



**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee**

*(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)*

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**FINAL MINUTES**

**Tuesday, April 13, 2021**

**NOTE: Teleconference**

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

***Members present:***

Kirk Ance, CTSA (Lift Line)  
Deborah Benham, 5th District  
Janet Edwards, 1st District  
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA (Community Bridges)  
Veronica Elsea, 3rd District  
Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider – Persons of Limited Means  
Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)  
Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)  
Clay Kempf, Social Services Provider – Seniors  
Eileen Wagley, SCMTD (METRO)  
Daniel Zaragoza, SCMTD (METRO)  
Rick Chace, Potential Transit User (Disabled)

***Unexcused absences:***

Martha Rubbo, 4th District  
Alex Weske, Social Service Provider – Disabled  
Paul Elerick, 2nd District

***RTC staff present:***

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner  
Luis Mendez, Deputy Director  
Ginger Dykaar, Senior Transportation Planner  
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner

***Others present:***

Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz METRO  
Douglas Underhill, Community Bridges  
Miranda Taylor, AMBAG  
Linda Wilshusen, Member of the public

2. Introductions

### 3. Oral communications

Committee member Michael Pisano shared information on smart crosswalks, warning lights, overhead LEED pedestrian crossing lights, and bike ramps to include in buses.

Committee member Clay Kempf announced California's Master Plan for Aging Local Launch for Santa Cruz and San Benito Counties is on May 19, 2021 at 10 am hosted by the Seniors Council and the Area Agency on Aging Advisory Council.

Chair Veronica Elsea expressed concern regarding the RTC's decision to refer to the Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee consideration of amendments to the rules and regulations of the Commission to change the process in the bylaws for appointing members to advisory committees. Veronica requested to have this as an item for the next E&D TAC meeting.

### 4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

### 5. Approved minutes from February 9, 2021

Chair Veronica Elsea identified revisions in oral communications and modify item 16 to list the committee members names appointed to be liaisons.

*A motion (Ireland/Edwards) was made to approve the minutes with revisions. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace, voting in favor.*

### 6. Received RTC Meeting Highlights

### 7. Received Information Items

- a. Santa Cruz METRO Announces Free Fares County-Wide for COVID-19 Vaccination Appointments
- b. Walk S.F Wants Your Help on Three Key Safety Bill

*A motion (Ireland/Edwards) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace, voting in favor.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

## 8. FY 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Funds for Community Bridges

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated the staff recommendation for the TDA/STA claim for Community Bridges. Kirk Ance, Community Bridges, provided an overview of the Community Bridges TDA/STA claim. Douglas Underhill, Chief Finance Officer at Community Bridges, was also present answering committee members questions and provided additional information.

*A motion (Edwards/Pisano) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve Community Bridges' TDA claim, contingent upon approval by the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant. The motion passed with members Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace voting in favor. Members Kirk Ance and Lisa Berkowitz abstained from the vote.*

## 9. FY 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Funds for the Volunteer Center

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated the staff recommendation for the TDA claim for the Volunteer Center. Tara Ireland, Volunteer Center, provided an overview of the Volunteer Center TDA claim.

*A motion (Berkowitz/Edwards) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the Volunteer Center's TDA claim, contingent upon approval by the City of Santa Cruz to act as the claimant. The motion passed unanimously, with members Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace, voting in favor. Member Tara Ireland abstained from the vote.*

## 10. FY 2021-22 Transportation Development Act Funds for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated the staff recommendation for the TDA/STA claim for Santa Cruz Metro. Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz Metro, provided an overview of the Metro TDA/STA claim.

*A motion (Edwards/Lamb) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve Metro's TDA claim. The motion passed with members Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Rick Chace, voting in favor. Members Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza abstained from the vote.*

## 11. Measure D: Community Bridges/Lift Line Five-Year Plan

Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner communicated that Measure D requires recipient agencies to annually prepare and update a five-year program of projects, identifying how agencies plan to spend Measure D funds. Twenty percent (20%) of net Measure D revenues are designated for the Transit for Seniors and People Living with Disabilities category, with four percent (4%) allocated to the Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) for Santa Cruz County for paratransit service and Community Bridges-Lift Line serves as the CTSA for Santa Cruz County.

Douglas Underhill, Chief Finance Officer at Community Bridges, and committee member Kirk Ance provided an overview and answered questions on how the funding will be used in the 5-year plan to the committee.

