



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, June 29, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference
Community TV ZOOM**

WEB: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88030354801>

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

Webinar ID: 880 3035 4801

1. Roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 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

Patrick Mulhearn (alt)

John Olejnik (Ex-Officio) (alt)

Staff present:

Luis Mendez

Yesenia Parra

Krista Corwin

Tommy Travers

Grace Blakeslee

Amy Naranjo

Ginger Dykaar

Steve Mattas (Legal)

Guy Preston

Shannon Munz

Tracy New

Rachel Moriconi

Keith Rayburn

Sarah Christensen

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Sally Arnold
Barry Scott
Michael Saint
Lowell Hurst
Keith Otto
Brian Peoples

In response to comments from a member of the public, Chair McPherson clarified that Commissioner Friend has recused himself from decisions regarding the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) and that his alternate on the Commission is Patrick Mulhearn.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

There was a handout for item 8 and item 16, and a replacement page for item 21.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed with Commissioners Rotkin, Gonzalez, McPherson, Leopold, Caput, Brown, Bertrand, Bottorff, Coffman-Gomez and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye," and Commissioner Johnson voting "no."

Received public comment from:

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

MINUTES

4. Accepted draft minutes of the May 21, 2020 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting.
5. Approved draft minutes of the June 4, 2020 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
6. Accepted draft minutes of the June 8, 2020 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.

POLICY ITEMS

None

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved authorizing Executive Director to enter into a contract for Janitorial Services on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 123-19**)
8. Rejected bid for the repairs to storm damage site 7 on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.
9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an On-Call Engineering contract for Slope Failure Repair near Manresa State Beach along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 124-19**)
10. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Master Agreement for on-call services with Ninyo & Moore to provide soil investigation and environmental engineering services associated with development of the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) and work on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 125-19**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

None

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

11. Approved Amendment to the Regional Transportation Commission's Administrative and Fiscal Policies Section 5 and Human Resource Policies Section 13

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

12. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
13. Accepted correspondence log.
14. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies. *None*
15. Accepted information items. *None*

REGULAR AGENDA

16. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Rotkin announced that Metro service has increased slightly in capacity to address the public need for transit to workplaces and health facilities, and that additional safety precautions have been taken to prevent the spread of COVID-19 on Metro buses.

Commissioner Coffman-Gomez announced that the City of Watsonville unanimously passed a resolution (Handout for item 16) supporting passenger rail service on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and encouraged development to begin in Watsonville.

Commissioner Gonzalez expressed support for the City of Watsonville's resolution.

17. Director's Report

Executive Director Preston delivered a statement of remembrance for three dedicated civil servants who recently passed away: Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Deputy Sgt. Damon Gutzwiller, former Santa Cruz County Analyst Allison Endert, and former Senior Transportation Planner for the RTC Tegan Speiser.

Commissioners Leopold, McPherson, and Rotkin, Deputy Director Luis Mendez, and Senior Transportation Planner Ginger Dykaar offered words honoring the memories of the deceased. The Commission also heard from Sabin Speiser, brother of Tegan, and a moment of silence was observed.

Received public comment from:
Michael Saint

18. Caltrans report

John Olejnik delivered the project updates for Santa Cruz County. In response to a comment from a member of the public, Mr. Olejnik clarified the land use and transportation project deadlines for adopting changes to CEQA guidelines as mandated by SB743.

Mr. Olejnik also reported on joint enhanced litter clean-up efforts by Caltrans and California Highway Patrol. Litter pollutes the environment, posing dangers to waterways and wildlife and increases the risk of wildfires. Caltrans reminds the public to dispose of trash properly.

He also noted that work continues on Highway 9 pedestrian enhancements.

19. Safe on 17 Safety Corridor Program – 2019 Annual Report

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo delivered the staff report.

Commissioners urged drivers to slow down to reduce collisions and encouraged cooperation with Caltrans to move safety projects forward.

In response to a Commissioner's question, Sgt. Troy Vincent noted collision hot spots, safety improvements, and additional enforcement criteria.

In response to a Commissioner's question, Ms. Naranjo provided additional data on average daily trips (ADT).

