



**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee**

*(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)*

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**FINAL MINUTES**

**Tuesday, December 10, 2019**

**RTC Office**

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

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

***Members present:***

Veronica Elsea, 3<sup>rd</sup> District, Chair

Tara Ireland, Volunteer Center

John Daugherty, Metro

Cara Lamb, Transit Users

Debbie Benham, 5<sup>th</sup> District

Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA - Community Bridges,

Clay Kempf, Social Service Provider - Seniors

Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA -Lift Line

***Unexcused absences:***

***RTC staff present:***

Ginger Dykaar

Grace Blakeslee

Rachel Moriconi

***Others present:***

Phil Kipnis, Happy Valley Resident

Michael Pisano, 1<sup>st</sup> District, UCSC HR department

Len Burns, City of Santa Cruz

Caleb Shwazundar, Capitola City Parks

Janet Edwards, 1<sup>st</sup> District

Martha Rubbo, Seniors Council

Paul Elrick, Aptos resident

Nicole Young, Optimal Solutions Consulting (CORE Program)

Mike McConnell, SC County Human Services Department

Kailash Mozumder, City of Capitola

Britt Bassoni, AAA/Seniors Council

Pat Fohrman, 4<sup>th</sup> District, Seniors Commission

Gina Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County

Jayme Ackemenn, Santa Cruz Metro

2. Introductions

3. Oral communications

Janet Edwards communicated that John Daugherty was recently honored for 30 years of service with METRO.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

*RTC Staff Grace Blakeslee noted the addition of two membership applications as add-on items to Item 17-E&D TAC Recruitment and a replacement page for Item 18-JUMP Bikes.*

**CONSENT AGENDA**

5. Approved minutes from November 5, 2019

6. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report

7. Received RTC Meeting Highlights

8. Received Information Items - None

9. Accepted correspondence from the public – None

10. Received Pedestrian Hazard Reports

11. Received Highway 1 Corridor Project Update

12. Received North Coast Rail Trail Project Update

13. Received Draft 2020 State and Federal Legislative Programs

14. Received RTP Goals and Policies – RTC Staff Ginger Dykaar announced that the RTC is soliciting input on the goals, policies, and targets of the RTP. Comments can be submitted by email and are due January 3<sup>rd</sup> for inclusion at the RTC meeting.

*A motion (Daugherty/Berkowitz) was made to approve the November 5, 2019 minutes as amended to show Janet Edwards' residence as District 1; Len Burns' residence as the City of Santa Cruz; Committee Member John Daugherty abstaining on Item 18-METRO's Amended TDA Claim; and Lamb seconding the motion on Item 17; and, to revise the language in the minutes pertaining to Item 14-JUMP bikes and people with visual impairment. The motion also included action to approve the consent agenda with the addition of the Highway 17 Access Plan and the Governor's Master Plan on Aging to Item 14-RTP Attachment 1. The motion passed unanimously, with members John Daugherty, Deborah Benham, Clay Kempf, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

## 15. Received Program Updates

### a. Volunteer Center

Committee Member Tara Ireland communicated that the volunteer transportation program audit is complete.

*No action taken.*

### b. Community Bridges — TDA FY18/19 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report

Committee Member Alternate Jesus Bojorquez announced that at the beginning of last month, Community Bridges started operations for a new facility in Watsonville. Community Bridges expects to acquire two more level 3 chargers for electric vehicles once the state finalizes the rebate.

*No action taken.*

### c. Santa Cruz Metro – ParaCruz FY19/20 1<sup>st</sup> Quarterly Report

Committee Member John Daugherty relayed communication from Daniel Zaragoza, METRO's paratransit manager, whom, in absentia, wished to point out that statistics from the quarterly report covering July, August, and September, show improvements in METRO's on-time performance.

*No action taken.*

### d. SCCRTC

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee reported that the RTC authorized rail line repairs to make way for a demonstration train between Santa Cruz and Capitola. The demo will be free to riders and will run for two weeks. Ms. Blakeslee also conveyed the RTC's request for a report on the operating budgets and metrics of ParaCruz and Lift Line.

Committee Member Clay Kempf described the shortcomings of current paratransit metrics (i.e. costs per mile, passengers per mile, passengers per hour, etc.). He urged the elected officials to consider the impact of paratransit rides and the cost savings to the community as a whole. He referenced a study by the Transportation Research Board of America and pointed out that reliance on the current metrics is a national issue in specialized transportation.

*No action taken.*

### e. Special Projects

Committee Chair Veronica Elsea reported on the first meeting of the pedestrian intersection design ad hoc committee comprised of John Daugherty, Debbie Benham, and herself. The committee is evaluating various design components (i.e. auditory beacons, bulb-outs, roundabouts, rapid-flashing beacons, manual uniform

traffic control devices) in preparation to meet with the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee. The pedestrian committee will meet again in January.

Committee members requested that the pedestrian intersection design ad hoc committee review traffic signals in town that have no audible indicators; explore 4-way traffic stops at crosswalks to accommodate all pedestrians; and placement of electric boxes at signalized intersections.

