



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, August 05, 2021  
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference  
Community TV Zoom**

**Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81609087225>**

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

**Webinar ID: 816 0908 7225**

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Sandy Brown	Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson (Alt)
Kristen Petersen	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Robert Paul Quinn (Alt)
Greg Caput	Felipe Hernandez (Alt)
Manu Koenig	Mike Rotkin
Bruce McPherson	Eduardo Montesino
Jacques Bertrand	Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio)

Staff present:

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

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Brett Garrett  
Carey Pico  
Brian Peoples  
Ben Vernazza  
Keith Otto  
Matt Machado  
Barry Scott  
David Van Brink

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

Replacement pages for item 10 and handout staff reports for items 11 and 25 were posted to the RTC website.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Deputy Director Luis Mendez, Executive Director Guy Preston, and Sr. Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi responded to a Commissioner's question regarding funds allocated to the City of Santa Cruz for the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) in item 16.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion passed. Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Montesino, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Rotkin, Johnson, and Commissioner Alternates Hernandez, Schiffrin, Quinn, and Kalantari-Johnson voted "aye."

**MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the June 03, 2021 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the June 08, 2021 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the June 14, 2021 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting

7. Accepted draft minutes of the June 24, 2021 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items.*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

8. Approved adopting Plans, Specifications, and Engineers Estimate (PS&E) for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project (**Resolution 01-22**)
9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to award an on-call construction management contract to MNS Engineers, Inc. for projects on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 02-22**)
10. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to award a construction contract to Granite Rock Company for repairs to storm damage site 5 on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 03-22**)
11. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to award a construction contract for repairs to storm damage site 7 on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 04-22**)
12. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreements with Ladd's Towing for Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) towing service on Highway 1 and Highway 17 (**Resolution 05-22**)
13. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the On-Call Capital Project Management Services contract with CSG Consultants (**Resolution 06-22**)

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

14. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
15. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues
16. Approved amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Budget & Work Program (**Resolution 07-22**)
17. Approved FY2021-22 Article 3 and Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim from the RTC for Administration, Planning and Operations (**Resolution 08-22**)

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

18. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to sign the Parade Street Crossing Agreement

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

19. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into the Central Coast Coalition (CCC) 2021 Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
20. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
21. Accepted correspondence log.
22. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies.
  - a. July 19, 2021 Letter from Amelia Conlen, Chair of the RTC Bicycle Advisory Committee, to Tim Gubbins, Director Caltrans District 5 and Guy Preston, Executive Director
23. Accepted information items.
  - a. June 30, 2021 News Release: California Transportation Commission Allocates \$30 Million for Santa Cruz Project
  - b. July 12, 2021 News Release: California adopts plan for sustainable transportation funding

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

24. Commissioner reports

There were no reports.

25. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered a statement on the ballot initiative proposed by Greenway; the RTC's consolidated call-for-applications; the next update of the Measure D 5-year plan; the Federal Reauthorization and Infrastructure Plan; additional context regarding approval of consent items 10 and 11.

Director Preston made an announcement regarding Commission Chair Aurelio Gonzalez taking a family medical leave, Commission Vice-Chair Sandy Brown filling in as Chair until Commissioner Gonzalez's return, and welcomed Commissioner Alternates Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson, Dr. Robert Paul Quinn, and Felipe Hernandez to service on the Commission.

Commissioners requested that staff prepare a document to inform the public on the facts about railbanking and respond to a concern raised by a member of the public regarding conflict of interest related to members of the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee.

Received public comment from:  
Brian Peoples

#### 26. Caltrans report

Caltrans District 5 Director Scott Eades delivered updates on the draft Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP); Clean California highway litter clean-up program; state and local beautification grant applications coming soon; South Route 9 drainage and erosion control improvements; contract awarded for the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing project.

Commissioners discussed and Director Preston, Deputy Director Mendez, and Mr. Eades responded to Commissioners' questions regarding funding criteria which excluded Highways 1 and 17 from the draft Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP).

