



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 03, 2020  
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference  
Community TV ZOOM**

**Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89674106616>**

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

**Webinar ID: 896 7410 6616**

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

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

Staff present:

Luis Mendez	Guy Preston
Yesenia Parra	Rachel Moriconi
Krista Corwin	Amanda Marino
Amy Naranjo	Ginger Dykaar
Grace Blakeslee	Sarah Christensen
Shannon Munz	Steven Mattas (Legal Counsel)
Tommy Travers	Tracy New
Brianna Goodman	Fernanda Dias Pini

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail  
Carey Pico  
Keith Otto  
Ben Vernazza  
Michael Saint  
Heidi Owens  
Barry Scott

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

There were handouts for items 2, 20, & 22 and replacement pages for page 3 of the agenda and items 22 and 24.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Received public comment from:

Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail  
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

**MINUTES**

4. Accepted draft minutes of the April 14, 2020 Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
5. Approved draft minutes of the August 06, 2020 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
6. Accepted draft minutes of the August 10, 2020 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
7. Accepted draft minutes of the August 20, 2020 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items.*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Industrial Railways Company for drainage ditch maintenance along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor. (**Resolution 4-21**)
9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and execute an agreement with a consultant in an amount not to exceed \$44,425 and a term ending on February 28, 2021 to conduct Wayfinding and Interpretive Sign Services for the North Coast Rail Trail. (**Resolution 5-21**)
10. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Lewis Tree Service Inc. for a total amount not to exceed \$37,200 for tree maintenance for a period of 16 months to address tree removal and pruning needs along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail corridor. (**Resolution 6-21**)

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

11. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
12. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues
13. Approved City of Watsonville Article 8 Transportation Development Act Claim (**Resolution 7-21**)

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

*No consent items.*

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
15. Accepted correspondence log.
16. Accepted letters from RTC board, committees and staff to other agencies.
  - a. August 21, 2020 Letter from SCCRTC to Darwin Moosavi, Deputy Secretary of the California State Transportation Agency

17. Accept miscellaneous written comments from the public on RTC projects and transportation issues. - *none*
18. Accept information items. - *none*

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

19. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Coffman Gomez directed staff to give an update in collaboration with the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC) at the next RTC meeting on the collaborative efforts between the two agencies on rail connectivity in South County.

20. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston gave an update on the Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Improvements between Freedom Boulevard and State Park Drive and noted that the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 project is scheduled to be released September 17, 2020 and includes a scoping online open house to collect comments from agencies and members of the public through October 16, 2020. Instructions for participation will be posted to [sccrtc.org](http://sccrtc.org).

Executive Director Preston noted the damage to infrastructure caused by the CZU Complex fire and that Federal funding is available to affected individuals in Santa Cruz County. The RTC did not sustain any damage to the rail line, while Santa Cruz County reported significant effects on infrastructure with repair work beginning this week.

21. Caltrans Report

The newly-appointed Deputy Director for District 5, Scott Eades, introduced himself to the Commission and reported on the progress of Santa Cruz County projects.

Mr. Eades reported on road closures and openings resulting from the CZU fires and plans to obtain funding to expedite emergency repair projects. Efforts to provide enhancements to pedestrian facilities on Highway 9 between Graham Hill Road and the San Lorenzo Valley school complex and the challenges of this area were highlighted. Construction is estimated to begin in 2024. Construction on crosswalk enhancements on Marchant Street

and Highway 152 is scheduled to begin in October.

Commissioners discussed the operational trade-offs of pedestrian enhancement projects and thanked Caltrans for continuing work on the areas of concern; Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin requested that Caltrans follow up with Commissioner Coonerty's office regarding efforts to stabilize the area of Liddell Bluff damaged by fires. Mr. Eades also gave an update on debris clean-up on the side of Highway 1 and Watsonville improvements.

Commissioner McPherson experienced technical difficulties and Commissioner Gonzalez took over as vice-chair at 10:39 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Lowell Hurst, Watsonville City Council  
Ben Vernazza  
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

22. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Measure D: Five-Year Program of Projects for Regional Projects and Community Bridges Lift Line.

Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: Measure D revenue projection updates; fundraising and design plan for the Highway 17 wildlife crossing; post-COVID decreases in transit ridership and revenue, integration of this data into the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis, and impacts on TCAA budget and timeline; funding for implementation of a remedial action agreement between the RTC and the Santa Cruz County Health Department to ensure public safety in the event of hazards resulting from RTC projects on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line; reductions in some project budgets and options to reprogram budgets as future grant opportunities are made available.

