



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, January 16, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**Santa Cruz City Council Chambers
809 Center Street
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	Bruce McPherson
Sandy Brown	Randy Johnson
Donna Lind (alt)	Mike Rotkin
Trina Coffman-Gomez	Aurelio Gonzalez
Greg Caput	Patrick Mulhearn (alt)
John Leopold	

Staff present:

Luis Mendez	Guy Preston
Fernanda Pini	Yesenia Parra
Krista Corwin	Shannon Munz
Brianna Goodman	Rachel Moriconi
Tommy Travers	Sarah Christensen
Ginger Dykaar	

2. Oral communications.

Received Public Comment from:

Brian Peoples, Executive Director of Trail Now
Grace Voss, Santa Cruz County Cycling Club
Carey Pico
Jim Helmer, Ben Lomond.

In response to one of the public comments, Commission Chair McPherson directed staff to provide a report at next month's RTC meeting on the City of Watsonville segment of the trail on the rail line right-of-way.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas: Replacement pages for item 18 and handouts for items 14, 16, and 18.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, Leopold, McPherson, Johnson, Rotkin, Gonzalez, and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Schiffrin, and Mulhearn voting "aye."

MINUTES

4. Accepted draft minutes of the November 4, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Committee.
5. Approved draft minutes of the December 5, 2019 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
6. Accepted draft minutes of the December 9, 2019 Bicycle Advisory Committee.

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items.

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for Highway 9/SLV Complete Streets Project Initiation Document (**Resolution 84-19**).

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer, Ben Lomond

8. Approved Highway 9/SLV Complete Streets: HSIP Grant Crosswalk Improvements Project Update and Funding Agreements (**Resolution 85-19**).

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer, Ben Lomond

9. Approved Amendment to Administration Coordination and License (ACL) Agreement with St. Paul and Pacific Railroad.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

No consent items.

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

No consent items.

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

10. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
11. Accepted correspondence log.
12. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies – *none*.
13. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues – *none*.
14. Accepted information items – *none*.

REGULAR AGENDA

15. Commissioner reports.

Commissioner Mike Rotkin announced that the Democratic Women's Club of Santa Cruz County will hold a forum at the Santa Cruz Policy Community Room on Feb 8th at 10:00am. RTC staff and Friends of the Rail and Trail will present on planned improvements to the rail corridor.

16. Director's Report.

Executive Director Guy Preston reported on the recent staff appointments; the upcoming groundbreaking celebration of Segment 7, Phase 1 of the coastal rail trail; City of Watsonville is expected to award a contract for construction on Segment 18 on January 21st. Regarding Highway 1 projects, bus-on-shoulder/auxiliary lane plans are consistent with the direction of the state and are expected to compete well for SCCP funding. Project from 41st Avenue to Soquel Avenue in final design; Second and third projects from State Park to Bay Porter and from Freedom to State Park are progressing pending environmental clearance. TIG/m trolley demonstration postponed to October.

Responding to public comment, Mr. Preston noted that while California bill AB 2363 is not specifically on the RTC legislative agenda the transportation safety issues addressed by the bill are and the RTC can communicate a position on AB 2363 accordingly and any other bills that may address those issues. Commissioners requested that given the TIG/m demonstration delay, that a full demonstration be in Watsonville be reconsidered and pursued.

17. Caltrans report.

Aileen Loe reported that Caltrans is accepting comments on the California Freight Mobility Plan until the end of the month. On January 8, 2020, Governor Newsom signed M-23-20 to fight homelessness in the state of California, assigning roles to the various agencies; Caltrans' role is to assist in the leasing of property adjacent to highways and working with partners to aid in people's transition to safer shelters. Pedestrian Safety Enhancement projects were pushed from February to April due to the addition of five locations on Highway

9 and will utilize Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds. Prioritization of Highway 152 project was reflected in the contractor agreement; funding is committed and construction is anticipated for construction in spring 2022; Drainage work will begin next week to address ponding on Highway 9 and Graham Hill Road. Other projects to be completed soon: striping widening, pavement preservation, and pedestrian safety.

Commissioners stressed the need for counterparts in south Santa Clara County to prioritize safety improvements to Highway 17.

