



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, March 04, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference
Community TV Zoom**

Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85653381847>

Dial-in: 1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 856 5338 1847

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Aurelio Gonzalez	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Sandy Brown	Randy Johnson
Kristen Petersen	Greg Caput
Patrick Mulhearn (Alt)	Mike Rotkin
Jacques Bertrand	Bruce McPherson
Eduardo Montesino	Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio)
Manu Koenig	Lowell Hurst (Alt)

Staff present:

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

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples
Michael Saint
Barry Scott
Carey Pico
Faina Segal

Commissioner Montesino joined the meeting

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

There was a replacement page for the agenda noting a recent appointment to the SCCRTC, and replacement pages for item 4.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Gonzalez, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye."

In response to public comment, Commissioners discussed avenues by which to pursue the addition of accessible parking spaces in the City of Santa Cruz near the intersection of Pacific Avenue and Front Street.

Received public comment from:

Janet Edwards

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the February 04, 2021 Regional Transportation Commission meeting.
5. Accepted draft minutes of the February 08, 2021 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
6. Accepted draft minutes of the February 09, 2021 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items.

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved City of Santa Cruz FY 20-21 Article 8 Transportation Development Act Claim for \$50,000 for the Pacific Ave. Sidewalk Project and \$40,000 for the Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements Projects (**Resolution 32-21**)
8. Approved an amendment to the contract with the County of Santa Cruz for Right of Way for the Highway 1 41st Avenue to Soquel Drive Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project Amendment (**Resolution 33-21**)
9. Approved new committee member appointments to the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
10. Approved Bicycle Advisory Committee Membership Appointments

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

11. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
12. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

No consent items.

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

13. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
14. Accepted correspondence log.
15. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
 - a. January 22, 2021 Letter from Guy Preston to Derek Timm, Mayor, supporting the Scotts Valley Active Transportation Plan
16. Accepted information items. – *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

17. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Bertrand requested that staff follow up on concerns about the viability and limits of the trestle at Soquel Creek for rail transit.

Commissioner Rotkin commented that a photo of a freight train wreck that was shared during oral communications was misleading to the public.

18. Committee Appointments

Chair Gonzalez announced the following appointments:

Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee

Manu Koenig	County of Santa Cruz, 1 st District
Zach Friend	County of Santa Cruz, 2 nd District
Ryan Coonerty	County of Santa Cruz, 3 rd District
Greg Caput	County of Santa Cruz, 4 th District
Bruce McPherson	County of Santa Cruz, 5 th District
Eduardo Montesino	City of Watsonville

California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG)

Zach Friend	County of Santa Cruz, 2 nd District
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Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC)

Aurelio Gonzalez	Santa Cruz METRO
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Commissioner Rotkin made a motion of concurrence with the appointments and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Koenig, McPherson, Caput, Petersen, Gonzalez, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye."

19. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered an oral report, announcing the new METRO-appointed RTC Commissioner Kristen Petersen and Commissioner Alternates Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson and Larry Pageler, and the re-appointment of Commissioner Alternate Donna Lind.

Mr. Preston also reported his observations on the transportation landscape since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, commenting on changes to commute patterns and regional congestion, changes in METRO ridership, new METRO programs, increases in active transportation modes, and in particular, increases in E-bike sales across the county.

Commissioner McPherson thanked METRO for going above and beyond to

provide safe, affordable transit service to essential workers and to those in need, noting safety improvements and vaccine transportation programs.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples
Michael Saint
Barry Scott
Ben Vernazza

20. Caltrans report

Deputy District 5 Director Scott Eades delivered the Santa Cruz County project updates. Caltrans is soliciting public input on the first Active Transportation Plan for District 5. The plan focuses on identifying bicycle and pedestrian needs along the state highway system. The deadline for comments is March 9, 2021.

Mr. Eades provided an update on the progress of repairs at the Highway 1 closure at Rat Creek. Re-opening is expected by early summer.

In response to Commissioners' questions, Mr. Eades will follow up with Commissioners on prioritizing pedestrian improvements in Davenport and on connecting with community activists regarding pedestrian improvements along Highway 9.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples
Ben Vernazza
Michael Pisano
Michael Saint

21. Projects Update from Santa Cruz County Department of Public Works Staff

Assistant Director of Public Works Steve Wiesner delivered a presentation on updates to projects located within the unincorporated areas of the county, including a Measure D Program update, recently completed projects, projects in construction, projects in development, and future needs.

