



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, May 7, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference
Community TV ZOOM**

WEB: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89735252328>

Dial-in number (US): +1-669-900-6833

Webinar ID: 897 3525 2328

1. Roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was paused due to technical difficulties and then called again to order at 9:13 a.m.

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand
Sandy Brown
Aurelio Gonzalez
Randy Johnson
Trina Coffman-Gomez
Greg Caput
Andy Schiffrin (alt)

John Leopold
Bruce McPherson
Ed Bottorff
Mike Rotkin
Zach Friend
Aileen Loe (Ex-Officio) (alt)

Staff present:

Luis Mendez
Yesenia Parra
Krista Corwin
Brianna Goodman
Keith Rayburn
Sarah Christensen
Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi

Guy Preston
Shannon Munz
Tracy New
Amy Naranjo
Amanda Marino
Tommy Travers
Steve Mattas

2. Oral communications.

Received Public Comment from:

Brett Garrett

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

Replacement pages for item 12 and handouts for items 20 and 25. Executive Director Guy Preston noted that there were incorrect page numbers on the handouts for item 25.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed with Commissioner Friend recusing himself from item 7 and Commissioners Rotkin, Friend, Gonzalez, Bottorff Leopold, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Brown, Bertrand, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting "aye."

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the April 02, 2020 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
5. Accepted draft minutes of the April 13, 2020 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
6. Accepted draft minutes of the April 14, 2020 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved RailPros Contract Amendment for Bridge Inspections and Load Ratings (**Resolution 105-19**)
8. Accepted Transportation Development Act (TDA) Fiscal Years 2016-2018 Triennial Performance Audit.

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

9. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues.
10. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues.
11. Accepted FY 2018-19 Fiscal Audit for the SCCRTC Measure D Fund.

12. Approved Amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-20 Budget & Work Program (**Resolution 106-19**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

13. Approved rejection of claim from Annie H. Bradfield.

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
15. Accepted correspondence log.
16. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies. - *none*
17. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues. - *none*
18. Accepted information items. - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

19. Commissioner reports – none
20. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston reported on the projected economic impacts of COVID-19 on the RTC budget (FY19/20 and FY20/21) provided by Hinderliter, de Llamas & Associates (HDL); discussions between the RTC and recipients of Measure D and TDA revenues and recommendations for amending the budget; progress of repairs to the 2017 storm damage sites 1 through 7 along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL); the first stakeholder meeting of the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) held via teleconference on April 28, 2020; online activities for the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (TCAA) ended May 11, 2020 and a short list of alternatives will be presented to the Commission at the June 4th, 2020 RTC meeting.

In response to a Commissioner's question, Executive Director Preston clarified that a contract for storm damage sites 1 and 2 is expected to be awarded at the TPW meeting scheduled for May 21. An additional special meeting of the RTC will be scheduled in late June to present the Commission with a proposed revised budget.

In response to a Commissioner's question, Mr. Preston provided more information regarding the possibility of extensions to the RTC's agreement with Progressive Rail.

21. Caltrans report

Caltrans Alternate Ex-Officio Aileen Loe reported on Caltrans' tradition of honoring fallen highway workers: in the history of Caltrans, 189 workers have lost their lives working on California's highways and 8 of those were from district 5; Caltrans released a final implementation memo for Senate Bill 743 on April 13, 2020 as well as two technical documents, the Transportation Analysis Framework (TAF) and the Transportation Analysis under CEQA (TAC), and corresponding informational webinars on Monday, May 11 and Friday, May 15; with an estimated 80-90% of its workforce eligible for telework, Caltrans is working hard to keep project delivery activities on schedule.

Commissioners noted safety concerns with ongoing construction on the 41st Avenue pedestrian overcrossing, and in response to a Commissioner's question, Ex-Officio Loe noted that the project is scheduled to be completed in December 2020. Ms. Loe will send links to the TAF and TAC webinars to all via email.

22. **9:30 a.m. PUBLIC HEARING** 2020 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs

Transportation Planner Amanda Marino delivered the staff report and reported on a comment submitted earlier that morning from the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC). In response to a Commissioner's question, Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee explained that UCSC's paratransit need would be identified as a medium priority and a 2 on the graduated scale.

Chair McPherson thanked the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee for their efforts in the report. In response to a Commissioner's question, Senior Transportation Planner Blakeslee communicated more information regarding the Taxi Scrip subsidized fare program. Lifeline Program Director Kirk Ance described some of the challenges faced by the Taxi Scrip program in serving dialysis patients.

Public Hearing was opened at 9:40

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint

Sally Arnold, Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail and Trail

Commissioners discussed the loss of Paratransit service due to the change in the Santa Cruz Metro fixed route service and efforts to bridge the gap.

The public hearing closed at 10:00 a.m.

Commissioner Leopold moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Adopt the *2020 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs* (Attachment 1), with revisions as appropriate, following the public hearing; and,
2. Consider unmet paratransit and transit needs as funding becomes available.