Received public comment from:  
Ben Vernazza  
Faina Segal

#### 27. Project Updates from the City of Scotts Valley

Athena Cheung, Engineering Associate for Scotts Valley Public Works, delivered a presentation covering projects funded by the RTC, including widening of Glenwood Drive, the active transportation plan, bikeway improvements to Whispering Pines Drive, and rehabilitations of Bean Creek Road and Janis Way.

#### 28. Adopt Plans, Specifications, and Engineers Estimate (PS&E) for the Phase I Manresa Coastal Erosion Repair Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor

Sr. Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered a presentation highlighting the infrastructure challenges using an aerial-view map of the project area. Commissioners discussed and Ms. Christensen and Director Preston responded to concerns about unauthorized pedestrian traffic in the project area; the feasibility of installing a direct access stairway; the role of community policing; communications between RTC staff and an adjacent property owner. Commissioners recommended outreach to the Surfrider Foundation for their endorsement on coastal protection signage.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples  
Keith Otto  
Sally Arnold

Commissioners and Ms. Christensen responded to concerns raised by members of the public.

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Adopt **Resolution 09-22** adopting the Plans, Specifications and Engineers Estimate (PS&E) for the Phase I Manresa Coastal Erosion Repair Project, and
2. Adopt **Resolution 10-22** authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract with Railpros, Inc. (TP2080) to provide design support services during construction as part of the preservation of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail corridor.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Quinn, and Kalantari-Johnson voting "aye."

29. Addition of a new entry-level Junior Transportation Engineer and Assistant Transportation Engineer positions, approval of 2 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) permanent positions within the Transportation Engineering Series, and FY2021-22 Budget Amendment

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the staff report.

Mr. Preston and Sr. Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen responded to Commissioner questions regarding the broad project reach of the engineering classification; the challenges of relying on outside consultants; cost savings of bringing rail preservation work in-house; current staff assignment to rail line preservation is ½ FTE while the need is for 2 FTE.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples  
Keith Otto  
Barry Scott

Commissioner Rotkin made a motion and Commissioner Caput seconded the motion to approve **Resolution 11-22** authorizing the following:

1. The addition of new job descriptions for an entry-level Junior Transportation Engineer position and an Assistant Transportation Engineer position.
2. Addition of two Full Time Equivalent (FTE) permanent positions within the expanded Transportation Engineering Class.
3. Updates to the RTC's salary schedule.
4. An amendment to the FY2021-22 Budget.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Quinn, Schiffrin, and Kalantari-Johnson voting "aye."

30. Review of items to be discussed closed session.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that the Commission will enter into closed session to discuss labor negotiations and there will be a report out in open session.

Open session adjourned at 11:01 a.m. and the Commission took a 5-minute break before beginning closed session at 11:06 a.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

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

Closed session ended at 12:50 p. m.

### **OPEN SESSION**

32. Consideration of Amendments to the labor contract with the Executive Director

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated the reportable action from the closed session. The Commission considered an extension the to term of its contract with the Executive Director which ends in December of 2021.

Commissioners expressed appreciation to the subcommittee, the Chair, and the Vice-Chair for contributing to the report; appreciation for the Executive Director's performance; mindful stewardship of County taxpayers' money; changing function of the agency; assertive approach to project delivery;

participants on both sides of controversial issues support the performance of the Executive Director.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation extending the term of the Executive Director's contract for another four (4) years, establishing four (4) additional salary steps, providing for a 5% differential in compensation for each step following an annual performance review. The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Montesino, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Quinn, and Kalantari-Johnson voting "aye," and Commissioner Caput voting "no."

### 33. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 02, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 19, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra  
Administrative Services Officer

#### Attendees:

Ben Vernazza

831-359-2099

Brian (Trail Now)

I <3 Transit – David Van Brink

Keith Otto

Matt Machado

408-483-4719

Alex Clifford

Bill Philipps

Brian

Hal Williams

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

Jbristow

Jeanette Guire RC RR

Johanna Lighthill

JW

Keiran Kelly

Kirk Ance

Matt Farrell

Melissa Hartman

Michael Pisano

Ryan Sarnataro

Sally for Rail

Steve Wiesner