



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 13, 2022  
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference  
Community TV Zoom**

**Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85771172425>**

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

**Webinar ID: 857 7117 2425**

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Sandy Brown	Larry Pageler (Alt)
Kristen Petersen	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Robert Quinn (Alt)
Greg Caput	Felipe Hernandez (Alt)
Manu Koenig	Alta Northcutt
Eduardo Montesino	Bruce McPherson
Mike Rotkin	Tim Gubbins (Caltrans Ex-Officio)
Jacques Bertrand	

Staff present:

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

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Jack Brown  
Barry Scott  
Bud Colligan  
Buzz Anderson

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

A replacement page for item 7 and a handout for item 18 were posted to the website.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

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

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
David Van Brink  
Todd Marco, NRG

### **MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the December 02, 2021 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the December 13, 2021 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the December 16, 2021 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting
7. Approved draft minutes of the January 03, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission special meeting

### **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items.*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the construction component of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project between 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Soquel Drive interchanges (**Resolution 29-22**)
9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into agreements with Capra Environmental Services for a 2-month pilot project utilizing goats to control vegetation overgrowth along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail corridor (**Resolution 30-22**)

## **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 -*none*
16. Accepted information items. - *none*

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

17. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Rotkin requested to put an item on the next RTC agenda to consider placing an advisory measure on the June 2022 ballot concerning the future of rail and trail on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated procedures for the commission to place an item on the agenda for the next meeting.

## 18. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the director's report.

Commissioners expressed appreciation for the upcoming repairs to Storm Damage Site 7, the railroad bridge over Highway 1 in Aptos; and securing the Coastal Commission approval for the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) Segment 5 in the North Coast.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

## 19. Caltrans report

Caltrans District 5 Director Tim Gubbins echoed sentiments for the Excellence in Transportation Award for the rail trail segment 7; the state budget focuses on increasing alternative modes of transportation, safety improvements, electric vehicles and charging stations; renewed funding for the Clean California Program.

Received public comment from:

A community member who wished to remain anonymous

In response to concerns raised by a member of the public regarding suspected illegal activities occurring on Caltrans property, Mr. Gubbins has received the communication and will coordinate with Supervisor McPherson's office to discuss the matter further.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for litter clean-up in South County and planned landscape improvements; repairs to fences damaged by cutting/trespassing.

20. **PUBLIC HEARING 9:30 a.m.:** Draft 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo delivered the staff report.

Chair Brown opened the public hearing at 9:51 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Mark Mesiti-Miller, Friends of the Rail and Trail

Rebecca Downing

Todd Marco, Nicene Rio Gateway

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Sally Arnold

Barry Scott

Dianne D.

Jack Brown

Ryan Sarnataro

Sean Shrum

Chair Brown closed the public hearing at 10:15 a.m.

Ms. Naranjo, Executive Director Guy Preston, and Deputy Director Luis Mendez responded to questions from commissioners regarding the “constrained” and “unconstrained” vocabulary in reference to project funding; how projects can be moved from the unconstrained list to the constrained list.

In response to a Commissioner’s question, Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee confirmed that staff is adding a long-term project at Davenport Beach and will consider its effect in the final EIR.

Commissioners discussed: freight transportation; use of data to guide decision-making; the impact of a commuter train on Highway 1 congestion.

In response to a Commissioner’s question, Ms. Naranjo explained how project costs are calculated.

21. San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Schools Complex Circulation Project Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Local and State Agencies

Transportation Planner Brianna Goodman delivered the staff report.

Commissioners communicated that cooperative planning is essential between Caltrans, the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District, METRO, Santa Cruz County Public Works, and the RTC.

Received public comment from:

Bryan Largay

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with local and state agencies responsible for coordinating delivery of the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Schools Complex Circulation and Access Project.

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

22. Construction Contract Award – Phase 1 Coastal Erosion Repair at Manresa along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report.

