



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

(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

FINAL MINUTES

Tuesday, June 8, 2021

NOTE: Teleconference

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:32 p.m.

Members present:

Kirk Ance, CTSA (Lift Line)
Deborah Benham, 5th District
Janet Edwards, 1st District
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA (Community Bridges)
Veronica Elsea, Chair, 3rd District
Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider— Persons of Limited Means
Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)
Eileen Wagley, SCMTD (METRO)
Patty Talbot, Social Service Provider— Seniors
Ed Hutton, 5th District Alternate

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
Guy Preston, Executive Director
Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner
Ginger Dykaar, Senior Transportation Planner
Sarah Christensen, Engineering Manager

Others present:

Miranda Taylor, AMBAG
Matt Machado, Santa Cruz County Director of Public Works

2. Introductions

3. Oral communications

Matt Machado, Santa Cruz County Director of Public Works, expressed that the county has a high priority to improve pedestrian and bicycle facilities in both critical urban and rural corridors. Mr. Machado will regularly share needs for critical infrastructure improvements throughout the county at the upcoming RTC meetings and RTC committee meetings.

Committee Member Michael Pisano announced that Santa Cruz County recently purchased the West Marine Building in Watsonville. Mr. Pisano identified the need to improve bus service in this area. He also shared with the committee the potential of a bike share program in Santa Cruz and bike parking concerns.

Committee Member Janet Edwards informed the committee of a speed limit change on 41st Avenue in Capitola.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved minutes from April 13, 2021

A motion (Pisano, Edwards) was made to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Eileen Wagley, Patty Talbot voting in favor.

6. Received Final Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs list
7. Received RTC Meeting Highlights
8. Received Information Items
 - a. Green Man + (by LTA) – AHTC
 - b. Smart Crosswalk In-Roadway Warning Light System
 - c. Bicycle Wheel Ramps for Stairs

A motion (Edwards, Berkowitz) 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, Michael Pisano, Eileen Wagley, Patty Talbot voting in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Received Program Updates
 - a. Volunteer Center

Committee Member Tara Ireland provided an update on the Volunteer

Center's Transportation Program reopening in May 2021 as well as continuing the Grocery Shopper Program following COVID-19 protocols.

b. Community Bridges

Committee Member Kirk Ance announced that Lift Line will be purchasing its fourth electric ADA bus. Lift Line will also now be using the Ecolane scheduling software increasing efficiency of the ride scheduling process.

c. Santa Cruz Metro

Committee Member Eileen Wagley informed the committee that rides are increasing due to the lifting of Covid-19 mandates. Committee Member Michael Pisano clarified the purchasing of the West Marine Building in Watsonville to provide office space for Santa Cruz County employees. She will be sharing the need to increase bus service in this area. Chair Veronica Elsea shared that the Metro summer service schedule starting 6/10/2021 through 09/15/2021 and the addition of route 18. Ms. Elsea also announced the number of available seats on Hwy 17 route has increased from 8 to 18.

d. SCCRTC

Luis Mendez, RTC Deputy Director, addressed a motion made at the RTC's April meeting to refer the process in the RTC Rules and Regulations appointing advisory committee members to the Budget, Administration and Personnel Committee (BA&P) to consider allowing individual appointments. This item is anticipated to BA&P committee meeting in September.

e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee

i. Pedestrian Hazard Report

Chair Veronica Elsea provided a report of the current work the Ad-hoc Subcommittee is working on including reviewing the pedestrian hazard reports and communicated the findings from the appointed liaisons in each jurisdiction throughout Santa Cruz County.

Ms. Elsea communicated the concern of a lack of accessible features on the new Rapid Flashing Beacons installed in the City of Santa Cruz. This specifically includes the absence of accessible push button equipment to activate the Rapid Flashing Beacons at crossings.

A motion (Pisano, Edwards) was made to send a letter to the City of Santa Cruz and local jurisdictions expressing concern with lack of accessibility features in pedestrian crossing beacons, and request to upgrade beacons to be more accessible. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Janet Edwards, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, Eileen Wagley, Patty Talbot voting in favor.

10. Go Santa Cruz County

Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner, presented an overview of the GO Santa Cruz County program. The GO Santa Cruz County program rewards local commuters with incentives to rethink their ride and choose a more earth-friendly commute with logging alternative transportation trips. GO Santa Cruz County features an online commute management tool that is available to all employees who live or work in Santa Cruz County. Community members can create a commuter profile by visiting <https://my.cruz511.org> and joining the *GO Santa Cruz County* network. The program is free to participate in. For more information about GO Santa Cruz County, visit <https://cruz511.org/goscc/>.

No action taken.

11. Capitola Trestle Update & Interim Trail Alternative

Sarah Christensen, Engineering Manager, communicated the proposed approach for additional engineering analysis of the Capitola Trestle for a potential interim trail alternative on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL). The E&D TAC provided input and asked questions regarding the engineering analysis process including major investments needed on the bridges to restore freight service on the SCBRL.

No action taken.

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

Sarah Christensen, Engineering Manager, conveyed an overview of the proposed approach to add the interim trail alternative to the preliminary engineering and environmental analysis efforts for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project which includes Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail. The committee asked questions and provided input on the approved contract by the RTC that includes an interim trail alternative and the anticipated outreach associated with the current environmental analysis in choosing a preferred alternative.

No action taken.

13. AMBAG Draft 2021 Title VI Plan

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.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:29 pm

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2021 at 1:30 via teleconference.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Marino, Staff