



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, February 03, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

**NOTE: Teleconference
Community TV Zoom**

Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88417962384>

Dial-in: +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 884 1796 2384

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Sandy Brown

Kristen Petersen

Randy Johnson

Greg Caput

Manu Koenig

Eduardo Montesino

Alta Northcutt

Mike Rotkin

Andy Schiffrin (Alt)

Robert Quinn (Alt)

Felipe Hernandez (Alt)

Jacques Bertrand

Bruce McPherson

Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio)

Staff present:

Guy Preston

Luis Mendez

Yesenia Parra

Shannon Munz

Krista Corwin

Cindy Convisser

Tracy New

Sarah Christensen

Brianna Goodman

Amy Naranjo

Eric Hocky (RTC Railway Counsel)

Steven Mattas (RTC General Counsel)

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Barry Scott
Judy Gittelsohn
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Linda Wilshusen
David Dean
Michael Saint
John Erdcamp
Terri Fagan
Luke Lindroth
Todd Marco, Nicene Rio Gateway
Rebecca Downing
Lani Faulkner
Warwick Boulton
Sean

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

Attachment 2 for item 21, a replacement page for item 22, and handouts for items 8, 22, and 23 were posted to the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that a request was received to amend the January 13, 2022 minutes to include the votes cast during closed session.

Commissioners discussed: desire for transparency and procedures for amending an item on the consent agenda.

In response to a question from a Commissioner, Deputy Director Luis Mendez provided more information about the design plans and funding in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Master Plan for the Pajaro River Bridge.

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

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Barry Scott
Bob Berlage
Brad Wilson with Agron
David Schonbrunn

MINUTES

4. Accepted draft minutes of the January 11, 2022 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee special meeting
5. Approved draft minutes as amended of the January 13, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the January 20, 2022 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items.

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the cooperative agreement with Caltrans to increase funding for completion of a Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Complete Streets Project Initiation Document (**Resolution 32-22**)
8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a Master Agreement with Caltrans to administer grant funding for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project (**Resolution 33-22**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

9. Approved amending the Fiscal Year (FY) 2021-22 Budget and Work Program (**Resolution 34-22**)
10. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
11. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the contract for technical support services with User Friendly Computing (**Resolution 35-22**)
13. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
15. Accepted correspondence log.
16. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies -*none*
17. Accepted information items. - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

18. Commissioner reports - *none*
19. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston announced that there will be a Transportation Policy Workshop on February 17, 2022 beginning at 9:00 a.m. focused on Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 Through 12 (Pacific Avenue to Rio Del Mar Boulevard) project updates.

20. Caltrans report

Caltrans District 5 Deputy Director Scott Eades delivered updates on the Adopt-a-Highway program noting the new stipends available for volunteers and the impacts to Boulder Creek traffic amidst Highway 9 construction projects.

Commissioners expressed appreciation for Caltrans' participation in the North Coast Multiagency Working Group for their coordination efforts to make improvements in transportation along Santa Cruz County's North Coast.

Received public comment from:
Elaine Rohlfes

In response to a question from a member of the public, Commissioner Eades provided more information on how residents and groups can participate in the Adopt-a-Highway program and apply for the stipends.

21. Watsonville to Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program Update

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report.

Commissioner Caput departed the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Hernandez replaced him.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for Measure D voters & importance of self-help county status in obtaining project funding; graphics make presentation accessible; inclusion of zero emission buses; Caltrans' appreciation for joint efforts between agencies; seeking funding for passenger rail service and to provide a cost estimate for an Environmental Impact Report; need for equity for Watsonville workers and freight users; understanding the Greenway initiative and any possible impacts on RTC rail planning; rail lines play a part in equity, environment, and economy; use of data to achieve goals.

In response to questions from Commissioners, staff will follow up with public works staff regarding improvements along school routes; Ms. Christensen provided more clarity on funding matches, grant competitiveness, and cost estimates; Executive Director Preston explained how projects are packaged strategically to make them more competitive; lane closures and traffic mitigation efforts during construction; lack of an Environmental Impact Report for passenger rail prevents the RTC from applying for funds; findings of the TCAA business plan and their impact on the development of an EIR; recent history of freight on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL).