In response to Commissioner questions, Mr. Wiesner provided more details on funding prospects for the planned Holohan/Highway 152 improvements, yearly progress on road resurfacing projects, and the annual costs of railroad crossing maintenance.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for improvements to Branciforte and Granite Creek; funding challenges with road resurfacing projects; funding

requirements to accommodate rail; design, use and experience of the recently completed Segment 7 of the bicycle and pedestrian path in the City of Santa Cruz; roadway improvements provide appreciable benefits to bike riders; RSTPx funding used for local roadway improvements; appreciation for Measure D voters; appreciation for traffic control improvements; expedition of Holohan/Highway 152 project crucial for safety of school-age students; Highway 129/Lakeview roundabout.

Received public comment from:

Ben Vernazza
Brian Peoples
Faina Segal
Jack Carroll

22. Financially Constrained Project List for 2045 Transportation Plans

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo delivered the staff report. In response to commissioners' questions, Ms. Naranjo and Deputy Director Luis Mendez provided clarification on the process by which the RTC solicits input from local jurisdictions and the public and how that input impacts the project list for the Regional Transportation Plan.

Commissioners discussed: trade-offs of moving particular projects between the constrained and unconstrained lists; background information on the 1985 Santa Cruz City Council decision not to move forward with protected bike lanes on Mission St.

In response to a commissioner's comments, Assistant Director of Public Works Chris Schneiter provided more information about funding for the Mission St. projects under the City's Capital Improvement Program and noted that projects on the unconstrained list may still receive grant funding.

Commissioners discussed: need for attention on Highway 17; importance of listing projects on the RTP and federal requirements; seeking understanding of the channels by which projects could be moved up in priority if/when there is an urgent safety need; ability to amend RTP list upon development of a business plan for the Locally-Preferred Alternative.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve staff recommendations to: Approve the project list, identifying financially constrained projects for inclusion in the 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Metropolitan Transportation Plan – Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP-SCS) and evaluation in the program-level Environmental Impact Report (EIR), with minor clarifications and cost estimate updates upon discussion with local jurisdictions.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Gonzalez, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples
Faina Segal
Barry Scott
Ben Vernazza

23. Federal and State Legislative Updates

Sr. Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi delivered the staff report and responded to a commissioner's question regarding the surface transportation block grant funding cycle.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation authorizing staff and board members to provide input on legislative and administration proposals, consistent with the *2021 State and Federal Legislative Programs*.

The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Gonzalez, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Mulhearn voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Ben Vernazza

24. Report of items to be discussed closed session.

RTC Counsel Steven Mattas reported that no reportable action was anticipated from the closed session.

The open session of the regular meeting ended at 11:47 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

The meeting entered into closed session at 11:52 a.m.

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

Properties: 2505 Chanticleer Avenue (APN No. 029-013-54)
Negotiators: Guy Preston, Luis Mendez, Sarah Christensen, and Steve Mattas
Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC and Soquel Creek Water District

Under Negotiation: Price and terms for Purchase of Temporary and Permanent Easements

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

Properties: Santa Cruz County Branch Railway (Tracts I and II)
Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, LLC, a subsidiary of Progressive Rail Incorporated and potential interested parties

Agency Negotiators: Guy Preston, Luis Mendez, and Steve Mattas

Under Negotiations: Terms of License Agreement

OPEN SESSION

Closed session concluded at 12:45 pm.

27. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 01, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 18, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

Linda Wilshusen
Brian (Trail Now)
Joel Wiesner
chrisjones
Gine Johnson
Michael Conneran
jeanette
Dave Wade
Janet
Kyle Kelley
Gina Cole - Bike Santa Cruz County

Tim Bailey, Santa Cruz County
Patrick Riley
Martha Dadala
Micheal Saint
FORT - Tina A.
Jack Carroll
Pete Rasmussen
Nancy Yellin
Mike S. @ CLO
Alex Clifford
Phil
Rob Tidmore, County of Santa Cruz
Faina Segal
Trail and Rail :) david van brink
Paula Bradley
Ben Vernazza
Michael Pisano
Casey Carlson
Dan Estranero
Nathan Nguyen
Chris Schneiter
Heather Adamson, AMBAG
carey pico
Barry Scott
Eric Patterson
Johanna Lighthill
William Philipps
Josh S
Kara Meyberg Guzman