



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, June 03, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference
Community TV Zoom**

Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82638060635>

Dial-in: 1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 826 3806 0635

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)	Manu Koenig
Jacques Bertrand	Bruce McPherson
Mike Rotkin	Lowell Hurst (Alt)
Felipe Hernandez (Alt)	Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio)

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Ginger Dykaar
Luis Mendez	Tommy Travers
Yesenia Parra	Rachel Moriconi
Shannon Munz	Tracy New
Krista Corwin	
Sarah Christensen	
Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)	

CLOSED SESSION

Commission entered closed session at 9:04 a.m.

1A. Closed Session: Public Employee Performance Evaluation
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957)
Title: Executive Director

1B. Closed Session: Conference with Labor Negotiators
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6)
Agency Designated Representatives: Aurelio Gonzalez, Sandy Brown
and Steve Mattas
Unrepresented employee: Executive Director

Open session resumed at 9:23. RTC Counsel Steven Mattas communicated that there was no reportable action from the closed session items.

OPEN SESSION

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:
Matt Machado, County Public Works
Jean Brocklebank
Ryan Sarnataro
Lowell Hurst

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

A revised agenda and replacement pages for item 30 were posted to the website. Handouts for items 16, 29, 30 & 31 were also posted to the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner McPherson voiced appreciation for Congresswoman Eshoo's support of RTC transportation improvement projects on Highway 9 in Boulder Creek and Highway 1 at Scott Creek.

Commissioner Rotkin made a motion and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Received public comment from:
Ben Vernazza
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Barry Scott

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

MINUTES

4. Accepted draft minutes of the March 17, 2021 Safe on 17/Traffic Operations Systems Committee meeting.
5. Accepted draft minutes of the April 13, 2021 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.
6. Approved draft minutes of the May 06, 2021 Special Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
7. Accepted draft minutes of the May 10, 2021 Special Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting.
8. Accepted draft minutes of the May 20, 2021 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee.

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items.

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to award a contract for Culvert and Drainage Ditch Maintenance along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 48-21**)
10. Approved termination of Agreement No. 2075 with Kimley-Horn & Associates, Inc. for the professional engineering services for the Highway 1 State Park to Freedom Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project & Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12
11. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to finalize negotiations and execute a First Amendment to the Cooperative Agreement for Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail Network (MBSST) Coastal Rail Trail Segment 18 Phase 1 with the City of Watsonville (**Resolution 49-21**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

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

14. Approved TDA Article 8 Claims for the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC), the Ride N' Stride Program, and the Bike to Work Program (**Resolution 50-21, Resolution 51-21**)
15. Approved Staffing and Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-2022 Budget Amendment (**Resolution 52-21**)
16. Approved Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Overall Work Program (**Resolution 53-21**)
17. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Cascade Software Systems and acquisition of WinCAMS (Windows Cost Accounting Management System) software and amended the RTC FY2021-22 Budget (**Resolution 54-21**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

18. Approved appointments to the Bicycle Advisory Committee
19. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 RTC Audit
20. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Measure D Audit
21. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY) 2019-2020 Measure D Annual Report

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

22. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
23. Accepted correspondence log.
24. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies *-none*
25. Accepted information items.
 - a. May 3, 2021 Letter from Anna Eshoo, U.S. House of Representatives to Aurelio Gonzalez, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission re: Member-Designated Project Requests

REGULAR AGENDA

26. Commissioner reports

Commission Chair Gonzalez asked about the status of the proposed demonstration of a passenger rail vehicle by TIG/m that was approved by the RTC prior to the COVID-19 pandemic and whether there are any objections from any commissioners to having the demonstration proceed. Executive Director Preston clarified that since the RTC provided approval for this demonstration in the past, there is no need for further Commission action to proceed with issuing a license for the demonstration as long as all requirements are met and as long as there is no objection from Commissioners to the proposed demonstration. Commissioners expressed interest in the demonstration, and no one expressed objection to it.

Commissioners bid farewell to Commissioner Alternate Patrick Mulhearn, in attendance at his last SCCRTC meeting and expressed appreciation for his contributions.

27. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered an oral report covering the following topics:

FY19-20 Measure D annual report;

Highway 1 environmental impact report (EIR) for the Bay/Porter-State Park Bus on Shoulder Project; 2017 Storm Damage Repairs update; The Traffic Safety and Speed Limit Legislation (AB 43) recently introduced in the California Assembly.

Expressed congratulations to Sr. Transportation Planner Ginger Dykaar for 11 years of dedicated service with the RTC and appreciation for her many accomplishments and contributions.

Commissioners discussed the challenges lawmakers have faced in addressing speeding concerns brought by members of the public. In response to a Commissioner's question, Mr. Preston provided more information on the proposed traffic speed limit legislation.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

28. Caltrans report

District 5 Deputy Director Scott Eades delivered the Santa Cruz County project updates and highlighted the following:

The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is preparing for the next round of SB1 competitive funding grants, including the Local Partnership Program and Solutions for Congested Corridors Program.

At its recent meeting, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$924 million statewide. Five projects in District 5 were allocated funding to move forward, including the Highway 17 wildlife undercrossing project in Santa Cruz County.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Ben Vernazza

29. Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing: Measure D Project Update

Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner, delivered the staff report. Caltrans Project Manager Aaron Henkel updated the Commission on the project schedule and planned lane closures. Bid opening is scheduled for July 15 and construction is expected to begin in late September or early October.

Commissioners thanked Caltrans, the Measure D voters, and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for their work on this project.

Mr. Henkel responded to a Commissioner's question regarding steps taken to minimize risk to the highway due to liquefaction.