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Judy Gittelsohn
Trink Praxel
Barry Scott
Marian Malatesta
Michael Saint
Lani Faulkner
Todd Marco, Nicene Rio Gateway
Elaine Rohlfes
Linda Wilshusen
Jack Brown
Sally Arnold
Tina Andreatta
Sean
Henry Hooker

In response to questions raised by members of the public, staff confirmed that Ms. Christiansen's presentation will be made available on the RTC website on the Highway projects page; clarification on the span of the bridges & compatibility with potential future HOV lanes; Environmental Impact Report (EIR) to include rehabilitation of railroad bridges; cycle 3 application due in December 2022; unable to apply for funds for passenger rail service without an EIR; clarification that the project has been nominated for consideration of a joint application with Caltrans for cycle 3; eligibility of highway projects for Measure D funding.

22. Informational Report on the Potential Preservation of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) by Railbanking including Future Potential Adverse Abandonment Actions for Heavy Freight Rail Only & Termination of the ACL Agreement

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed whether Roaring Camp's equipment can be transported by truck; the Greenway as described in the ballot initiative appears to require removal of the tracks; viability of sections of the rail track in their current condition for future use; next steps for RTC staff.

RTC General Counsel Steve Mattas and RTC Railway Counsel Eric Hocky responded to questions about litigation exposure resulting from abandonment of the freight easement; liability risk with & without filing for abandonment on the SCBRL & Felton lines; appraisers look at the encumbrances on the property when making an evaluation.

Commissioners discussed: divisiveness makes it difficult to move forward; desire for a market analysis of continuing freight on the rail corridor from RTC and from Roaring Camp; request staff to continue discussions with Roaring Camp; background on railbanking, abandonment, and easements on the SCBRL; the Greenway ballot initiative and its possible effects on rail planning; possibility to find an arrangement of ways to realign the track in some segments; preservation of the rail line serves workers and businesses in South County; fiduciary responsibility; need to rely on data to make decisions; benefits and pitfalls of freight service; request staff to analyze options for trucking Roaring Camp's locomotives; businesses utilizing freight service in South County; desire for controversial rail-related discussions to occur in public; spirit of transparency and efficacy.

Received public comment from:

Michael Conneran, Roaring Camp

Rosemary Sarka, Roaring Camp

Kyle Kelley

Gina Cole

David Date

Jack Brown

David Schonbrunn, Train Riders Association of California

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Linda Wilshusen

David Dean

Jim Harville, Placerville and Sacramento Valley Railroad

Brad Wilson, Agron

Lani Faulkner

Barry Scott

Colin Miller
Stacey
Sally Arnold, Friends of the Rail and Trail
David van Brink
Tina Andreatta
Jacob Wysocki
John E
Charles Hicks
Patrick Weismann
Christina LoFranco
Deborah Still
Saladin Sale
Buzz Anderson
Rebecca Downing
Faina Segal
Judy Gittelsohn
Sean
Bud Colligan
Charles Hicks
Mary Offerman
Cheyenne Hauk
Eric Hansen
Richard Murphy
Salvador Allen
Adrian Brandt
Todd Marco, Nicene Rio Gateway

23. Ballot Measure Regarding Rail and Trail

Deputy Director Luis Mendez delivered the staff report.

Commissioners Rotkin and Montesino delivered introductory comments clarifying the Commissioners' intentions in bringing the item forward on the RTC agenda.

Commissioner Rotkin, with the concurrence of Commissioners Brown and Montesino, withdrew the proposal from consideration.

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 p.m.

24. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 03, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.
See agenda for location.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

(408)***-1292	Austin Sherwood
(510)***-3796	B. Young
(510)***-9833	Barry Scott
(530)***-4414	Ben Vernazza
(831)***-6133	Beth Hollenbeck
(831)***-7377	Bill
(831)***-2198	Bill Buchanan
(831)***-7812	Bill McGowan
(831)***-7812	Bob Berlage
(916)***-2220	BobFi
(916)***-5466	Bodey De Nault
(936)***-7630	Brad Wilson with Agron
Aaron Brunckhurst	Brett Garrett
Adamczak, Mark (FRA)	Brian (Trail Now)
Adrian Brandt	Bruce Sawhill
Alex Mahshi(western railway museum)	Bud Colligan
Ali Wolf	Buzz Anderson
Alisan Andrews	Cajpitola Wine Bar
Alvaro Romero	Call-In User_1
ANAT Lewis	Call-in User_2
Andreas Dunn	Call-in User_3
Andrew Leporini	carolrosenoff
Ann Benham	Casey Beyer
Anna G. Eshoo	CC
annlkaplan	Cchristman
Anonymous	Charles Hicks
anonymous1	Charlie DeFilippis
	Chelsea George

