



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, February 6, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**Watsonville City Council Chambers
275 Main Street #400
Watsonville, CA**

1. Roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:03 a.m.

Members present:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Jacques Bertrand | Zack Friend |
| Sandy Brown | John Leopold |
| Randy Johnson | Bruce McPherson |
| Trina Coffman-Gomez | Donna Meyers (alt) |
| Greg Caput | Aurelio Gonzalez |
| Andy Schiffrin (alt) | Mike Rotkin |
| Aileen Loe (ex-officio) | Patrick Mulhearn (alt) |

Staff present:

| | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| Guy Preston | Luis Mendez |
| Yesenia Parra | Krista Corwin |
| Rachel Moriconi | Shannon Munz |
| Ginger Dykaar | Amanda Marino |
| Grace Blakeslee | Fernanda Pini |
| Sarah Christensen | Brianna Goodman |

2. Review of items to be discussed in closed session.

Adjourned to closed session at 9:04 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL—ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2))

Significant exposure to litigation: One case.

OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened to open session at 9:12 a.m. There was no report from Closed Session.

3. Oral communications.

Received Public Comment from:

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Carey Pico
Lowell Hurst, City of Watsonville

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas: Replacement pages for item 26 and handouts for items 12, 21, 24, and 25.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Friend recused himself from items 9 and 10 due to a financial interest because his primary residence is within 500 feet of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

The Chair pulled item 8 from the consent agenda and moved it to the regular agenda as Item 25.1.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded to approve the consent agenda as amended. The motion passed with Commissioner Friend recusing himself from items 9 and 10 and Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Gonzalez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Meyers voting "aye."

MINUTES

5. Accepted draft minutes of the December 10, 2019 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee.
6. Approved draft minutes of the January 16, 2020 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
7. Accepted draft minutes of the January 16, 2020 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC).

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items.

PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS

8. Approve Highway 1 State Park to Freedom Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans - Item was moved to the regular agenda as item 25.1.
9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Industrial Railway, Inc for Erosion Control along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail corridor. (**Resolution 87-19**)
10. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Construction Contract with Industrial Railways Company to perform repairs on handrails and walkways and install "no trespassing" signs on bridges along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. (**Resolution 88-19**)
11. Approved Highway 1 41st/Soquel Auxiliary Lanes PS&E and Right of Way Phases – Cooperative Agreement Amendment No. 1. (**Resolution 89-19**)
12. Approved 2020 State and Federal Legislative Programs.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

13. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues.
14. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues.
15. Approved City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act Claim.
16. Approved Programming Competitive RSTPX Funds. (**Resolution 90-19**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

17. Approved Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) New Member Appointments.
18. Approved opening Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee Nominations.

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

19. Accepted Special District Risk Management Authority President's Special Acknowledgment Award.

REGULAR AGENDA

20. Commissioner reports.

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

Commissioner John Leopold thanked RTC staff and Friends of the Rail and Trail for hosting the groundbreaking celebration for Segment 7, Phase 1 of the MBSST.

Commissioner Trina Coffman-Gomez thanked RTC staff for the Watsonville focus group which solicited public input as part of the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis.

21. Director's Report.

Executive Director Guy Preston reported on recent staff appointments; upcoming improvements to the rail line; new member appointments to the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee; public participation is solicited at two open houses for the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis scheduled for Tuesday, February 11 from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at the Live Oak Grange and Wednesday, February 12 from 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. at the Watsonville Library Community Room; Highway 1 41st Ave to Soquel Ave Auxiliary Lane Bus on Shoulder and Chanticleer Avenue Bike Pedestrian Bridge Project presented at a recent hearing for this cycle of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding; upcoming participation in the Central Coast Coalition's Legislative Day on February 19 in Sacramento with Commission Chair McPherson and Vice-Chair Gonzalez.

22. Caltrans report.

Aileen Loe reported that Director Toks Omishakin outlined his five priorities established by his administration: safety, multi-modalism, efficiencies, innovation and creativity, and community and stakeholder engagement. She also noted that Caltrans will help local agencies lease properties to aid in addressing the homelessness crisis. Ms. Loe gave an update on the Davenport pedestrian crossing safety improvements noting that they have been pushed from February to April and availability of electric vehicles for federal paratransit program not available yet.

