



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, December 02, 2021
9:00 a.m.**

**REMOTE MEETING
Community TV Zoom
Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81189268995>
Dial-in: +1 669 900 6833
Webinar ID: 811 8926 8995**

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand	Kristin Petersen
Sandy Brown	Gine Johnson (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Larry Pageler (Alt)
Eduardo Montesino	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Manu Koenig	Robert Quinn (Alt)
Greg Caput	Felipe Hernandez (Alt)
Alta Northcutt	Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio)
Bruce McPherson	

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Tracy New
Luis Mendez	Amy Naranjo
Yesenia Parra	Ginger Dykaar
Shannon Munz	Cindy Convisser
Krista Corwin	Rachel Moriconi
Sarah Christensen	Grace Blakeslee
Amanda Marino	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)
Brianna Goodman	

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit
Barry Scott
David Van Brink

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

Handouts for items 19 & 22 were posted to the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Montesino seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda and the motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Northcutt, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Quinn, and Pageler voting "aye."

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the November 04, 2021 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the November 08, 2021 Bicycle Advisory Committee special meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the November 16, 2021 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee special meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the November 18, 2021 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items.

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the Professional Services Agreement with Harris & Associates (TP2064-01) for Environmental Permitting and Analysis on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 26-22**)
9. Approved the draft Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission 2021 Title VI Civil Rights Program & Language Assistance Plan (**Resolution 27-22**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

10. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
11. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

13. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
14. Accepted correspondence log.
15. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies.
 - a. November 10, 2021 Letter to the Federal Transit Administration
RE: Support for FTA 5339b Grant Application
16. Accepted information items. - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

17. Commissioner reports - *none*
18. Selection of Chair and Vice-Chair

Interim Chair Sandy Brown communicated the historical procedures for selecting a Chair and Vice-Chair from the body of Commission members and the impacts of Chair Gonzalez's mid-term departure on the regular rotation. Chair Brown noted that a committee was formed for nominations of Chair and Vice Chair consisting of Commissioners Brown, McPherson and Peterson. Commissioner Brown was nominated to continue as Chair and Commissioner Koenig was nominated as Vice Chair. Both Commissioners accepted the nomination.

Received public comment from:

Lani Faulkner
Jeremiah Daniels
Ryan Sarnataro
Barry Scott
David Van Brink

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned, and Commissioner Montesino seconded the motion to approve the selection committee's recommendation. Commissioners discussed: rotation sequence among the jurisdictions represented by the board; confidence in Interim Chair Brown's leadership; a concern regarding conflict of interest raised by a member of the public shared commitment to resisting personal attacks & vilifying language.

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

19. Director's report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered updates on hybrid meetings and the filling of the vacant Junior Engineer position by Brian Zamora and Associate Engineer position by Riley Gerbrandt.

Director Preston also communicated that the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and bike/pedestrian overcrossing at Rio Del Mar and trail projects, funded by Measure D, will be discussed at an upcoming Transportation Policy Workshop, tentatively agendaized for February 17, 2022.

Thanks to the strategic efforts of the RTC's project team, preconstruction and construction of the North Coast Rail Trail Project – Phase 2, including a new Highway 1 overcrossing at Yellowbank/Panther Beach to the Cotoni-Coast Dairies national monument, has been shortlisted for full funding by the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP).

The Executive Director also reported on the RTC's interest in the Federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, the reauthorization of the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, and key legislative issues in the RTC's 2022 Legislative Program.

Received public comment from:

Lani Faulkner

Commissioners expressed appreciation to staff and optimism for the North Coast Rail Trail funding. Sr. Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee responded to questions from a Commissioner regarding cost estimates, funding, permitting, and the construction schedule. Director Preston added that letters of support for the project addressed to the Coastal Commission for its public hearing in December would bolster the likelihood of the Commission issuing a permit for the project. Anyone interested in joining a coordinated effort should contact Supervisor Coonerty's office.

20. Caltrans report

District 5 Deputy Director Scott Eades delivered the Santa Cruz County project updates including improvements to roadside rest areas and the temporary closure of the Camp Roberts roadside rest area to make way for a wastewater treatment system. Director Eades also provided an update on the Clean California grant program. More information can be found at <https://cleancalifornia.dot.ca.gov/local-grants>. Director Preston has added that staff has identified the rail trail as a potential application for Clean California funding.

Received public comment from:
Sally Arnold

21. Release of Draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo delivered the staff report and responded to Commissioner questions regarding the deadline for changes to the RTP and procedures for moving items between the constrained and unconstrained lists. Director Preston provided more information regarding the environmental review of projects on the constrained list.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Review and provide input on the Draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (Attachment 1 – Executive Summary; full document available at <https://sccrtc.org/2045rtp>).
2. Authorize staff to release the Draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) for public review December 2, 2021 – January 31, 2022 (60-day comment period).
3. Schedule a public hearing on the Draft 2045 RTP for the January 13, 2022 RTC meeting.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, Petersen, Northcutt and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Quinn, and Pageler voting “aye.”

22. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Adoption of the *2021 Consolidated Grants and Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*

The RTC took a recess at 10:16 a.m. The meeting resumed at 10:30 a.m.

Sr. Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi delivered the staff report. Commissioner McPherson delivered his comments prior to departing the meeting, and Commissioner Alternate Gine Johnson replaced him. Commissioner Caput also delivered comments prior to departing the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Hernandez replaced him.