*No action taken.*

#### 16. City of Capitola – Clares Street Traffic Calming

City of Capitola Public Works Department staff, Kailash Mozumder, described the City of Capitola's traffic-calming project on Clares between 41<sup>st</sup> and Wharf Ave, which includes pedestrian and bicycle improvements. The project is funded by RTC and the City of Capitola. Committee members provided input on crossing locations, expressed concern about mid-block crosswalks; provided input on the locator tones for mid-block crossings; described the challenges of navigating bulbouts for visually impaired individuals. The committee recommended the mid-block design of option one, with the addition of locator tones.

*No action taken.*

#### 17. CORE Program - Human Services Department

Nicole Young, Optimal Solutions Consulting, acknowledged receipt of comments from the E&DTAC regarding the CORE Investments program and input on transportation needs and data associated with seniors and people living with disabilities. Ms. Young described the CORE (Collective Results and Evidence-based) Investments as a community programs funding model which focuses on strategic planning, collaboration, and a competitive application process. Ms. Young communicated that CORE Conditions and related impacts shown in the E&DTAC packet has been updated since submission and those updates will be made available to the E&D TAC. Committee members inquired about the program's use of data and the stability of available funds. Committee members recommended that the broad population-based categories be broken down even more explicitly for the awareness of future grant managers. Committee members recommended a revision to a measure of "opioid prescription patients" as a measure of Health and Wellness since some patients rely on opioids to maintain health.

Committee Member Clay Kempf discussed common funding recipient challenges, particularly the rising costs of providing services and fluctuating jurisdictional budgets and provided background on community programs, annual budgets, and a misperception of "rubber stamp funding."

*No action taken.*

#### 18. JUMP Bikes

Committee Chair Veronica Elsea reviewed the committee's November 5, 2019 discussion about JUMP Bikes. The committee stressed the importance of coalition-building, outreach, clear language, and a pro-active approach in communicating their concerns about the negative impact of JUMP Bikes on pedestrians. Improvements can be made in the reporting and policing of problems; education of users; incentives for proper parking; and by enlisting the support of the community.

*A motion (Daugherty/Benham) was made to send letters to all of the jurisdictions of Santa Cruz County, to the JUMP Bike company, and to the Bicycle Advisory Committee to begin a dialogue about how to implement JUMP Bikes without negatively impacting pedestrians. The motion passed unanimously, with members Deborah Benham, Clay Kempf, Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor.*

#### 19. E&DTAC Appointment Recommendations

The E&DTAC Committee reviewed applications from prospective committee members. Applicants were thanked for attending the meeting and for their interest in serving. Meeting procedures were explained with regards to governance under the Brown Act. Any new appointments made will be instated at the next E&DTAC meeting on February 11. Committee Chair Veronica Elsea explained the ways in which work is accomplished on the committee.

*A motion (Lamb/Kempf) was made to recommend that the RTC approve appointments to E&D TAC as shown in Item #19 Attachment 1 with the following changes: move Michael Pisano to Potential Transit User (60+) and move Cara Lamb to the committee membership position Potential Transit Users-Disabled. Motion carried unanimously, with members Deborah Benham, Clay Kempf, Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor.*

#### 20. Free METRO Fare Program for Visually Impaired

Jayme Ackemann, Santa Cruz METRO staff, explained that aging ticket vending machines cannot adequately accommodate the needs of people with visual impairments and are cost prohibitive for METRO to replace at this time. Therefore, METRO has enacted a policy extending free bus fare to individuals who are legally blind. If an operator can visually identify a person as blind, the person will be allowed to ride with no identification. For legally blind individuals who want a card to present to the bus operator and legally blind individuals who want to ride with attendants should obtain an access card using the same process as obtaining a discount card. Committee Chair Veronica Elsea recommended announcing the new policy via text alert. New customers can call customer service for more information.

#### 21. Programming RTC Competitive Grant Funds

Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi presented staff recommendations for \$350,000 of RSTPX funds. Applications were received for four projects: Project PASEO from Bike Santa Cruz County, Bike and WalkSmart from Ecology Action, Bike Challenge from Ecology Action, and a trail platform on top of railroad tracks at

Antonelli Pond from Trail Now. More information about the projects including full proposals can be found on the SCCRTC website. Gina Cole of Bike Santa Cruz County responded to questions about Project PASEO: the effect on bus stops and pick-ups on 17<sup>th</sup> avenue with the proposed bike lane delineator; allowance of a safe path for pedestrians; student participation in WalkSmart and safe routes to school; volunteers needed and will be fed at the pilot event.

*A motion was made (Kempf/Ireland) to recommend approval of the staff recommendations to fund Project PASEO from Bike Santa Cruz County, Bike and WalkSmart from Ecology Action, and Bike Challenge from Ecology Action. Motion carried unanimously, with members Deborah Benham, Clay Kempf, Lisa Berkowitz, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor.*

22. Meeting was adjourned at 4:02pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 11, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the RTC Office at 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz.

Respectfully submitted, Grace Blakeslee, Staff

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