



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, April 07, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

**Remote Meeting
Community TV Zoom**

Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81296262340>

Dial-in: +1 669 900 6833

Webinar ID: 812 9626 2340

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Sandy Brown	Felipe Hernandez (Alt)
Jacques Bertrand	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Lowell Hurst (Alt)
Kristen Brown	Ari Parker
Manu Koenig	Mike Rotkin
Bruce McPherson	Scott Eades (Ex-Officio)

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Tracy New
Luis Mendez	Sarah Christensen
Yesenia Parra	Amanda Marino
Shannon Munz	Stephanie Britt
Krista Corwin	Rachel Moriconi
Amy Naranjo	Riley Gerbrandt
Tommy Travers	Tom Manniello (Labor Negotiator Counsel)
Grace Blakeslee	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)
Cindy Convisser	

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

Trink Praxel

Barry Scott

Sally Arnold

Lani Faulkner

David Van Brink

Commissioners requested information on any potential legal issues pertaining to the display of 2016 Measure D signage on public agency vehicles in light of the 2022 ballot measure D; directed staff to coordinate & communicate with agencies to clarify the expectations on displaying the 2016 Measure D signs.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas. - *none*

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Rotkin moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Hernandez, and Schiffrin.

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint

MINUTES

4. Approved draft minutes of the February 17, 2022 Transportation Policy Workshop
5. Approved draft minutes of the March 03, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Approved draft minutes of the March 13, 2022 Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee meeting
7. Approved draft minutes of the March 17, 2022 Transportation Policy Workshop

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

8. Adopted a resolution programming Santa Cruz County's formula shares of FY21/22 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) to Community Bridges Lift Line and to Santa Cruz METRO and amend the RTC budget (**Resolution 41-22**)
9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to execute Contract Change Order (CCO) #2 with Top Tier Grading, LLC for storm damage Site 3 on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 42-22**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

10. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
11. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues
12. Approved amendments to the fiscal year FY2021-22 budget and work program (**Resolution 43-22**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

13. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings
14. Accepted FY 2020-21 Fiscal Audit for the SCCRTC Measure D Fund

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

15. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
16. Accepted correspondence log
17. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
 - a. March 03, 2022 Letter from Chair Sandy Brown to Governor Newsom regarding State Budget – Opposition to suspension of adjustment to fuel excise tax; Support for surplus funds to transportation programs
18. Accepted information items
 - a. February 23, 2022 News Release: \$312 Million in Clean California Projects to Beautify and Revitalize Public Spaces Throughout the State

- b. March 3, 2022 News Release: Caltrans Announces Local Projects Receiving Part of the Nearly \$300 Million in Clean California Grants

REGULAR AGENDA

19. Commissioner reports

Commissioner McPherson announced the ribbon cutting of the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing at Laurel Curve which will take place on April 29th at 9:00am. The highly-anticipated project is partially funded by Measure D and funds raised by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

Commissioner Koenig reported on the Commission's participation at the Central Coast Coalition Legislative Day, which he, Chair Sandy Brown, and members of staff attended last week. The Coalition met with legislators, members of Governor Newsom's cabinet, and members of the California Transportation Commission to communicate opposition to state assembly bills that would remove local control of sales tax revenues; and to discuss transportation improvements in the future, VMT calculations, investment in automobile infrastructure on the Central Coast, and state funding for active transportation and buses.

20. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the director's report, noting that a funding presentation that was requested by Commissioner Alternate Virginia Johnson is scheduled for the April 21, 2022 Transportation Policy Workshop, and highlighting \$786,000 in Caltrans grants awarded to the RTC for planning work on climate adaptation and transportation equity.

Director Preston also introduced Stephanie Britt, who was recently hired to fill the Transportation Planning Technician vacancy.

Commissioners discussed: excitement for the equity planning grant and addition of bilingual staff to meet the needs of South County residents.

Received public comment from:
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

21. Caltrans report

Caltrans District 5 Deputy Director Scott Eades offered congratulations to RTC staff for the grants awarded to the RTC and communicated that AMBAG was awarded a grant for a freight study along the Central Coast; that the state is moving towards a complete streets design model; information on a

state proposal for highways-to-boulevards funding program; and that additional SHOPP funds were secured for complete streets in Watsonville.

Commissioners discussed: gratitude for safety and efficiency improvements at the Route 129 roundabout; supply chain issues and AMBAG's sustainable freight study; and the complete streets proposal along route 152 improving walkability in downtown Watsonville.

22. Measure D Potential Financing Options Presentation

Director of Budget and Finance Tracy New delivered the staff report and introduced KNN Public Finance staff. Executive Director Guy Preston delivered an overview of the presentation.

David Leifer and Melissa Schick of KNN Public Finance delivered a presentation providing information to the Commission on the primary options for bonding using Measure D funds.

Mr. Leifer responded to questions from Commissioners and Commissioners discussed: the decision-making process leading up to applying for grants to implement passenger rail transit; CEQA compliance and funding; projects which would be eligible for bonding with respect to the local revenue streams; expected increases in federal interest rates; cashflow model as a top priority; and background on SMART train bond and tax measure.

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint
Jacob Wysocki
Lani Faulkner
Trink Praxel

Commissioners discussed: funding status of active transportation and auxiliary lanes projects; dependency of sales tax on the movement of goods; and infeasibility of bonding before the ballot measure in June.

23. GO Santa Cruz County Program Update

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo delivered the staff report and a presentation.

