.

b. Community Bridges

Member Kirk Ance announced that Lift Line purchased a property that will serve as the Community Bridges Lift Line operations facility.

c. Santa Cruz Metro

Vice Chair John Daugherty communicated that the paratransit operator training for recent hires is complete and new drivers will be providing service soon. Metro continues to recruit for new fixed route drivers. Daniel Zaragazo reported that ParaCruz recently had its 15<sup>th</sup> Birthday and that the current quarterly report demonstrated an improvement in on-time performance.

d. SCCRTC

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, announced that the RTC held a public meeting on the Highway 1 Chanticleer Bicycle and Pedestrian Crossing and Highway 1 Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lane project. Also, the RTC awarded a contract to conduct an Alternative Analysis to evaluate transit uses on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

e. Special Projects

Chair Veronica Elsea reported that the temporary, ad-hoc committee focused on addressing the needs of seniors and people with disabilities in intersection design will be scheduling a meeting soon.

*No action taken.*

14. (Moved from Item 16) City of Santa Cruz JUMP Bikes

City of Santa Cruz staff, Clair Fliesler, provided an overview of the City of Santa Cruz JUMP Bike Program including usage, rules, and rider education. Claire Fliesler reviewed enforcement efforts related to JUMP Bikes not parked correctly, client education about where JUMP Bikes should be parked, and provided information

about how to report JUMP Bikes parked on sidewalks or being utilized incorrectly. Ms. Fliesler explained that parking a bike on the sidewalk in the absence of a bicycle rack is legal in Santa Cruz. Bikes and personal transportation devices may be locked free standing or to a fixed asset within 24' inches of the curb.

Chair Veronica Elsea expressed the safety concerns of individuals living with disabilities having difficulty navigating around JUMP Bikes parked on the sidewalk and JUMP Bikes parked on the sidewalk blocking wheelchair access. She also requested a system be put in place to allow visually impaired individuals to report JUMP Bikes blocking the sidewalk and receive a timely response. She recommended a more robust effort to inform JUMP Bike users that the sidewalk is not an appropriate place to park a JUMP Bike and violations for JUMP Bike users who block the sidewalk. Committee members discussed options for communicating back to the user immediately that they have violated parking rules and must be moved.

City of Santa Cruz staff informed members that they can email [support@jumpbikes.com](mailto:support@jumpbikes.com) and [cfliesler@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:cfliesler@cityofsantacruz.com). Committee members also requested that a phone number be established to report violations so people who do not have smart phone can report a violation and that the City of Santa Cruz work with the Police Department to respond to calls reporting JUMP Bike violations. Committee members discussed the option of requiring JUMP Bikes be parked at bike racks. Committee recommended that the Streets Smarts campaign include education about JUMP Bike parking and safety. Committee members requested that the JUMP Bike parking and the City of Santa Cruz parking ordinance be discussed at a future meeting.

*No action taken.*

15. (Moved from Item 17) City of Santa Cruz TDA Claim- Citywide Crosswalk Improvements

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, reviewed the E&D TAC's role in reviewing Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims. Claire Fliesler, City of Santa Cruz staff, reviewed the crosswalk improvements included in the City of Santa Cruz's TDA Claim. Ms. Fliesler informed the Committee that the TDA funds would serve to add additional crosswalk improvements funded by the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). The City is proposing to improve 22 unsignalized crosswalks on Soquel Ave, Seabright Ave, North Branciforte Ave, King St, Bay St, Alta Ave, Bethany Curve, and East Cliff Dr. Improvements include adding crosswalk markings, signs, access ramps, streetlights, sidewalk bulb-outs, and rapid-flashing beacons, and Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB). The Committee requested that audible push buttons with RRFBs and requested that the City of Santa Cruz return to the E&D TAC with information about what push button equipment will be installed at crosswalks before construction moves forward.

*A motion (Ance/Benham) was made to approve the City of Santa Cruz TDA Claim for citywide cross walk improvements in the amount of \$150,000 and to request that the City of Santa Cruz return to the E&D TAC with information about what push button will be installed at crosswalks. The motion passed unanimously, with*

*members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Patty Talbot, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor.*

16. (Moved from Item 13) Programming Regional Transportation Funds

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner, reviewed the Regional Transportation Commissions' (RTC) role in programming State and Federal funds and the RTC's action in September 2019 to distribute regional transportation funds for FY19/20- FY21/22. Ms. Moriconi reviewed the projects proposed for funding by local jurisdictions, METRO, and RTC. The Committee discussed funding deadlines and project oversight.

*A motion (Benham/Ireland) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve projects to receive Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) funds and approve RTC regional projects to receive other state and federal formula funds, as summarized in the staff report. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Patty Talbot, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor.*

17. (Moved from Item 14) Community Bridges Lift Line Amended FY19/20 TDA Claim

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, described the Community Bridges-Lift Line amended claim and reviewed the RTC's September 2019 action indicating its 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 hold in abeyance for three years the 2017 RTC policy that would have made 15-25% of the region's population shares of STA and SGR funds available for eligible community transportation projects and services.

*A motion (Ireland/Lamb) was made to approve the recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the Community Bridges Lift Line FY19/20 TDA Claim. The motion passed with members Deborah Benham, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Patty Talbot, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor and Kirk Ance and Lisa Berkowitz abstaining.*

18. (Moved from Item 15) Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transportation District Amended FY19/20 Claim

Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Planner, described the METRO's amended claim for Transportation Development Act (TDA) and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds and described the RTC's September 2019 action which indicated its intent to allocate all but \$100,000 per year of the RTC's population shares (PUC 99313) of the FY19/20-FY21/22 State Transit Assistance (STA) funds to Metro, and 100% of the region's population shares (PUC 99313) of FY19/20-FY21/22 SB1-transit State of Good Repair funds to Santa Cruz METRO.

*A motion (Ance/Berkowitz) was made to approve the recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District FY19/20 TDA Claim. The motion passed with members Kirk Ance, Deborah*

*Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Patty Talbot, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor and John Daugherty abstaining.*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:43 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 10, 2019 at 1:30 p.m. at the RTC Office at 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz.

Respectfully submitted, Grace Blakeslee, Staff

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