Cheyenne and Colin
Chris
Chris Berry - SCWD
Chris Neklason
Christina LoFranco
Christina Watson, TAMC Director
of Planning
Cliff Walters
Colin Miller-San Lorenzo Valley
Connie Croker
Dan Evans
Dan Lauritson
Dan Slavin
Daniel Zaragoza
david <3 public transit
David Carlson
David Date
David Dean
David Morris
David Rangel
David Schonbrunn, TRAC
David Wade
Deb
Deborah Still
Deltadawn211
Denise Holbert
Diane McClish
Dick Vennerbeck
dmori
dorothy young
Doug Huskey
D-R Martin
Dr. Casey KirkHart
Duncan N
EB
EK
Elaine Rohlfes
Enda
Eric
Eric Olds
Eva Brunner
F. Meschi
Felix Ko
FORT Zoom host
Garret Rosslow

George Reagan
Giancarlo
Gina Cole
ginny314
gk
Gloria Garing
Grace Stetson (she/her)
Heather
Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Heather Woodson
Henry Hooker
hgarygreene
Hoda Emam
Howard Cohen
J T Verbeck
J.M. Brown
Jack Brown - YES Greenway!
Jacob Wysocki
James Sandoval
Janie
Jared
Jason Hoppin
Jayme Ackemann
jbkingsquire
Jeannie
Jen
Jenna Coura
Jenni
Jennie Dusheck
Jerimiah Oetting
Jesse Bridges
Jesseka
Jessica Martinez-Mckinney
Jessie B.
Jillian Ritter
Jim Harville
Jim Jensen
Jim MacKenzie
jim warner
Jo Ann Allen
Joe Williams
John Compton
John E.
John McCormick
John Walbridge

Joni Steele
Judy Gittelsohn
juliathomas
Justin Cummings
Justin Davilla
kaitlyn (she/her)
Kapiolani
Kate Adams
Kate Elliott
Kate Giberson
Katharine P. Minott - or - Kate
Katie Haggerty
Ken Rector
KGO Transmission
Kiaya
Kieran Kelly
Kim Halvorsen
Kimberly Kickok
KJD
Korey Smith
Kota
Krisna Supatra-Campbell
Krista Myers
Kristen Kittleson
Kristen Sandel
Kristi Locatelli
KTVU News
Kyle Kelley (he/him)
L
Lani Faulkner
Larken24
Lauren Lozier
LD Freitas
Lenny and Connie
Lenny B
Leo Petropoulos
Linda Wilshusen
Liz R
Lolke Bijlsma
Louie Costa - SMART -TD
It Camp
Luc
Luke Lundroth
Malcolm Park
Marian Malatesta

Marilyn Marzell
Mark Johannessen
Mark Mesiti-Miller
Mark Stephens
Marty Demare
Mary Offerman
Matt Farrell
Matt Machado
McCauley Elizabeth
Melissa Hartman
Merry
Michael Conneran
Michael DiDonato
Michael Saint
Mike Sherrod
Mitchell
Murray Fontes
Nadene Thornre
Nancy
Nancy Connelly
Nancy Macy
Nancy Yellin
Narayan Wilder
Natalie Goff
Nate Ault
nolongerinkansas[at]hotmail.com
Patricia.Kingston[at]rsconst.com
Patrick Weismann
Paul Myer
Paul Peterson
Paula Bradley
Peggy Dolgenos, Cruzio Internet
PW
R
RaeRae
Ramon Gomez
Raugust
Raymon Cancino (he/him/they)
Rebecca Downing
Richard Marlais
Richard Murphy
Riley Gerbrandt
Rob Thorsen
Rob Tidmore
Robert Boehm

Robin McGinnis
Robin Musitelli
Rod Morimoto
Ron Pomerantz
ronperrigojr
Rosemary Sarka
Russell Chen
Ryan
Ryan Sarnataro
Saladin Sale - Rail & Trail
Sally for Rail and Trail
Salvador Allen
Sarah Ringler
Scott Lewis
Sean
Shane Mckeithen
Silverbirder
Simone Aponte
Skye Herrick
Slavin
Sonja Brunner (she/her/hers)
Stacey
Steve Hill
Steve Wiesner
Stu Wilson
Sue Green
susan brutshcy
takawiseman
Teresa Buika
Terye Balogh
Tess Fitzgerald
Tess Waldo
Thomas Berthold
Tim Brattan
Tina Andreatta
Todd Guild
Todd Manoff
Todd Marco
Tom Rath
Tony Calcagno
Tony Russomanno
Trevor Park
Trink Praxel
Trvor Park
Tyler

Vicki Miller
Vini Carter
Warwick Boulton
Wendy_Sigmund
Will Mayall
Zoom Host2
Zoom user