



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

(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

FINAL MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14, 2020

NOTE: Teleconference

WEB: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/669699479>

Dial-in number (US): +1 669 900 9128

Conference ID: 669 699 479

1. Roll call

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

Members present:

Kirk Ance, CTSA (Lift Line)

Deborah Benham, 5th District

Janet Edwards, 1st District

Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)

Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA (Community Bridges)

Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3rd. District

Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider – Persons of Limited Means

Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)

John Daugherty, SCMTD (Metro)

Phil Kipnis, 1st District Alternate

Unexcused absences:

RTC staff present:

Grace Blakeslee

Amanda Marino

Amy Naranjo

Ginger Dykaar

Brianna Goodman

Luis Mendez

Guy Preston

Others present:

Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz Metro

Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metro

Sally Arnold, member of the public

Brett Garrett, member of the public

2. Introductions

3. Oral communications

Member Michael Pisano inquired about construction of K-rail on State Route (Highway) 1 in Santa Cruz County. Guy Preston, RTC Executive Director, communicated that K-rail along HWY 1 is a part of a CALTRANS project to accommodate the resurfacing of HWY 1 to meet safety standards.

Member Lisa Berkowitz announced that the Community Bridges dining sites in Santa Cruz serving people over the age of 60 has been closed since March 16th, 2020. Meals on Wheels changed the eligibility of requirements for home deliveries for people over the age of 60.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Chair Veronica Elsea clarified that item # 12, Appointment of Chair includes appointment of vice chair as shown on the staff report.

None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved minutes from February 11, 2020

A motion (Pisano/Lamb) was made to approve the February 11, 2020 minutes. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Caroline Lamb, John Daugherty, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor. Tara Ireland was not present for this vote.

6. Received Transportation Development Act Revenues Report

7. Received RTC Meeting Highlights

8. Received Information Items

- a. The Senior & Disability Pedestrian Safety Workgroup of the San Francisco Vision Zero Coalition "Getting to the Curb A Guide to Building Protected Bike Lanes That Work for Pedestrians" (2019)
- b. Letter from Caltrans District 5 to RTC Regarding Purchase of Electric Vehicles as part of the FTA Section 5310 Program
- c. Elaine Ingalls, "Santa Cruz Metro in Crosshairs of Proposed Legislation" Santa Cruz Sentinel, March 1, 2020

9. Accepted correspondence from the public

10. Pedestrian Hazard Report

A motion (Ance/Edwards) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion

passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Caroline Lamb, John Daugherty, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor. Tara Ireland was not present for this vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Received Program Updates

a. Volunteer Center – COVID 19 Update

Member Tara Ireland communicated the impacts of COVID-19 on the Volunteer Center's transportation services and the development of the Grocery Shopper Program.

b. Community Bridges – COVID 19 Update

Member Kirk Ance communicated the impacts of COVID-19 on Community Bridge's transportation services. Lift Line clients who need food delivery are receiving home-delivered meals.

c. Santa Cruz Metro – COVID 19 Update

Wondimu Mengistu representing Santa Cruz Metro communicated the impacts of COVID-19 on Metro's transportation services. Santa Cruz Metro is currently running the weekend service schedule seven days a week.

d. SCCRTC– COVID 19 Update

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated that RTC is in the process of projecting reductions in sales tax revenue for Measure D and TDA funding due to COVID-19 and announced that the Measure D 5-year plan update is currently postponed.

Luis Mendez, RTC Deputy Director, provided information regarding potential TDA funding impacts on TDA recipients due to COVID-19.

e. Special Projects

Chair Veronica Elsea provided an update on the work status of the Pedestrian ad-hoc committee discussing intersection design. Due to COVID-19 the committee postponed a meeting but will be able to provide an update on the work being done at the next E&D TAC meeting.

No action taken.

12. Appointment of Chair (and Vice Chair)

A motion (Pisano/Edwards) was made to elect Veronica Elsea as Chair for a one-year term. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance,

Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, John Daugherty, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor.

A motion (Pisano/Berkowitz) was made to elect Janet Edwards as Vice Chair for a one-year term. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, John Daugherty, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor.

13. 2020 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, explained that each year the E&D TAC voluntarily prepares a list of unmet paratransit and transit needs in Santa Cruz County, referred to as the Unmet Needs List. The RTC considers adoption of the final Unmet Needs List at the May RTC meeting.

Committee members discussed revisions to the Unmet Needs List including the need to increase early morning and late-night transit service and increase weekend service to downtown centers and other commercial centers in Santa Cruz County. The committee also identified the need to consider pedestrian patterns when planning transit routes.

A motion (Kipnis/Pisano) was made to revise the Draft 2020 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List to reflect the comments made by E&D TAC committee members and recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission adopt the Final 2020 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs list following a public hearing on May 7, 2020. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, John Daugherty, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor.

14. Transportation Development Act Claim for Volunteer Center

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated the staff recommendation for the TDA claim for the Volunteer Center. Tara Ireland, Volunteer Center, provided an overview of the Volunteer Center TDA claim.

Luis Mendez, RTC Deputy Director explained that the Volunteer Center's request for funding for a new Grocery Shopper Program, and for early allocation of the TDA funds in May is possible given the COVID-19 circumstances.

A motion (Daugherty/Lamb) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the Volunteer Center's TDA claim, contingent upon approval by the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, John Daugherty, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor.

15. Transportation Act Claim for Community Bridges

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated the staff recommendation

for the TDA/STA claim for Community Bridges. Kirk Ance, Community Bridges, provided an overview of the Community Bridges TDA/STA claim.

A motion (Kipnis/Edwards) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve Community Bridges' TDA claim, contingent upon approval by the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant. The motion passed with members Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, John Daugherty, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor. Members Kirk Ance and Lisa Berkowitz abstained from the vote.

16. Transportation Act Claim for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated the staff recommendation for the TDA/STA claim for Santa Cruz Metro. Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz Metro, provided an overview of the Metro TDA/STA claim.

Committee Member Deborah Benham inquired about using "Clipper Cards" for HWY 17 mobile ticketing. Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metro, communicated that the "Clipper Card" is a project of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission. Santa Cruz Metro has previously discussed this option with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and allowing for use of the Clipper Card on the HWY 17 express would be at the discretion of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission Committee members further conversed about this possibility.

A motion (Kipnis/Edwards) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve Metro's TDA claim. The motion passed with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor. Member John Daugherty abstained from the vote.

17. Transportation Development Act Claim for the Health Services Agency for CTSC and Ride N Stride Program

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated the staff recommendation for the TDA/STA claim for the HSA. Committee members discussed the benefits of the CTSC and Ride N Stride Programs.

A motion (Edwards/Lamb) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve HSA's TDA claim. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, John Daugherty, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor.

18. Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis – Alternatives Screening Results and Short List of Alternatives

Ginger Dykaar, RTC Senior Transportation Planner, presented the TCAA alternative screening results and described each alternative for high capacity public transit on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line to be considered for further analysis.

Committee members discussed the potential alternatives asking questions regarding

accessibility, safety, and connectivity. Members of the public commented on COVID-19 impacts on the alternatives and risks to property ownership if a rail alternative is not selected.

A motion (Lamb/Benham) was made to recommend the Regional Transportation Commission consider that the E&D TAC prefers the rail line alternatives. The motion passed with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Michael Pisano, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Phil Kipnis, voting in favor. Member John Daugherty voted against.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 4:15 pm

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 1:30 p.m. at the Cabrillo College's Watsonville Center.

NOTE: Teleconference may be necessary due to COVID-19.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Marino, Staff