Public Hearing was opened at 11:07 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Kyle Kelley

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Matt Machado, County Public Works Department

Jayme Ackemann

Ray Cancino

Monica Martinez

Jim Mosher

Corrina McFarlane

Piet Canin

Lani Faulkner

Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works

David Date

Jesus Bojorquez, Community Bridges

Jack Brown

James Sandoval

Rick Marlais

Alex Clifford, METRO

Douglas Underhill

Todd Marco, NRG

Public Hearing was closed at 11:52 a.m.

Ms. Moriconi responded to questions from Commissioners regarding input from the city and county public works departments; application evaluation criteria; state and federal eligibility criteria; input from the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC); consideration of wildfire preparedness & emergency evacuation routes; mode & system preservation criteria; greenhouse gas emissions goals; proposed electric vehicles safety features for persons of limited mobility; county endorsement of original recommendation and subsequent amendment to their request.

Commissioner Montesino motioned and Commissioner Petersen seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

4. Consider recommendations for programming regional shares of approximately \$11 million from various state and federal funding programs (Attachment 2) from staff and the RTC's Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC), Bicycle Committee, and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC);
5. Hold a public hearing to receive comments on proposed projects and consider any written comments received; and
6. Adopt **Resolution 28-22**:
 - a. Approving projects to receive the region's anticipated formula shares of state and federal funds (Exhibit A/Attachment 2);
 - b. Approving amendments to previously programmed projects, as requested by project sponsors, to reflect current project scopes, costs and schedules (Exhibit B/Attachment 3);
 - c. Adopting the *2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program* (RTIP) for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)-funded projects;
 - d. Requesting that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) incorporate project funding and amendments into the *2022 State Transportation Improvement Program* (STIP) and the *Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program* (MTIP), as applicable.

Commissioners discussed: not enough funds to meet all the needs; improvements to infrastructure will support Metro services.

Commissioner Koenig made a substitute motion and Commissioner Alternate G. Johnson seconded the substitute motion for staff to alter the RSTP Consolidated grant awards to ensure that Santa Cruz County requests are awarded 58% of the county proposed funding or an additional \$2 million more than currently recommended by staff and the RTC committees. Final alterations should be left up to staff's best judgment but the grant amounts for projects proposed by each of the four cities should not be compromised and at least \$300,000 should be allocated to Highway 1.

A roll call vote was taken to accept the substitute motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, R.Johnson, Koenig, and Commissioner Alternates Hernandez, Schiffrin, Quinn, G.Johnson voting "aye," and Commissioners Brown, Montesino, Petersen, Northcutt, and Commissioner Alternate Pageler voting "no."

Commissioners discussed: recognition for the hard work of RTC staff, partner agencies, and advisory committees in crafting the recommendations; other sources of funding which may be available for the proposed projects; emergency evacuation a climate change priority for rural counties; county road rehabilitation underserved by current sources; Central Coast Community Energy program may be a source of funding for LiftLine and METRO projects; county roads are also agricultural roads; important role of advisory committees & Commission's responsibility to exercise its judgment.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion. The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, Brown, R.Johnson, Koenig, and Commissioner Alternates Hernandez, Schiffrin, Quinn, and G.Johnson voting "aye," and Commissioners Montesino, Petersen, Northcutt, and Commissioner Alternate Pageler voting "no."

23. Review of items to be discussed in closed session.

RTC Counsel Steven Mattas communicated that there was no reportable action anticipated from closed session.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

The Commission entered closed session at 12:38 p.m. and adjourned thereafter.

24. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(4))

25. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting will be held at the County Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 701 Ocean St., #500A, Santa Cruz, CA and via Zoom teleconference, and is scheduled for Thursday, January 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. at a location TBD.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

Barry Scott
Ben Vernazza
(831)331-7479
Alex Clifford
Amanda Marino
Arturo Z
BobFi
Brian
Brian (Trail Now)
Brianna Goodman
Casey Beyer
Casey Carlson
Chris Lamm
Claire Gallogly
Claire Hackett
Corrina McFarlane
Dan Arndt
Davidb<3public transit
David Date
Douglas Underhill
Elizabeth Clifton
Equity and Environment for Rail and Trail
Gregory Becker
Gus Alfaro, Caltrans
Housing Santa Cruz County
Jack Brown - YES Greenway!
James Sandoval
Jayme Ackemann
Jeanette Guire RC RR
Jeremiah Daniels (FoRT)
Jesus Bohorquez
Jim Mosher
John Ballard
John Urgo
Joshua Spangrud
Justin Meek
Kailash Mozumder (City of Capitola)
Kristina Kincaid Glavis
Kyle Kelley
Mark Dettle
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Matt Machado
Monica Martinez

Murray Fontes
Nadene Thorne
Nancy Yellin
Nathan Nguyen
Paul Peterson
Paula Bradley
Piet Canin
Ramon Gomez
Raymon Cancino
Rick Marlais
Ruhsora Iskandarova
Russell Chen
Ryan Meckel
Ryan Sarnataro
Sally for rail and trail
Shane Mckeithen
Steve Weisner
Tess Waldo
Tim Bailey, Santa Cruz County
Todd Guild
Todd Marco (NRG)
Wondimu Mengistu
Vicki
Zoom user