The public hearing opened at 10:09 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Ben Vernazza  
Mark Mesiti-Miller  
Barry Scott  
Michael Saint

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

1. Approve the Fiscal Years (FY) 2020/2021-2024/2025 five-year programs of projects for Measure D regional investment categories and projects:

Active Transportation, Highway Corridors, Rail Corridor, the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing and San Lorenzo Valley-Highway 9 Corridor Improvements (Exhibits A through E), and for Community Bridges-Lift Line (Exhibit F).

2. Amend the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020/21 RTC budget to reflect the updated Measure D "5-year programs of projects"; and

3. Direct staff to use Measure D funds to leverage other grants and implement projects allocated funds in the Measure D 5-year programs of projects.

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

### 23. TIG/m Rail Vehicle Demonstration

Deputy Director Luis Mendez delivered the staff report and TIG/m representatives Mark Johannessen and Brad Read delivered a video presentation of the rail vehicle, viewable at [santacruzstreetcar.org](http://santacruzstreetcar.org). Mr. Johannessen also presented information on a physical demonstration proposed for Spring 2021.

Commissioner McPherson resumed chairing the meeting at 10:56 a.m.

Commissioners discussed: bicycle capacity of TIG/m's vehicles; affordability of the vehicles; compatibility of light rail with freight; coupling of the rail cars; fuel sources and emissions; estimated annual costs of operations and maintenance; use of TIG/m technology in Doha, Qatar.

#### Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Michael Saint

Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail

Jack Brown

Barry Scott

Matt Ferrell

Ben Vernazza

### 24. Project List for the 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: plan to approve the constrained list in February 2021; addition of a new Harkins Slough bridge to connect Harkin Slough to Buena Vista labor camp, pedestrian facilities at Spreckles Drive; process by

which members of the public may submit project ideas; preparation of a revenue-constrained list to be included in EIR; EIR to be developed in the Spring and scheduled for release at the end of 2021; making the MBSST bridge between Santa Cruz County and Monterey County a higher priority; pedestrian enhancements at SB Riverside Drive turnoff.

Commissioners McPherson and Leopold departed the meeting and Commissioner Gonzalez took over as vice-chair at 11:44 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Heather Adamson

Lowell Hurst

Ben Vernazza

Bob Culbertson

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to:

1. Identify any additional projects or gaps in the transportation system that should be considered for the 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP);
2. Approve the preliminary draft project list (Attachment 1) for the 2045 Santa Cruz County RTP;
3. Direct staff to submit the approved project list to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) for inclusion in the project list for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy;
4. Adding Harkins Slough bridge to connect to Harkins Slough to Buena Vista Labor camp, pedestrian facilities at Spreckles Drive
5. Make the MBSST bridge between Santa Cruz County and Monterey County a higher priority
6. Include pedestrian enhancements at South Bound Riverside Drive turn off

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

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting entered into closed session at 11:43 a.m.

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

### **OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in open session at 12:16. RTC Counsel Steve Mattas reported that the Commission provided direction to the agency negotiators.

26. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 01, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra  
Administrative Services Officer



Attendees:

Ben  
Brian (Trail Now)  
Carey Pico  
Keith Otto  
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail  
1-831-\*\*\*-6080  
Alex Clifford  
Ames Monahan  
Barry Scott  
Charlotte Dorsey  
Cheryl Childs – Mark Thomas  
Donna Murphy  
Daniel Townsend  
David Van Brink  
Dianne D  
Hannah Davis  
Heather Adamson, AMBAG  
Jack Brown  
Jack Carroll  
James Sandoval  
Jeanette  
Jim Brewer  
Jocelyn  
Joe  
Johanna Lighthill  
John Uργο  
Lani Egbert  
Linda Wilshusen  
Mark Mesiti-Miller  
Martha Dadala  
Matt Farrell  
Michael Pisano  
Michael Saint  
Nadene Thorne  
Randy Johnson  
Pauline Seales  
Steven Schieffer  
Sue Kaufmann  
Tina  
LD Freitas, Seacliff  
Susan Cavaliere  
Bob Culbertson  
Bruce Sawhill  
Carl

Gina Cole  
Kate Giberson  
Dandion1  
Trink Praxel  
Rarmenda  
Doug Deaver  
David Dean  
Cory Caletti  
1-831-\*\*\*-6051

Panelists:

Brad Read  
Mark Johannessen  
Murray Fontes  
Robert Tidmore  
Walter Von Tagen