



**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, August 10, 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  
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+)  
Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)

***Unexcused absences:***

Alex Weske, Social Service Provider – Disabled  
Paul Elerick, 2nd District  
Eileen Wagley, SCMTD (METRO)  
Clay Kempf, Social Service Provider— Seniors

***RTC staff present:***

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner  
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner  
Sarah Christensen, Engineering Manager

***Others present:***

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 existing critical infrastructure to serve the motorized and non-motorized public. The county prioritizes improving safely on critical roads that include Soquel San Jose Rd, San Andreas Rd, Alba Rd, and Jameson Creek Rd. Most state and federal funding

for Santa Cruz County is programmed through the RTC and intended for local agencies to maintain and improve our transportation system. Mr. Machado encourages E&D TAC participation in this process to support the county's efforts in these investments to improve critical corridors.

Chair Veronica Elsea announced that the All Station Accessibility Program Act, an amendment to the Infrastructure Bill aimed to improve ADA transit facilities, failed to pass in the Senate.

Chair Veronica Elsea additionally provided information on the bike share implementation program lead by the City of Santa Cruz to request proposals for a bike share program in Santa Cruz County. Ms. Elsea provided input on behalf of the E&D TAC with the committee's concerns at the City of Santa Cruz Transportation and Public Works Commission meeting and the Santa Cruz City Council meeting addressing bike share.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

**CONSENT AGENDA**

5. Approved minutes from June 8, 2021

*A motion (Berkowitz, Ance) was made to approve the minutes with edits on the Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee and Pedestrian Hazard Report program updates. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor.*

6. Received RTC Meeting Highlights

7. Received Information Items

- a. RTC Accepting Applications for \$11 Million in Transportation Grants
- b. Ecology Action Countywide SRTS Youth Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education

*A motion (Ireland, Lamb) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously, with members Kirk Ance, Deborah Benham, Lisa Berkowitz, Veronica Elsea, Tara Ireland, Michael Pisano, and Caroline Lamb voting in favor.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

8. Received Program Updates

- a. Volunteer Center

Committee Member Tara Ireland provided an update on the Volunteer

Center's Transportation Program reopening as well as continuing the Grocery Shopper Program following COVID-19 protocols. The Volunteer Center is currently recruiting new volunteers. For more information, please visit <https://scvolunteercenter.org/volunteer/>

b. Community Bridges

Committee Member Kirk Ance announced that Lift Line is working with the city of Watsonville on their facility improvements at Ohlone Parkway in Watsonville to accommodate Lift Line's fleet that includes a fire service upgrade and landscaping. This also includes installing a level three electric vehicle charging station. Lift line is hiring a full-time limited term driver. Lift Line drivers are required to receive the COVID-19 vaccination by the end of September due to the high volume of trips to medical facilities and contact with high-risk populations.

Committee Member Lisa Berkowitz reported that Community Bridges is looking for a new Meals on Wheels facility including kitchens and offices. Meals on Wheels dining sites have not re-opened since March 2020 due to COVID-19.

c. Santa Cruz Metro

d. SCCRTC

Amanda Marino, RTC Transportation Planner announced that the RTC is in the process of updating the RTC's Title VI Civil Rights Program. This program ensures that no person on the basis of race, color, or national origin will be excluded from participation or subjected to discrimination with regard to the transportation planning and programming activities conducted by RTC's employees, affiliates, and contractors. The draft Title VI Program is planned to go to the next scheduled RTC committee meetings for review.

Chair Veronica requested follow up information provided at the June E&D TAC meeting with information regarding the next RTC Budget, Administration & Personnel Committee meeting.

e. Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee

Chair Veronica Elsea provided a report of the current work the Ad-hoc Subcommittee is conducting including the findings from the appointed liaisons in each jurisdiction throughout Santa Cruz County. This includes recent discussions with Murray Fontes, Principal Engineer at the City of Watsonville. The subcommittee is also working to provide input on the proposed Medical Office Building Project on Soquel Avenue. The subcommittee is specifically concerned with traffic rerouting in the project area's surrounding neighborhoods. Committee Member Janet Edwards

distributed 250 flyers throughout the neighborhood encouraging the community to provide input on the Environmental Impact Report. Additionally, the subcommittee is in the process of drafting a letter requested by the E&D TAC to the City of Santa Cruz regarding the approved TDA claim that installed Rapid Flashing Beacons that lack accessibility features. Ms. Elsea also reported that the American Council of the Blind requested to work with the Vision Zero Network to support jurisdictions requiring installing accessible pedestrian signals if there is a leading pedestrian interval at the crossing. Vision Zero has yet to agree to support the American Council of the Blind in requesting the requirement of accessible pedestrian signals at critical pedestrian crossings.

i. Pedestrian Hazard Report

Chair Veronica Elsea informed the committee that at the next Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee meeting, Jason Thompson, RTC Transportation Planning Technician, will be attending to follow-up with pedestrian hazard report responses from local jurisdictions.

*No action taken.*

9. Measure D: Five-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects

Rachel Moriconi, RTC Senior Transportation Planner presented an overview of on the draft Fiscal Year (FY) 2021/2022-2025/2026 five-year programs of projects (5-Year Plans) for Measure D regional investment categories and projects: Highway Corridors, Active Transportation, Rail Corridor, San Lorenzo Valley-Highway 9 Corridor Improvements and the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing. Committee members provided input and asked questions on projects that include increased pedestrian access points, signage, pavement markings, public outreach initiatives, the proposed alternatives for the rail corridor, auxiliary lanes, and bus-on-shoulder improvements.

*No action taken.*

Meeting adjourned at approximately 2:48 pm

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at 1:30 pm. Location is to be determined based on state guidance COVID-19 safety protocols.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Marino, Staff