



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

**January 03, 2021
3:30 p.m.**

**NOTE LOCATION THIS MONTH
RTC ZOOM HOST**

**Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89351430611>
Dial-in: +1 669 900 6833
Webinar ID: 893 5143 0611**

NOTE

See the last page for details about access for people with disabilities, translation services, and meeting broadcasts.

En Español

Para información sobre servicios de traducción al español, diríjase a la última página.

AGENDAS ONLINE

To receive email notification when the RTC meeting agenda packet is posted on our website, please call (831) 460-3200 or visit sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions/

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Caltrans (ex-officio)	Tim Gubbins
City of Capitola	Jacques Bertrand
City of Santa Cruz	Sandy Brown
City of Scotts Valley	Randy Johnson
City of Watsonville	Eduardo Montesino
County of Santa Cruz	Greg Caput
County of Santa Cruz	Ryan Coonerty
County of Santa Cruz	Zach Friend
County of Santa Cruz	Manu Koenig
County of Santa Cruz	Bruce McPherson
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Kristen Petersen
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Alta Northcutt
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Mike Rotkin

The majority of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

1. Roll call
2. Oral communications

Any member of the public may address the Commission on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not already on the agenda. The Commission will listen to all communication, but in compliance with State law, and may not take action on items that are not on the agenda.

Prior to delivering comments, speakers are requested to state their name for the public record.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are considered to be minor or non-controversial and will be acted upon in one motion if no member of the RTC or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda. Members of the Commission may raise questions, seek clarification or add directions to consent agenda items without removing the item from the consent agenda as long as no other Commissioner objects to the change.

No consent items.

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings
(Luis Mendez, Deputy Director)
 - a. Staff Report

5. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. via Zoom teleconference.

HOW TO REACH US

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone: (831) 460-3200 / email: info@sccrtc.org

AGENDA PACKETS

Complete agenda packets and all documents relating to items on the open session, are posted online for public review at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Sign up for E-News updates at sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions/

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Written comments for items on this agenda that are received at the RTC office in Santa Cruz by noon on the day before this meeting will be distributed to Commissioners at the meeting. The opportunity to make oral comments to the Commission on topics related to the agenda will be offered during each agenda item; oral comments on items not on the agenda, but within the RTC's jurisdiction, are accepted only during Oral Communications.

COVID-19 REMOTE MEETING UPDATE

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 into law, which allows the RTC to hold virtual and/or hybrid meetings so long as the RTC makes findings that the state of emergency continues to directly impact its ability to meet safely in person. Staff continues to work towards a hybrid format, which would provide a physical space for the Commission to meet as well as virtual access for remote participation. Information needed to participate is listed on the first page of the meeting's agenda. Download the Zoom app: <https://zoom.us/download>.

ACCESSIBILILTY

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This meeting location is an accessible facility. If you require special assistance in order to participate, please contact RTC staff at 460-3200 (CRS 800/735-2929) at least three working days in advance of this meeting to make arrangements. People with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those persons affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent-free.

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN/ TRANSLATION SERVICES

Si gusta estar presente o participar en esta junta de la Comisión Regional de Transporte del Condado de Santa Cruz y necesita información o servicios de traducción al español por favor llame por lo menos con tres días laborables de anticipo al (831) 460-3200 para hacer los arreglos necesarios. (Spanish language translation is available on an as needed basis.) Please make advance arrangements (at least three days in advance) by calling (831) 460-3200.

TITLE VI NOTICE TO BENEFICIARIES

The RTC operates its programs and services without regard to race, color and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person believing to have been aggrieved by the RTC under Title VI may file a complaint with RTC by contacting the RTC at (831) 460-3212 or 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or online at www.sccrtc.org. A complaint may also be filed directly with the Federal Transit Administration to the Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590.

AVISO A BENEFICIARIOS SOBRE EL TITULO VI

La RTC conduce sus programas y otorga sus servicios sin considerar raza, color u origen nacional de acuerdo al Título VI del Acta Sobre los Derechos Civiles. Cualquier persona que cree haber sido ofendida por la RTC bajo el Título VI puede entregar queja con la RTC comunicándose al (831) 460-3212 o 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 o en línea al www.sccrtc.org. También se puede quejar directamente con la Administración Federal de Transporte en la Oficina de Derechos Civiles, Atención: Coordinador del Programa Título VI, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director
RE: Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) find that:

1. The RTC has reconsidered the circumstances of the current COVID-19 state of emergency; and
 2. The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of the RTC, its committees, its staff and the public to meet safely in person; and
 3. State or local officials continue to impose and recommend measures to promote social distancing; and
 4. Therefore, meetings of the RTC will continue to be held in a hybrid or virtual format via Zoom and meetings of RTC committees will be held virtually via Zoom.
-

BACKGROUND

In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency which remains in effect. The Governor also issued executive orders suspending several provisions of the Brown Act to ensure that the work of government agencies could continue with virtual meetings to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. The executive orders suspending the Brown Act provisions expired on September 30, 2021. AB 361 was signed into law and took effect on October 1, 2021, which allows the continuation of virtual meetings as long as the declared state emergency continues and required findings are made by local agencies.

DISCUSSION

At its November 4th and December 2nd meetings, the RTC made AB361 findings to continue to hold virtual and/or hybrid meetings. The goal is to hold RTC meetings in a hybrid format as long as the COVID-19 situation permits, and the facilities are available for hybrid meetings. For hybrid

meetings a limited number of Commissioners and members of the public may participate in person, as long as the County Board of Supervisors Chambers are available for the meeting. Everyone participating in person must wear a mask. All others will participate via Zoom. All of the meetings of RTC committees will continue to be virtual meetings via Zoom because conference rooms are not equipped for virtual meetings.

To continue to hold virtual and/hybrid meetings, the RTC must continue to make findings as required in Section 54953 of the Government Code, added by AB 361, which states:

“(3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

- (A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
- (B) Any of the following circumstances exist:
 - (i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.
 - (ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.”

State law requires that findings to continue virtual and/or hybrid meetings be made every 30 days. State law also allows special virtual meetings for the sole purpose of making AB 361 findings to hold virtual and/or hybrid meetings. Since the period between the December 2021 and January 2022 RTC meetings is greater than 30 days, this special meeting is necessary to make the AB 361 findings.

Therefore, staff recommends that the RTC find that RTC has reconsidered the circumstances of the current COVID-19 state of emergency; the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of the RTC, its committees, its staff and the public to meet safely in person; and state and local officials continue to impose and recommend measures to promote social distancing; and meetings of the RTC will be hybrid while meetings of committees will be virtual.

FISCAL IMPACT

The costs necessary to hold meetings of the RTC either as regular Brown Act meetings, virtual meetings or hybrid meetings are included in the approved RTC budget. The costs to hold Brown Act and virtual meetings of RTC committees are also included in the RTC budget. No additional fiscal impacts are anticipated for such meetings at this time. For hybrid meetings of RTC committees, it would likely be necessary to equip conference rooms accordingly, which would have additional fiscal impacts.

SUMMARY

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor declared a state of emergency and issued executive orders to allow public agencies to hold meetings virtually. The executive orders allowing virtual meetings expired and AB 361 was signed into law to allow the continuation of virtual and/or hybrid meetings as long as the state of emergency still exists and public agencies make appropriate findings. Staff recommends that the RTC make such findings to allow virtual and/or hybrid meetings of itself and its committees.

S:\RTC\TC2022\01 special meeting\AB361 Findings\AB361 findings 010322.docx