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

18. **10:00 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING** Draft 2020 Measure D Strategic Implementation Plan.

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the staff report. The purpose of the Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) is to define the scope, cost, and delivery schedule of regional projects and programs. A central theme of this year's inaugural SIP is leveraging. Mr. Preston discussed strategies for leveraging funds in the short and long term and more funding opportunities with the funding programs under SB-1. The current plan has a short-term focus of 5 years. Each year the plan will be updated to program one additional year, and the plans can be amended as need arises. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Freedom to State Park Drive Auxiliary Lane/Bus-on-Shoulder project has been released. The RTC solicited extensive public input on the SIP and recommended a public hearing.

Mr. Preston explained the strategic factors which enable RTC to leverage Measure D funds, comparing pay-as-you-go, bonding, financing, and grant funding. Measure D expected to bring in \$760 million; with successful leveraging, the RTC could deliver several billion dollars' worth of projects over the 30-year time period. Voter patience will be key as most projects require multiple years of planning before implementation. Mr. Preston's experience leveraging self-help county funds 5 to 1 for transportation projects in Sonoma County lent credence to the SIP.

Commissioner comments: the Unified Corridor Study can be used to leverage funds; benefits of borrowing from ourselves over borrowing from others; regular updates to the funding strategy; response to public input; the simplified document helpful as an elevator pitch.

Received public comment from:

Ray Cancino, Community Bridges
Rick Longinotti, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
David Date, La Selva Beach
Ryan Sarnataro, Live Oak
Brian Peoples, Executive Director of Trail Now

Bryan Largay
Sally Arnold, Board Chair of Friends of the Rail and Trail

Commissioner Comments: stressed voter approval of Measure D, which includes auxiliary lane projects. The Commission directed staff to respond to today's public comments at the next meeting. Many commenters have observed that the planned improvements are very costly and questioned whether they are realistic given the revenue expected from Measure D. The passage of SB-1 soon after Measure D granted further opportunity to improve transit for motorists, bicyclists, and pedestrians in Santa Cruz County.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded to continue the item to the next meeting and direct staff to respond to public comments on this item at that meeting. The motion passed unanimously, with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, Leopold, McPherson, Johnson, Rotkin, Gonzalez, and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Schiffrin, and Mulhearn voting "aye."

19. City of Santa Cruz Public Works Department – oral report.

Assistant Public Works Director Chris Schneider reported on the status of several RTC-funded projects to include: Highway 1 and 9 improvement project. River & Water Street pavement rehabilitation. ,MBSST Trails. and Pacific Avenue sidewalk and beach area improvements.

20. Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis Communications and Stakeholder Involvement Plan.

Communications Specialist Shannon Munz presented the staff report, asking for input and approval of the Stakeholder Involvement Plan (SIP).

Received public comment from:

Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail
Manu Koenig, Candidate for Supervisor
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Mark Mesiti-Miller

Commissioner Comments: stressed the importance of early notice to allow time for public review and responded to concerns that input on the Alternatives Analysis will be ignored; public input is taken; of the purpose of the Alternatives Analysis is to develop a financially feasible option for the Commission and the Transit Board to consider; weighed the pros and cons of focus group data gathered from interested/knowledgeable parties, and more far-reaching data collected by polling and surveys; RTC's outreach plan represents a good-faith effort to solicit public participation in the Alternatives Analysis.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion to approve the staff recommendation to review, provide input and approve the Communications and Stakeholder Involvement Plan for the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis.. Commissioner Brown seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously

with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, Leopold, McPherson, R. Johnson, Rotkin, Gonzalez, and Commissioner Alternates Lind, Schiffren, and Mulhearn voting "aye."

27. Meeting Adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

Next meetings.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 6, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Room 400, Watsonville, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meet is scheduled for Thursday, February 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

Brian Peoples, Executive Director of Trail Now
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
David Date, La Selva Beach
Elaine Ingalls, Santa Cruz Sentinel
Grace Voss, Santa Cruz County Cycling Club
Carey Pico
James Helmer, San Lorenzo Valley Resident
Stephen Svete, Rincon Consultants
Janet Edwards
Johanna Lighthill
James Sandoval, SMART-TD
Becky Steinbruner