Received public comment from:

Heidi Owens, Candidate for Town Council in Los Gatos
Michael Saint

In response to questions from members of the public, Sgt. Troy Vincent provided rationale for methods of traffic enforcement; Commissioners discussed findings from an early feasibility study of rail transit on Highway 17 and Deputy Director Luis Mendez provided historical information regarding the question of increasing capacity on Highway 17.

20. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget Amendment

Director of Budget and Finance Tracy New presented the recommendations of the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee and staff.

In response to Commissioner questions, Director New confirmed budget reductions to recipients; clarified the amount remaining in the RTC's reserve and the date of the next Budget & Administration/Personnel meeting scheduled for August 13, 2020.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Michael Saint

Commissioner Leopold moved the staff recommendations and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to:

1. Adopt a resolution approving the proposed FY 2020-21 RTC and Measure D budget amendments as shown on Exhibit A of Attachment 1;
2. Accept the revised Measure D revenue forecast for FY 2020-21 provided by HdL Services;
3. Accept the revised 30-year revenue projection; and
4. Accept the revised 5-year revenue estimates for the Measure D recipients.

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

21. Consultant Contract Award for Preparation of a Right-of-way Boundary Survey & Encroachment Identification along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Carey Pico

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

Barry Scott, Board Member, Coastal Rail Santa Cruz

Heidi Owens

In response to a Commissioner's question, Ms. Blakeslee responded that Phase 1 of segments 8-12 is expected to be completed by the end of this calendar year and Phase 2 will extend into 2021.

In response to comments from a member of the public, Executive Director Guy Preston confirmed that the plan to build a trail along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line is consistent with the RTC's purchase of the right-of-way.

Commissioners discussed: uncertainty about Phase 2 costs; the question of legitimate transportation uses of the right-of-way and directed staff to provide the Commission with a plain-language document to clarify the issue for the public.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to adopt a resolution to:

1. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with RRM Design Group in the amount not to exceed \$183,170 and a term ending on December 31, 2021 to prepare a boundary survey and identify encroachments along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line between the San Lorenzo River and Rio Del Mar Boulevard and aerial imagery for segments 8 through 12 and
2. Amend the Measure D 5-year program of projects for the Active Transportation/MBSST-Rail Trail category to add \$183,170 to the corridor encroachments and maintenance line for this contract; and
3. Amend the FY 2020-21 budget for MBSST to add \$183,170 to the professional services line for this contract.

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

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

RTC Legal Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there would be no report of action taken in closed session. Any changes will be reported in the minutes. Chair McPherson adjourned the open session meeting at 10:48 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

23. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)

Properties: Santa Cruz Branch Railroad Right of Way Line between MP 0.433 and MP 31.39

Agency Negotiators: Guy Preston, Luis Mendez and Steve Mattas

Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, LLC, a subsidiary of Progressive Rail Incorporated and potential interested parties

Under Negotiation: Price and terms for license agreement

24. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4))

Initiation of litigation: One Case

25. Report on closed session

The Commission concluded the closed session at 12.25 p.m.

With regards to the closed session for agenda item 23, the Commission reports that Progressive Rail has notified the Commission of their intention to terminate the ACL agreement with SCCRTC; the Commission provided direction to its negotiating representatives; and the Commission does not intend to consider any alternatives until after the completion of the Transit Corridors Alternative Analysis.

Also, there was no reportable action related to the closed session for agenda item 24.

26. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 06, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 20, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

Barry Scott
Sally Arnold
Michael Saint
1-(831)-***-1847
432002
Aaron Silver
Brian
David Van Brink
Heather Adamson,
AMBAG
Howard Cohen
Johanna Lighthill
Keith Otto
Laura Giorgi
Michael Pisano
Paul Brooks CPUC
Piet Canin
RSA
John Urgo
Mike Sherrod
S140964
Jack Brown
Sabin Speiser
Tara Speiser
Wondimu Mengistu
Sgt. Troy Vincent
Carey Pico
Heidi Owens
Jeanette
Jim Helmer
1-(831)-***-2915
Susan Cavalieri
Theresia Rogerson