



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, November 05, 2020  
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference  
Community TV Zoom**

**Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85749729802>**

**Dial-in: 1 669 900 6833**

**Webinar ID: 857 4972 9802**

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Donna Lind (Alt)

Aurelio Gonzalez

Ed Bottorff

Bruce McPherson

Dave Reid (Alt)

Patrick Mulhearn (Alt)

Andy Schiffrin (Alt)

Greg Caput

Trina Coffman-Gomez

Randy Johnson

Sandy Brown

Jacques Bertrand

Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio)

Staff present:

Guy Preston

Luis Mendez

Fernanda Dias Pini

Rachel Moriconi

Krista Corwin

Yesenia Parra

Grace Blakeslee

Ginger Dykaar

Sarah Christensen

Shannon Munz

Tracy New

Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Ben Vernazza  
Bud Colligan  
Keith Otto  
Barry Scott  
Ryan Sarnataro

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

There were handouts for items 15 and 17, replacement pages for the agenda, items 5 and 22, and additional replacement pages and handouts for item 17.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Received public comment from:

Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail

**MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the October 01, 2020 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
5. Accepted draft minutes of the October 08, 2020 Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee meeting.

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items.*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

6. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Cooperative Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for Artwork Installations along the Coastal Rail Trail segments of the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) within the City of Santa Cruz (**Resolution 13-21**)
7. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to execute a construction contract with Top Tier Grading for repairs to storm damage site 3 on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 14-21**)

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

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

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

*No consent items.*

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

10. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
11. Accepted correspondence log.
12. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies -*none*
13. Accepted information items - *none*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

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

Executive Director Guy Preston reported on the upcoming circulation of the draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR/EA) for the Highway 1 (Bay

Avenue/Porter Street to State Park Drive) Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder project. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the North Coast Rail Trail Project is available now on the Federal Highway Administration's website (<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/projects/ca/monterey-bay-1>) and is open for public comment until November 25, 2020. A virtual ribbon cutting ceremony for Segment 7, Phase I of the Coastal Rail Trail is planned for early December. Public input is sought for Milestone 3 of the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (TCAA); community members may visit the online open house on the RTC website and participate in live chat sessions with RTC planners on November 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. Construction on sites 1 and 2 of the 2017 storm damage repair projects is complete; photos provided by handout show the re-established culverts and drainage improvements at the two sites. Chair McPherson has formed a subcommittee to recommend the RTC Chair and Vice-Chair for 2021; the subcommittee (Commissioners Bottorff and Coffman-Gomez) will bring its recommendation to the next RTC meeting for consideration.

#### 16. Caltrans Report

Caltrans Deputy District Director Scott Eades delivered the Santa Cruz County project updates and reported on Caltrans' upcoming Innovation Expo, the first of its kind. Registration is free and the event will take place entirely online during the week of November 16-20, 2020. For more information, visit [caltransinnovationexpo.com](http://caltransinnovationexpo.com). The Monterey-Salinas Transit District has received a \$8.4 million Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) loan to finance a 14,000 square foot out-county operations and maintenance facility in King City. Caltrans continues litter removal following a pause due to COVID-19 concerns. So far, crews have removed 287,000 cubic yards of litter, enough to fill 18,000 garbage trucks.

Executive Director Guy Preston added that RTC Sr. Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen will deliver a presentation on the Highway 1/Bus-on-Shoulder projects at the Caltrans Innovation Expo.

Commissioners thanked Caltrans for their work on the Marchant street crosswalk in Watsonville.

Received public comment from:

Ben Vernazza

#### 17. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Resolutions of Necessity for North Coast Rail Trail Project Segment 5

The public hearing opened at 9:31 a.m. Sr. Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee presented the staff report. RTC General Counsel Steve Mattas added further clarity to the process of eminent domain proceedings.

In response to commissioners' questions, Ms. Blakeslee provided a status update on the additional funding needs for phase two construction and Mr. Mattas described the tax benefits available to owners whose property is acquired through the eminent domain process. Mr. Mattas and Deputy Director Luis Mendez provided background information on the history of the RTC's interest in the properties.

Commissioners discussed: safety improvements incorporated into the design and budget of the Davenport parking lot and crosswalk projects; rough cost of acquisitions.

