



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, October 01, 2020
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference
Community TV ZOOM**

**Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88132729410>
Dial-in number (US): +1 (669) 900-6833
Webinar ID: 881 3272 9410**

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Donna Lind (Alt)	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 (RTC Counsel)
Tommy Travers	Tracy New
Brianna Goodman	

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Carey Pico
Keith Otto
Brian Peoples
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Michael Saint
Barry Scott

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

There was a handout for item 16, a replacement page for the agenda, and a replacement page for item 10. Closed session item 21 became item 22 and item 22 became item 21. Closed session item 23 was removed from the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Gonzalez, Bottorff, McPherson, Leopold, Caput, Coffman-Gomez, Johnson, Brown, Bertrand, and Commissioner Alternates Lind, 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 August 11, 2020 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.
5. Approved draft minutes of the September 03, 2020 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
6. Accepted draft minutes of the September 17, 2020 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting.

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items.

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to execute a construction contract with Precision Grading, Inc. for repairs to storm damage sites 4 and 6 on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 9-21**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

10. Approved the Regional Transportation Commission meeting schedule for 2021.
11. Approved the California Public Employee's Retirement System (CalPERS) health benefit contribution rates for plan year 2021. (**Resolution 10-21 and Resolution 11-21**)

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

12. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
13. Accepted correspondence log.
14. Accepted letters from RTC board, committees and staff to other agencies.

REGULAR AGENDA

15. Commissioner reports - *none*
16. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston announced that the RTC is currently accepting public input on two projects via the SCCRTC website, namely the Mar Vista Overcrossing project and the Highway 1 Freedom to State Park Auxiliary Lanes/Bus on Shoulders/Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail project.

Mr. Preston also gave an update on the Coastal Rail Trail, highlighting an informational video produced by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County; the completion of the Bike Wayfinding Signage Project; an emergency contract for repairs on the Antonelli Trestle Railroad Bridge; revisions to the schedule of the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis; the Governor's Executive Order N-79-20; the passage of SB288; and updates on the Federal Transportation (FAST) Act and the Highway Trust Fund.

Commissioners discussed: funding discussions at the state level following passage of SB288; benefit of complete bike signage project; outlook of N-79-20 on car sales throughout country.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples

Keith Otto

Michael Saint

17. Caltrans Report

Caltrans Deputy Director for District 5 Scott Eades delivered the Santa Cruz County project updates and reported on: a year-long study of wrong-way drivers underway in San Diego; the public comment period for the California Transportation Plan for 2050 closes October 22; Caltrans is working to process emergency funds to address fire damage in Santa Cruz County.

Commissioners discussed: fatality caused by wrong-way driving in Santa Cruz; request for flashing beacon at Carr Street and East Beach Street in Watsonville; request for Caltrans to work with property owners along Highway 9 to make the highway a more effective fire barrier.

18. Santa Cruz County and Monterey County Rail Network Integration Studies

Senior Transportation Planner Ginger Dykaar delivered the staff report and introduced Debbie Hale, the Executive Director of the Transportation Agency of Monterey County (TAMC). TAMC Principal Planner Christina Watson delivered the Rail Network Integration Study presentation.

Commissioners discussed: timeline and funding for Gilroy station planning and construction phases; looking forward to complete rail network integration; barriers to implementing freight along with passenger rail service; options for using rail transportation to travel from Scotts Valley to San Luis Obispo taking into account time, expense, and convenience as it compares to driving; pilot program for statewide integrated one-ticket

experience; Caltrain funding; time efficiency of travel by electric vehicle in the future; affordability of rail transit compared to driving personal vehicle; renewed application of transportation by rail; modernized station at Pajaro will have electric vehicle charging stations and regional bus facilities; growing population leads to increased demand for housing and transit.

Received public comment from:

Lowell Hurst, Watsonville City Councilmember

Brian Peoples

Sally Arnold

Gina Cole

Barry Scott

Michael Saint

19. North Coast Rail Trail – State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) Operating Agreement

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: scheduling of preconstruction and construction activities and completion of the various segments; appreciation for staff and for State Parks representatives for their work on the agreement

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples

Sally Arnold

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Operating Agreement with the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) for the purposes of developing and operating portions of the North Coast Rail Trail on property owned by State Parks.

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

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

Open session ended at 10:57 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting entered into closed session at 11:00 a.m.

21. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)
Properties: 2505 Chanticleer Avenue (APN No. 029-013-54), Santa Cruz; 2460 17th Ave. #A (APN Nos. 029-321001 and 029-321-02), Santa Cruz; 2601 Chanticleer Ave (APN No. 025-161-24), Santa Cruz; and 2606/2610 Chanticleer Ave (APN Nos. 025-171-19, 20, 21, 22, 23), Santa Cruz
Agency Negotiators: Guy Preston, Luis Mendez, and Sarah Christensen
Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC, County of Santa Cruz, Soquel Creek Water District, Santa Cruz Freeholders, Santa Cruz SPCA and Humane Society, and Murchison/Taylor Owners Association
Under Negotiation: Price and terms for Purchase of Temporary and Permanent Easements
22. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(2))
Significant Exposure to Litigation – Two Cases

OPEN SESSION

The meeting reconvened in open session at 11:49 a.m.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there was no reportable action from the anticipated litigation item. Mr. Mattas also reported that the Commission provided direction on an 11-1 vote to authorize the Executive Director to work with the County to make offers on the properties associated with the Highway 1/Bus-on-Shoulder/Chanticleer Ave overcrossing project.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

23. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 05, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 19, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

Christina Watson
Debbie Hale
Lowell Hurst
Gine Johnson
Sheila Brannon
Keith Otto
Carey Pico
1-831-***-6000
Ben Vernazza CPA/PFS
Emily Chorba
Gustavo Alfaro
Brian (Trail Now)
Hannah Davis
Johanna Lighthill
Gina Cole
Grace Voss
John Urgo
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Michael Pisano
Michael Saint
Paul Hierling
Sally Arnold, FORT
Shannon Simonds
Wondimu Mengistu
Barry Scott
Paul Goryl
Tim Brattan
Tina
Jessica York