Ms. Naranjo and Luis Mendez, Deputy Director responded to Commissioners' questions and commissioners discussed: data comparison between RTC's Cruz 511 trip logging program and similar programs implemented by other Bay Area transportation agencies; efforts to increase the numbers of users

who are actively logging trips; new transit pool and walk pool options; numbers of carpool and vanpool users; applying to e-bike rebate programs; rising gasoline prices; whether the RideAmigos app has an impact on mode shift; interest in nonrenewal of the RideAmigos contract and reinvestment in rebates for e-bikes and scooters; the platform's performance in similarly comparable commute programs; the difference that incentives make; and mode-shift tracking via surveys.

Received public comment from:

Sally Arnold
David Van Brink
Lani Faulkner

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations.

Commissioner Koenig made a substitute motion and Commissioner Parker seconded the motion for staff to come back before the contract expires in June with more information about daily active users on RideAmigos in other communities including carpools formed and what an alternative GO Santa Cruz County program without RideAmigos and with more e-bike and scooter rebates could look like.

Commissioners discussed and Ms. Naranjo responded to questions regarding: impacts of COVID on the success of the program; time required to provide the additional requested information; jurisdictions utilizing the RideAmigos platform on this contract (including UC Santa Cruz and the City of Santa Cruz) would have no alternative if the contract were terminated; pandemic-induced uncertainties affecting the participation of major employers; e-bike incentive programs in existence and lowering barriers for applicants

Commissioner Koenig withdrew and Commissioner Parker agreed to withdraw the substitute motion. Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin amended his original motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Receive information about Cruz511 and GO Santa Cruz County
2. Authorize the Executive Director to amend the agreement for a commute manager platform with RideAmigos (**Resolution 44-22**)

And adding a direction to staff to return with the information requested by Commissioner Koenig this time next year prior to the contract expiration to allow time for review.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Hernandez, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

24. Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Proposed Budget

Director of Budget and Finance Tracy New delivered the staff report

Commissioners discussed: confirmation that the formula used for distributing Measure D funds is based on the text or the measure, which includes population.

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

1. Adopt **Resolution 45-22** approving the proposed FY2022-23 RTC and Measure D budgets as shown on Exhibit A of Attachment 1;
2. Accept the Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenue forecast for FY 2022-23 provided by the County Auditor;
3. Accept the Measure D revenue forecast for FY 2022-23 provided by HDL Services;
4. Accept the 30-year Measure D revenue projection which incorporates the HDL forecast for FY 2022-23;
5. Accept the 5-year Measure D revenue estimates for direct recipients which incorporate the HDL forecast and calculation of the revenue distribution for local jurisdictions with updated data;
6. Adopt the **Resolution 46-22** authorizing the Executive Director to sign:
 - a. The California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust Program (CEPPT) Agreement and Election to Prefund Employer Contributions to a Defined Benefit Pension Plan through CalPERS as the Presiding Officer (Exhibit A);
 - b. The California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust (CEPPT) Certification of Funding Policy (Exhibit B); and
 - c. Delegation of Authority to Request Disbursements from the California Employers' Pension Prefunding Trust (CEPPT) to the positions of Executive Director and Deputy Director (Exhibit C); and
7. Adopt **Resolution 47-22** authorizing the Executive Director to sign:

- a. Agreement and Election to Prefund Other Post-Employment Benefits through CalPERS as the Presiding Officer (Exhibit A);
- b. The California Employers' Retirement Benefit Trust (CERBT) Certification of Funding Policy (Exhibit B); and
- c. Delegation of Authority to Request Disbursements from the California Employers' Retirement Benefit Trust (CERBT) to the positions of Executive Director and Deputy Director (Exhibit C);

And directing staff to provide additional information requested by Commissioner Johnson regarding Measure D formula-based funding allocations.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Hernandez, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

25. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas provided an overview of the two items: labor negotiations with the Mid-Management and CORE bargaining units and potential litigation with significant exposure to one case regarding potential repairs to the right-of-way way that RTC owns at Manresa Beach.

The Commission adjourned open session at 11:59 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session began at 12:00 p.m.

Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra left the meeting for the RAMM portion of the closed session. Executive Director Guy Preston abstained and left the meeting for a portion of the RAMM portion of the closed session. The closed session ended at 1:05 p.m.

26. CONFERENCE WITH LABOR NEGOTIATORS pursuant to Government Code 54957.6

Commission Negotiators: Thomas Manniello, Lozano and Smith and Yesenia Parra, RTC

Bargaining Units: Mid-Management Unit and Community of RTC Employees (CORE)

27. Conference with Legal Counsel – Anticipated Litigation (pursuant to Government Code 54956.9(d)(2).)

OPEN SESSION

28. Report on closed session

There were no reportable actions for item 26 on the closed session agenda.

For item 27, RTC Legal Counsel Steven Mattas reported that on a 9-0 vote, the Commission directed Executive Director, Guy Preston to not enter into an agreement for repairs to the rail line right-of-way at Manresa Beach.

29. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 05, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. See agenda for location.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Barry Scott
Lani Faulkner
Michael Saint
Sally Arnold for Rail & Trail
Trink Praxel
BobFi
David <3 public transit
Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Jacob Wysocki
Jeanette Guire RC RR
Jesus Bojorquez
Jim MacKenzie
Johanna Lighthill
Kevin Drabinski
Kieren Kelly
Linda Wilshusen
Murray Fontes
Paula Bradley
Rob Tidmore
Shane McKeithen