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

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

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 Schiffri 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. 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 Harkin’s Slough bridge to connect to Harkin’s 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 Urgo
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 Cavalieri
Bob Culbertson
Bruce Sawhill
Carl

Panelists:
Gina Cole
Kate Giberson
Dandion1
Trink Praxel
Rarmenda
Doug Deaver
David Dean
Cory Caletti
1-831-***-6051
Brad Read
Mark Johannessen
Murray Fontes
Robert Tidmore
Walter Von Tagen