



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, June 4, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference
Community TV ZOOM**

**WEB: <https://zoom.us/j/83234221839>
Dial-in number (US): +1-669-900-6833
Conference ID: 832 3422 1839**

1. Roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand	John Leopold
Sandy Brown	Bruce McPherson
Aurelio Gonzalez	Ed Bottorff
Randy Johnson	Mike Rotkin
Trina Coffman-Gomez	Patrick Mulhearn (alt)
Greg Caput	Aileen Loe (Ex-Officio) (alt)
Andy Schiffrin (alt)	

Staff present:

Luis Mendez	Guy Preston
Yesenia Parra	Shannon Munz
Krista Corwin	Tracy New
Tommy Travers	Rachel Moriconi
Fernanda Dias Pini	Brianna Goodman
Steve Mattas	Grace Blakeslee
Amy Naranjo	Amanda Marino
Ginger Dykaar	

2. Oral communications.

Received Public Comment from:

Dana Bagshaw
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Communication

Kristen Sandel
Joseph Haenlein

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

There was a replacement agenda, a replacement page for item 7, and a handout for item 19.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples

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

Michael Saint

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the May 07, 2020 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
5. Approved draft minutes of the May 21, 2020 Transportation Policy Workshop.

POLICY ITEMS

6. Approved Policy for Capital Projects Implemented by Others within the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor Right-of-way (**Resolution 116-19**)

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved Cooperative Agreements for Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) (**Resolutions 117-19, 118-19, 119-19, and 120-19**)
8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into contracts for vegetation control along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 121-19**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

9. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues.

10. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues.
11. Adopted FY 2020-21 Overall Work Program (**Resolution 122-19**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Accepted Cost-per-ride of Paratransit provided by Santa Cruz Metro and Community Bridges.

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

13. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
14. Accepted correspondence log.
15. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies. *None*
16. Accepted miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues.
 - a. April 30, 2020 letter from Richard James, AICP and Alberta James to Supervisor Friend regarding public street improvements planned near the intersection of Soquel Drive and Aptos Creek Road in Aptos
17. Accepted information items. - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

18. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Johnson responded to public comments regarding the impact of the coronavirus on the community.

Commissioner Brown noted that the City of Santa Cruz recently completed work on enhanced bike lanes on Water Street for which some Measure D funds were used so she thanked Santa Cruz County voters.

Commissioner Leopold relayed the recent action by the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors which allows parking lots to be used for alternate purposes to support reopening of businesses.

Commissioner Bertrand thanked RTC for funds to begin planned bike route improvements on the Brommer extension and reported on the recent actions taken by the Capitola City Council to aid enforcement of social distancing on the beach.

19. Director's Report

Executive Director Preston delivered a statement in support of the Black Lives Matter Movement. Director Preston noted that RTC includes equity as one of the primary analysis criteria for transportation planning, that transportation facilities are used for special events and that the Black Lives Matter organization used West Cliff Drive for a peaceful march.

Director Preston gave updates regarding the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Because of anticipated decreases in Transportation Development Act (TDA) and Measure D revenue, staff will propose a revised FY20/21 budget at the special RTC meeting on June 29, 2020. The RTC office remains closed to the public and all meetings will be conducted by teleconference until further notice.

Governor Newsom's May Revise predicts significant impacts of COVID-19 on the state budget, maintains existing staffing levels to support delivery of currently programmed projects, and assumes that some state revenue losses will be backfilled by a future federal stimulus. Caltrans is analyzing possible impacts to previously programmed State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects. Director Preston summarized transit-related funding opportunities proposed in two federal stimulus bills: The House-approved HEROES Act and the INVEST in America Act, newly introduced.

Other updates: Construction on the timber trestle at Milepost 4.87 on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line has begun with completion expected in July. Supervisor McPherson is hosting a virtual town hall to discuss pedestrian enhancements near the San Lorenzo Valley School Complex on Tuesday, June 16th at 5:00pm. Public participation is encouraged. More details can be found on SCCRTC.org.

Director Preston congratulated Caltrans Deputy Director for District 5 Aileen Loe on her upcoming retirement and thanked her for her years of service as alternate ex-officio to the Regional Transportation Commission. Deputy Director Loe has served in this position since 2007. Commissioners applauded Ms. Loe, noting her professionalism and wishing her well in retirement.