23. Presentation from City of Watsonville.

Principle Engineer Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works Department presented on planned Complete Streets improvements with a special emphasis on the Segment 18 of the rail trail and on several projects funded by the RTC. He also invited all to the Engineers' Week Egg Drop on February 19.

Received Public Comment from:

Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

In response to public comment, Mr. Fontes confirmed that the City is working with consultants on sea level rise for the proposed improvements.

24. Amendment to the Measure D Expenditure Plan.

Executive Director Guy Preston presented the staff recommendation to amend the Measure D Expenditure plan to clarify the inclusion of the auxiliary lane improvements. Mr. Preston added that the planned auxiliary lanes address extensive bottlenecks in Aptos within the corridor.

In response to Commissioner questions, Mr. Preston explained the use of the term "hybrid" in reference to the auxiliary lanes/bus-on-shoulder projects; allocation of the auxiliary lanes project funds by Measure D; elements that make the projects attractive to state funders and more permissible by the Coastal Commission; the feasibility of converting the auxiliary lanes into transit-only lanes in the future; sharing information about the amendment with city councils; impact on the queue of projects already approved; whole-system efficiency.

Commissioner comments: potential for impact of transit-only lanes on the cost-benefit analysis; environmental impact report phase will provide the public with an opportunity to weigh in on the hybrid lanes project and alternatives; quality of life benefits to Mid County residents and South County commuters; opportunity presented by SB1; addressing the bottleneck is key to delivering further improvements; the Commission is committed to a multi-modal approach and notes the risk inherent in innovation; public engagement brings climate front-and-center; addressing the accordion effect and the feasibility of metering lights; public comment essential to the process; highway widening projects represent a compromise between different constituencies.

Received Public Comment from:

Rick Longinotti
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Craig Chatterton, District 2
Lowell Hurst, City of Watsonville

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Friend seconded to approve the staff recommendation to adopt by Resolution the findings of necessity and initiate/propose the First Amendment to the Measure D Expenditure Plan to be effective forty-five days after the notice of the First Amendment is provided as required by Public Utilities Code Section 180207. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Friend, Gonzalez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Meyers and Schiffrin voting "aye."

Commissioner Friend left the meeting at 11:03 a.m. and was replaced at the dais by Commissioner Alternate Mulhearn.

25. 2020 Measure D-Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP).

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the staff report.

Commissioner comments: The Measure D SIP useful in communicating how the Commission will accomplish its goals; SIP document is expected to change in response to grant opportunities; Measure D SIP is inclusive.

Commissioner Rotkin motioned and Commissioner Coffman-Gomez seconded to approve the staff recommendation to adopt by resolution the 2020 Measure D – Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP) and to direct staff to seek opportunities to leverage Measure D funds for state and federal funds to expedite deliverables for Measure D Regional investments.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Gonzalez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Meyers, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

25.1. Highway 1 State Park to Freedom Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans.

Commissioner Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Bertrand seconded to approve by resolution authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for the environmental phase of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project between State Park Drive and Freedom Boulevard, with the RTC as the implementing agency and Caltrans responsible for oversight, subject to legal review as to form.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Gonzalez, Johnson, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Meyers, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

Received Public Comment from:

Rick Longinotti

26. 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan – Goals, Policies and Targets.

Transportation Planner Brianna Goodman presented the staff report.

Commissioner Johnson left the dais at 11:14 a.m.

Received Public Comment from:

Craig Chatterton, District 2
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

Commissioner comments: clarified understanding of the shift in function from forecasting to monitoring in real time; factors accounting for change in vehicle miles traveled (VMT) targets.

Commissioner Rotkin motioned and Commissioner Leopold seconded to approve the draft goals, policies, and targets of the 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Gonzalez, Leopold, McPherson, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Meyers, Mulhearn, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

27. Meeting Adjourned at 11:16 a.m.

Next meetings.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 5, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Fifth Floor, Santa Cruz, 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:

Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail & Trail
James Sandoval, SMART Local 0023
Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz METRO
Lowell Hurst, City of Watsonville

Kirk Ance, Community Bridges/Lift Line
Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Gine Johnson, County of Santa Cruz
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Rick Longinotti
Carey Pico
Craig Chatterton, District 2