Commissioners communicated that this project is an example of maintenance work which must be performed regardless of the ultimate use of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor.

Ms. Christensen and Executive Director Preston responded to questions from a commissioner regarding the causes of erosion at the Manresa site (drainage, foot traffic, and natural shoreline erosion) and expected life of the facility. Director Preston clarified that the cost of maintaining this section of the rail line is higher due to the requirement to accommodate freight loads.

Commissioners discussed: the need for preventative maintenance on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line to keep costs under control; pedestrian access to Manresa state beach; retaining wall versus plantings to help with erosion; writing a letter to the Surfrider organization as a follow-up to the construction project.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples

David Van Brink

Barry Scott

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to accept the bid for construction of the Phase 1 Coastal erosion repair near Manresa State Beach along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and authorizing the Executive Director to execute a construction contract to the lowest responsible bidder, Cal West Construction, Inc. with a contract allotment of \$697,510 (**Resolution 31-22**).

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

23. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that the Commission would be going into closed session to discuss anticipated litigation and that there is a possibility of a report-out of actions taken during closed session and the Commission would report that action on this Zoom in open session.

Upon request from a Commissioner, Mr. Mattas communicated that the closed session item allows the Commission to discuss options related to the potential of an adverse abandonment action involving the Felton line.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Trink Praxel

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Judy Gittelsohn

Sally Arnold

David Van Brink

Barry Scott

Todd Marco

Bryn Young

Ryan Sarnataro

Bud Colligan

Commissioners discussed: desire for transparency around RTC policy-related actions; any decision on abandonment will be made in open session; need for public discourse and public participation; rationale for discussing legal matters in closed session; addressing rumors that have arisen regarding the closed session item; the RTC will make sure that information not related to closed session discussions is available to the public; importance of Commissioners maintaining confidentiality in regards to closed session items; commitment of the Chair to do the public's business in public.

The Commission left open session at 11:45 a.m.

**CLOSED SESSION**

**Closed session began at 11:50 a.m.**

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

Initiation of Litigation: One Case

**OPEN SESSION**

The Commission reconvened in open session at 2:00 p.m.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas reported that on a 10-2 vote (with Commissioners Bertrand, Hernandez, Koenig, Johnson, McPherson, Pageler, Petersen, Quinn, Rotkin, and Shiffrin voting yes and Commissioners Brown and Montesino voting no), the Commission directed staff to place an open session and a closed session item on the agenda at the next meeting. The open session item would involve the consideration of issues associated with the potential adverse abandonment action. The closed session direction was provided to the staff to report back with the appropriate closed session information. The Commission also requested that staff provide certain information prior to that meeting and that information will be included both where relevant in the staff report for the open session and as appropriate in any closed session confidential information.

The meeting adjourned at 2:01 p.m.

25. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 03, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 17, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra  
Administrative Services Officer



Attendees:

(408) \*\*\*-5370

Barry Scott

Ben Vernazza

BobFi

Brian

Brian (Trail Now)

Brian Largay

Bryn Young

Bud Colligan

Buzz Anderson

Cheryl Childs - Mark Thomas

Davidvb <3 Public transit

Doug Hessing

Equity Transit

Gus Alfaro, Caltrans

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

Howard Cohen

Jack Brown - YES Greenway!

Jamie Sehorn, Analyst

Jeanette Guire RC RR

Jim MacKenzie

Johanna Lighthill

John Ballard

Joni Steele

Judy Gittelsohn

Kieran Kelly

Kota

Mark Mesiti-Miller

Matt Farrell

Melissa Hartman

Michael Pisano

Murray Fontes

Nadene Thorne

Nancy Yellin

Paul Peterson

Rebecca Downing

Riley Gerbrandt

Ron Nancy

Ryan Sarnataro

Sally for Rail and Trail

Shane Mckeithen

Sean Shrum

Steve Wiesner

Tim Brattan

Todd Marco (NRG)

Trink Praxel

Will Mayall