Daniel Medeiros, Projects Director at the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County thanked the Commission, the Measure D voters, private donors, and John Laird for their support in securing funds for the project.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples
Brett Garrett
Sally Arnold
David Van Brink

30. Highway 1 – State Park to Freedom Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project & Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Professional Engineering Services Contract Award & Addition of Interim Trail Alternative

At 10:40am, Commissioner Caput departed the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Felipe Hernandez stepped in.

Sarah Christensen, Sr. Transportation Engineer, delivered the staff report. Executive Director Guy Preston provided clarification on the extent of the contract's additional scoping, the strategy of railbanking, the RTC's previous work with Mark Thomas & Company, and the goal of a defensible EIR document.

In response to Commissioners' questions, Mr. Preston provided clarity on the staff's recommended action; Ms. Christensen discussed revisions made to the staff report; long-term impacts to the future of rail transit to be found in the cumulative impacts section of the EIR; bridges included in the project scope; and project deliverables from the terminated contract.

Commissioners discussed: CEQA requirements; "interim" implies the need to consider costs of putting rails back; RTC's fiduciary responsibilities; incremental progress; avoid burdening a project with false constraints; value of time; economic development in South County; transportation equity; confusing nature of issue; two decisions: (1) legal defensibility of EIR document and (2) which project will the RTC support; CEQA's main concerns; need for a study of the ultimate alignment of the corridor to better inform decisions; the value of clarity, cost savings, and timeliness of project delivery for the public benefit.

Commissioner Rotkin made a motion and Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion to approve **Resolution 55-21**, authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a professional engineering services contract with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. for the remaining scope of work of the Highway 1 State Park to Freedom Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project & Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project Approval and Environmental Document (PA/ED) component of the project.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Gonzalez, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Hernandez, Schiffrin, and Mulhern voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Matt Farrell
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Brett Garrett
Jack Carroll
Saladin Sale
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Jack Brown
Buzz Anderson
David Van Brink
Elaine Rohlfes

Ben Vernazza
Ryan Sarnataro
Sally Arnold
Barry Scott
Gregory Becker
Tina A

31. Capitola Trestle Update, Interim Trail Alternative, and Amendment to Professional Engineering Services Agreement with RailPros Inc.

Sr. Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: logic of item 30 same as item 31; importance of having a complete and accurate environmental document; request for RTC staff to deliver a presentation to the City of Capitola.

In response to Commissioners' questions, Mr. Preston and Ms. Christensen provided more information on the technical challenges of upgrading the bridges; item under consideration is a feasibility study; constraints of Measure L; safety concerns associated with making structural information available to the public; vehicle weight and other specifications needed in order to analyze bridge capacity.

In response to the Chair's request, Rob Tidmore from the County of Santa Cruz commented on the advantages of using the RTC's consultant to study the capacity of the trestle.

Commissioner Johnson moved and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to adopt **Resolution 56-21**:

1. Authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and amend the contract (no. TP1827-01) with RailPros, Inc. for an amount not to exceed \$37,531 in new compensation for analysis of the feasibility of the Capitola trestle for an interim multiuse trail for a total amended contract value of \$377,140.

2. Approving the amendment to the Measure D 5-year plan for both the Rail and Active Transportation Programs. The proposed changes include changing the programming of \$50,000 in Measure D from the Rail-category previously programmed for the Capitola Trestle Feasibility Study for rail and trail to Measure D Active Transportation category to be used for a structural feasibility analysis to determine whether the Capitola Trestle could be retrofitted to accommodate an interim multiuse trail.

3. Amending the FY20/21 budget and work program accordingly.

The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Koenig, McPherson, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffirin and Mulhearn voting "aye," and Commissioners Gonzalez, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst and Hernandez voting "no."

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Brett Garrett

Ben Vernazza

Mark Mesiti-Miller

Sally Arnold

David Date

Barry Scott

Saladin Sale

Tina A.

32. Report of items to be discussed closed session.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there would be no reportable action from closed session. Commissioner Johnson announced that he would not be in attendance for the closed session. Open session ended at 12:26 and closed session began after a short break at 12:32.

CLOSED SESSION

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

Properties: Portions of APN 058-072-03, 058-121-03, 058-121-04, 059-012-05, 059-023-09, 059-023-10, 059-131-08, 059-023-12

Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC, Ocean Shore Railroad, Agri-Culture, Della-Mora Trust, Trillium Enterprises, LLC, and Richard Alderson

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

Under Negotiation: Price and terms for acquisition of properties and easements

34. Conference with Legal Counsel, Anticipated Litigation
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d))

Significant Exposure to Litigation: One case.

Closed session ended at 12:50

35. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 05, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

(408)505-1292

(831)227-8987

(831)818-3660

Alex Clifford

Andrew

Barry Scott

Ben Vernazza

Bill Philipps

BobFi

Brett Garrett

Brian

Brian (Trail Now)

Buzz Anderson

Casey Beyer

Cory

David Date

Enda

Faina Segal

FORT Elaine Rohlfes

FORT – Sally Arnold

Gine Johnson

[Gracevoss\[at\]sbcglobal.net](mailto:Gracevoss[at]sbcglobal.net)

Gregorybecker

Gustavo Alfaro

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

Howard Cohen

Jack Brown

Jack Carroll

Jeanette Guire

Johanna Lighthill

John Luchetta

Kim Shultz
Larry Pageler
Mark Johannessen
Martha Dadala
Marty Demare
Matt Farrell
Matt Machado
Melissa Hartman
Murray Fontes (he/him/his)
Nancy Yellin
Patrick Riley
Paul Roberts
Penn Shortes
Pete Rasmussen
Peter Haworth
Rail + Trail – Tina A.
Rail+Trail David Van Brink
Rebecca Downing
Rob Tidmore
Rosemary Sarka
Ryan Sarnataro
Saladin Sale-Rail w/Trail
Stephanie Wells
Zach