*A motion (Edwards/Ireland) was made to recommend approval of the Measure D: Community Bridges/Lift Line Five-Year Plan. The motion passed with members Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace, voting in favor. Member Kirk Ance abstained from the vote.*

## 12. 2021 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, explained that each year the E&D TAC voluntarily prepares a list of unmet paratransit and transit needs in Santa Cruz County, referred to as the Unmet Needs List. The RTC considers adoption of the final Unmet Needs List at the May RTC meeting.

Committee members discussed revisions to the Unmet Needs List including the need to provide electric vehicle emergency backup vehicles, facilities, and battery storage.

*A motion (Edwards/Ance) was made to revise the Draft 2021 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List to reflect the comments made by E&D TAC committee members and recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission adopt the Final 2021 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs list following a public hearing on May 6, 2021 The motion passed with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace, voting in favor.*

## 13. Oral update on Draft Business Plan for Electric Passenger Rail on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

Chair Veronica Elsea communicated that on November 17, 2020 the E&D TAC received a presentation on the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis and Rail Network Integration Study – Performance Measure Analysis and Proposed Locally Preferred Alternative. The committee made a motion to prioritize clean fuel rail transit options on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. RTC staff presented the draft Business Plan for Electric Passenger Rail on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and received public input at the April 1, 2021 RTC meeting. The RTC directed staff to return to the next meeting on May 6, 2021 with options for producing a final report for compliance with the Rail Network Integration Study grant.

Ginger Dykaar, Senior Transportation Planner, and Luis Mendez, RTC Deputy Director, answered questions and provided an oral update on the status of the draft Business Plan. Committee members discussed the need to provide input and support for Electric Passenger Rail at the May 6, 2021 RTC meeting.

*A motion (Lamb/Pisano) was made for the E&D TAC to write a letter to the RTC in support of Electric Passenger Rail. The motion passed with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace, voting in favor.*

#### 14. Elect Committee Chair and Vice Chair

*A motion (Edwards/Pisano) was made to elect Veronica Elsea as Chair for a one-year term. The motion passed with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace, voting in favor.*

*A motion (Edwards/Pisano) was made to elect Janet Edwards as Vice Chair for a one-year term. The motion passed with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Caroline Lamb, Michael Pisano, Clay Kempf, Eileen Wagley, Daniel Zaragoza, Rick Chace, voting in favor.*

#### 15. AMBAG 2021 Title VI Plan Development Process

Miranda Taylor, Planner at the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) provided an overview of the AMBAG 2021 Title VI Plan development process. E&D TAC offered feedback on the development of the Draft 2021 Title VI Plan.

*No action taken.*

#### 16. Received Program Updates

a. Volunteer Center

Committee member Tara Ireland announced that the Volunteer Center has administered the Grocery Shopper Program for 1 year. In the first year they had 278 volunteers, with about 80 requests and 300 bags of groceries delivered a week. The Volunteer Center has 14 volunteer grocery shoppers that travel by bike and 12 volunteers with electric cars.

b. Community Bridges

Committee member Kirk Ance reported that the Felton Charging Station funded by FY 18/19 LCTOP funds is approved by Santa Cruz County. The Plan is now being reviewed by PG&E. Currently, one LCTOP funded electric bus is in service and Community Bridges is expecting to receive a second electric bus. Kirk Ance also communicated that Community Bridges is looking to partner with Uber & Lyft to use ADA buses as needed.

c. Santa Cruz Metro

Committee Member Daniel Zaragoza shared that on Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> Metro will be rolling out a new pilot transit service, Cruz On-Demand, throughout Santa Cruz County providing same day rides for the public. More information can be found here on the service: <https://www.scmttd.com/en/metro-paracruz/cruz-on-demand>

Santa Cruz Metro is also offering a temporary fare reduction county-wide on local, Highway-17 Express, and ParaCruz rides beginning Monday, March 22, 2021 through September 15, 2021.

d. SCCRTC

e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee

Chair Veronica Elsea gave an overview of the tasks the appointed committee liaisons are working on including finding information to monitor local jurisdictions to keep up to date with current projects. The subcommittee is also tracking and following up on the pedestrian hazard reports.

Committee member Janet Edwards announced findings from a survey completed by the City of Capitola that access safety of streets and number of accidents. The greatest number of accidents occur on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Gross Road and Clares Street. Janet also stated that the reduction of the speed limit on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue is being considered.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:50 pm

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 8, 2021 at 1:30 via teleconference.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Marino, Staff