Received public comment from:
Michael Saint

20. Caltrans report

Caltrans Alternate Ex-Officio Aileen Loe communicated her appreciation for the richness of dialogue in Santa Cruz County and thanked the Commission

for their well wishes. Ms. Loe also thanked Commissioner McPherson for hosting the townhall on June 16 about safety projects on Highway 9. Ms. Loe reported that curb ramp work on 41st Avenue and Morrissey is nearly finished, and the pedestrian detours should be resolved by next week. In response to a Commissioner's question, Ms. Loe will report back regarding the start date of the City of Watsonville roundabout at Lakeview and Riverside project.

21. **9:30 a.m. PUBLIC HEARING** Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis - Alternatives Screening Results and Short List of Alternatives

Senior Transportation Planner Ginger Dykaar delivered the staff report and consultant Steve Decker of HDR provided the overview, discussing the evaluation framework, stakeholder outreach for milestone #2, the milestone #2 screening analysis, and the recommended short list of alternatives. Ms. Dykaar shared a timeline of next steps.

In response to Commissioners' questions, Mr. Decker and Ms. Dykaar commented on: the number of survey responses and participation in the online open house; ideas for reaching members of the public who do not have access to computers; outreach to Spanish-speaking and undocumented community members; fiscal feasibility and cost analysis; steps to access Spanish language materials; the validity of right-of-way loss-of-continuity concerns.

In response to a Commissioner's question, Executive Director Guy Preston discussed railbanking as risk mitigation to the right-of-way due to easements and clarified the freight criteria and Roaring Camp portion of the analysis.

In response to a Commissioner's question about Personal Rapid Transit (PRT), Ms. Dykaar and Mr. Decker commented on the cost analysis, potential for Vehicle Miles Travelled (VMT) reduction, and roadway crossing needs. Mr. Decker provided more details on the at-grade PRT system in Morgantown, West Virginia.

Commissioner comments: cost analysis of the alternatives, short listed alternatives that meet the needs of Santa Cruz Metro; preservation of the right-of-way should the bus alternatives move forward, and consideration of elevated PRT systems.

Received public comment from:
Alex Clifford, Santa Cruz Metro
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Brett Garrett

Mark Mesiti-Miller
Kristen Sandel
Micah Posner, Sierra Club Chair
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Matt Farrell, RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee
Natalie Olivas, Regeneration Pajaro Valley Climate Action
Veronica Elsea, RTC Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
Gina Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County
Keith Otto
Rebecca Downing
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail
David Van Brink
Susan Cavalieri, Santa Cruz Climate Action Network
Barry Scott
Brian Friel

Commissioners discussed: TCAA fulfills RTC's commitment to the community; Regeneration Pajaro Valley Climate Action represents members of the Watsonville community; unanimous outcome of the Unified Corridor Study points the RTC in the direction of transit on the corridor; financial feasibility of the short list of alternatives in light of anticipated COVID-19 budget shortfalls; efforts to engage South County residents in TCAA process robust; transit project promotes greater connectivity beyond Santa Cruz County.

The public hearing was closed at 11:16am.

Commissioner Leopold moved the staff recommendation and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded the motion to review and approve the alternatives screening results and draft short list of alternatives for the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis of high-capacity public transit for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The motion carried with Commissioners Rotkin, Gonzalez, Bottorff, McPherson, Leopold, Alternate Mulhearn, Alternate Schiffrin, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Brown, and Bertrand voting "aye," and Commissioner Johnson voting "no."

22. Next meetings

The next Special Meeting of the RTC is scheduled for Monday, June 29, 2020 by teleconference.

The next regular RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 06, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference or at the Scotts Valley City Council Chambers, 1 Civic Center Drive, Scotts Valley, CA.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference or at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Room 400, Watsonville, CA.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

(408)-***-7583

(831)-***-1884

Michael Saint

Joseph Haenlein

(510)-***-8821

432002

Alex Clifford

Brian

Dana Bagshaw

David Van Brink

Eric Child

Heather Adamson,

AMBAG

John Urgo

Keith Otto

Kirk Ance, Community

Bridges/Lift Line

Kristen Sandel

Matt Farrell

Matt Marquez

Metro Conference

Michael Pisano

Nadene Thorne

Nancy

Natalie Olivas

Rebecca Downing

Rob Tidmore

Sally Arnold

Stephen

Trink Praxel

Veronica Elsea

Jeanette

Donna Murphy

Barry Scott

Wondimu Mengistu

Johanna Lighthill

Howard Cohen

Brian Friel

Susan Cavalieri

Virtual SCNA2

Jessica York

Craig Wilson

Brett Garrett

(831)-***-4227

Tony Gregorio

Pam Yonkin

Steve Decker

Matthew Renda

J. Pierce

Micah Posner

(831)-***-3660

(831)-***-4227

Colin Jessop

Ashley

(914)-***-0443

Gina Cole

Jack Brown