Received public comment from:

Carey Pico  
Ben Vernazza  
Barry Scott  
Keith Otto  
Marty Demare  
Brian Peoples  
Fay Levinson  
David van Brink  
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail  
Stephen Slade, Land Trust Santa Cruz County

The public hearing closed at 10:27 a.m.

Commissioners discussed: multi-modal rail trail access for seniors, individuals with disabilities, commuters, recreational bicyclists and pedestrians; committed federal funding from the Land Trust; unmitigatable environmental effects of trail-only option reviewed in EIR; advantages of eminent domain proceedings for the property owners; re-emphasized intention to increase access to the coastal trail; rail transportation embedded into the resolutions of necessity; action from a utilitarian perspective would concentrate transit efforts in South County; transportation blight in North Coast and South County; current action enables future optimization of rail trail; generosity of Land Trust and cooperation of property owners enables forward movement of the trail project; current actions realize initial vision of Proposition 116 funding application; eminent domain intertwined with continued efforts to implement rail transit throughout the county; resources obtained thanks to willingness to look into rail transit in the future; appreciation for the work of RTC staff; current actions do not commit RTC to rail transit in Davenport in the future; preservation of rail for both a trail and

potential public transit; greatest good for greatest number is the operating principle; projects part of RTC master plan.

After the Commission:

1. Received a presentation on the North Coast Rail Trail property acquisition process;
2. Received public testimony from the Property Owner(s) and others; and
3. Conducted a hearing on the Resolutions of Necessity (Attachments 1-5) to determine: whether the public interest and necessity require the proposed North Coast Rail Trail Project; whether said Project is planned or located in the manner that will be most compatible with the greatest public good and least private injury; whether the proposed property acquisitions are necessary for said Project; whether the offer required by Government Code section 7267.2 was made to all owners of record; and, whether to authorize the acquisition of fee simple interests and drainage easements from portions of the properties located at:
  - o 5515 Coast Road, Santa Cruz, California (drainage easements) (APN: 059-023-12)
  - o 3500 Highway 1, Davenport, California (APN: 058-121-04)
  - o Highway 1 & Scaroni Road, Santa Cruz, California (APN: 059-023-09)
  - o Scaroni Road, Santa Cruz, California (APN: 059-023-10)
  - o Portions of Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, Santa Cruz, California (APNs: 058-072-03; 058-121-03; 059-012-05; 059-023-10; 059-131-08)

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded approval of the resolution of necessity for property at 5515 Coast Road, Santa Cruz, CA included with Attachment 1 to the written staff report for this item.

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

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded approval of the resolution of necessity for property located at 3500 Highway 1, Davenport, California (APN: 058-121-04) included with Attachment 2 to the written staff report for this item.

The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, McPherson, Bottorff, Gonzalez, and Commissioner Alternates

Schiffirin, Mulhearn, Reid, and Lind voting "aye," and Commissioner Johnson voting "no."

Commissioner Alternate Schiffirin moved and Commissioner Coffman-Gomez seconded approval of the resolution of necessity for property located at Highway 1 & Scaroni Road, Santa Cruz, California (APN: 059-023-09) included with Attachment 3 to the written staff report for this item.

The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, McPherson, Bottorff, Gonzalez, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffirin, Mulhearn, Reid, and Lind voting "aye," and Commissioner Johnson voting "no."

Commissioner Alternate Schiffirin moved and Commissioner Coffman-Gomez seconded approval of the resolution of necessity for property located at Scaroni Road, Santa Cruz, California (APN: 059-023-10) included with Attachment 4 to the written staff report for this item.

The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, McPherson, Bottorff, Gonzalez, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffirin, Mulhearn, Reid, and Lind voting "aye," and Commissioner Johnson voting "no."

Commissioner Alternate Schiffirin moved and Commissioner Bottorff seconded approval of the resolution of necessity for property located at portions of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, Santa Cruz, California (APNs:058-072-03; 058-121-03; 059-012-05; 059-023-10; 059-131-08) included with Attachment 5 to the written staff report for this item.

The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Coffman-Gomez, Caput, McPherson, Bottorff, Gonzalez, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffirin, Mulhearn, Reid, and Lind voting "aye," and Commissioner Johnson voting "no."

#### 18. Update from City of Watsonville Public Works Department Staff

Items 18 was taken after item 1.