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

23. Fiscal Year 2020-21 Article 4 and Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims for Santa Cruz METRO, Volunteer Center, Community Bridges, Bike to Work and Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency

Deputy Director Luis Mendez and Transportation Planners Amanda Marino and Tommy Travers delivered the staff report. In response to a Commissioner's question, Deputy Director Mendez re-iterated ongoing communication between staff and claimants of TDA and Measure D regarding adjustments and plans to present budget updates to the Budget and Administration/Personnel committee before returning with budget proposals at the June RTC meeting.

Commissioners discussed: TDA cashflow; the timeline by which reserves will be analyzed and budget adjustments made; the risks and benefits of dipping into RTC reserve funds to finish out the fiscal year; likely reductions to the budget in August 2020; impact of revenue uncertainty on the agencies' budgetary decisions.

In response to a Commissioner's questions, Deputy Director Mendez clarified the specific purpose and immediate availability of the TDA reserve for the RTC to make good on its TDA commitments. Mr. Mendez also noted that METRO will have access to federal stimulus funds, though coverage of reductions is as yet unclear. A staff recommendation following further analysis is expected.

Received public comment from:

Piet Canin
Gina Cole

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Adopt a resolution approving the Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 4 funds claim in the amount of \$7,628,850 from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District to provide operating assistance for fixed route public transit and Americans with Disabilities Act complementary paratransit operations;
2. Adopt a resolution approving the fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 funds claim in the amount of \$749,501 from Community Bridges to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities, contingent on approval from the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant;
3. Adopt a resolution approving the FY 2020-21 TDA Article 8 funds claim in the amount of \$96,377 requesting early allocation of funds in May 2020 for the Volunteer Center to administer the Grocery Shopper Program primarily serving seniors, contingent on approval from the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant; and
4. Adopt a resolution approving claims for FY 2020-21 TDA Article 8 funds for the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency's Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) and Ride 'n Stride Programs in the amount of \$130,000,

and for Ecology Action's Bike to Work (BTW) Program in the amount of \$60,000; and

5. Adopt a resolution approving the State Transit Assistance (STA) and STA State of Good Repair (SGR) claims from the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District in the amounts of \$4,494,411 and \$735,009 respectively; and
6. Adopt a resolution approving the State Transit Assistance (STA) claim from Community Bridges in the amount of \$100,000 contingent upon approval by the City of Santa Cruz to act as their claimant.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin added a friendly amendment that staff provide the Commission budget updates at the August meeting.

The motion passed with Commissioners Rotkin, Gonzalez, Bottorff, McPherson, Leopold, Friend, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Bertrand, Brown, and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting "aye," and Commissioner Johnson voting "no."

24. Amendments to the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder project (State Park Drive to Bay/Porter) Consultant Contract and Caltrans Cooperative Agreement and Senate Bill 1 Solutions to Congested Corridors and Local Partnership Program Matching Funds

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report. In response to a Commissioner's question, Ms. Christensen clarified improvements to technology at the Soquel Avenue intersection. Executive Director Guy Preston clarified that a ruling from the superior court on litigation is expected by the end of the calendar year.

In response to Commissioner questions, Senior Transportation Engineer Christensen explained that the Mar Vista overcrossing construction start date has been impacted by efforts to mitigate risk and minimize environmental impacts, described public outreach efforts aimed at the nearby community, and clarified the proposed approach to the environmental review process.

Received public comment from:

Gina Cole

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

1. Amend the professional engineering services contract with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. for the environmental component of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder (Aux/BOS) Project between State Park Drive and Bay/Porter in the amount of \$444,728 for a total amended contract value of \$2,274,638, to add the preliminary engineering and environmental documentation of the bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing at Mar Vista Drive to the project.
2. Amending the Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for the Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED) component of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulders (Aux/BOS) project between State Park

- Drive and Bay/Porter interchanges, to add the bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing at Mar Vista Drive to the project.
3. Amending the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and requesting that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) amend the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) to reprogram funds previously programmed to Mar Vista into the combined project.
 4. Amending the RTC FY 19/20 and 20/21 Budgets accordingly.

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

Commissioner Friend departed the meeting

25. Construction Contract Award – Emergency Bridge Repair of Ballast Timber Trestle at MP 4.87"

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report and provided further explanation of some of the factors considered in evaluating the bids. In response to a Commissioner's question, Ms. Christensen explained access challenges which contribute to the cost of repairs.

Received public comment from:
Brian Peoples

In response to public comment Executive Director Guy Preston provided more background on the decisions of the recommendation. Ms. Christensen added that a contracted construction manager will be overseeing the work.

26. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 04, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference, or at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Room 400, Watsonville, CA if the stay-at-home order is lifted.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,



Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

Brett Garrett

Michael Saint

1-510-***-9459

1-831-***-6811

Derek Wong

Barry Scott

Metro Conference

1-831-***-6080

Sally Arnold

Theresa Rogerson

1-650-***-9242

1-831-***-2664

Guest

Kirk Ance

1-831-***-4205

1-831-***-8987

Manu Koenig

Piet Canin

Wmengistu

Paul Brooks

Donna Murphy

Gina Cole

Sean Hebard

Michael Pisano

Dzaragoza

Lauren