Principal Engineer of Public Works for the City of Watsonville Murray Fontes delivered updates on the bicycle and pedestrian safety and outreach projects including the Bike Smart, Walk Smart program and the Earn-a-Bike program; crosswalk improvements at Marchant street near Watsonville High School; regional projects including construction of the rail trail.

Commissioners expressed appreciation for the City of Watsonville, Caltrans, and RTC staff for working collectively on the projects and making progress

on the rail trail segments; and re-emphasized the Vision Zero goal. No action was taken.

#### 19. 2020 Legislative Updates

Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner delivered the staff report and Chris Giglio, Legislative Assistant from Capital Edge presented the Federal Update Memorandum.

In response to commissioners' questions, Mr. Giglio discussed barriers to obtaining FEMA funds due to disaster designation procedures (i.e. to address concerns of debris-flow and/or diminished air quality resulting from wildfires); availability of FEMA funds for hazard mitigation (i.e. improving highway infrastructure to stop fires and to accommodate emergency services and evacuation); Ms. Moriconi discussed partnering for resiliency planning.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Ben Vernazza

Commissioners discussed the likelihood of federal funds for various transportation projects.

#### 20. Amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget and Work Program

Director of Budget and Finance Tracy New delivered the staff report. Commissioners requested more information on COVID-impacted revenue streams.

Received public comment from:

Ben Vernazza

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Gonzalez seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Adopt the attached resolution (Attachment 1) approving the proposed amended fiscal year (FY) 2020-21 Budget, Work Program, Salary Schedule, and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (Exhibits A and B to Attachment 1);
2. Accept the September 2020 Measure D Economic Forecast from HdL Companies (Attachment 2);
3. Accept the revised Measure D revenue three year forecast for FY 2020-21 through FY 2022-23 provided by HdL Companies (Attachment 3); and



4. Accept the Calendar Year 2020 Quarter 2 (FY2020 Quarter 4, April 2020-June 2020) Sales Tax Update from HdL Companies (Attachment 4).

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

#### 21. Organizational Assessment Consultant Contract

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the staff report.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve a resolution authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Regional Government Services (RGS) to perform an Organizational Assessment of the RTC.

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

#### 22. Highway 1 Bay-Porter/State Park Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project Contract Amendment with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. for the Final Design Phase

Sr. Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report.

#### Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Ben Vernazza

In response to a Commissioner's question, Ms. Christensen discussed active transportation recommendations related to the proposed development of a nearby medical office building. The Commission directed staff to coordinate with Santa Cruz County Public Works Director Matt Machado on infrastructure improvements related to that project.

Commissioner Coffman-Gomez made a motion and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Approve a resolution authorizing an amendment to the professional engineering services contract with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. (TP2047-01) for the Plans, Specifications and Estimates (PS&E) component of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project between Bay Avenue/Porter Street and State Park Drive interchanges.

2. Approve the amendment to the Measure D 5-year plan for Highway Corridors as shown on Attachment 2 of the staff report.

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

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

Open session ended at 12:00 p.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

The meeting entered into closed session at 12:10 p.m.

24. Conference with Labor Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)

Employee Organizations: CORE and RAMM

Agency Designated Representative: Guy Preston (CORE and RAMM) and Yesenia Parra (CORE)

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

Properties: Santa Cruz County Branch Railway (Tracts I and II)

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: Terms for License Agreement

26. Reviewed Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957) Position: Executive Director

## **OPEN SESSION**

The meeting reconvened in open session at 1:18 p.m. Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra communicated that there was no reportable action from the closed sessions.

The meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m.

### 27. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 03, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 17, 2020 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra  
Administrative Services Officer

### Attendees:

(831)-\*\*\*-8987

(831)-\*\*\*-6080

Barry Scott

Ben Vernazza

Brandon Hemming

Brian (Trail Now)

Bud Colligan

Carey Pico

Cory Caletti

David van Brink

Fay Levinson

Fernanda Dias Pini

Gina Cole

Gustavo Alfaro

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

Jeanette

JL

John Urgo

Keith Otto

Kim Anderson

Kirk Ance

Mary Demare

Mrjes

Rosemary Sarka

Ryan Sarnataro

Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail

Sophia Selivanoff, RGS

Stephen Slade

Susan Butenhoff

Lowell Hurst