



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, May 5, 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:

Jacques Bertrand

Sandy Brown

Kristen Brown

Greg Caput

Randy Johnson

Manu Koenig

Ari Parker

Mike Rotkin

Felipe Hernandez (Alt)

Lowell Hurst (Alt)

Bruce McPherson

Larry Pageler (Alt)

Robert Quinn (Alt)

Andy Schiffrin (Alt)

John Olejnik (Ex-Officio)

Staff present:

Guy Preston

Luis Mendez

Yesenia Parra

Tracy New

Sarah Christensen

Shannon Munz

Krista Corwin

Grace Blakeslee

Stephanie Britt

Cindy Convisser

Riley Gerbrandt

Brianna Goodman

Amanda Marino

Rachel Moriconi

Amy Naranjo

Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

David Van Brink

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Saladin Sale

Barry Scott

Craig Chatterton

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

Barbara Chamberlain, Lions Club

Judy Gittelsohn

Robin Belkin

Tina Andreatta

Lani Faulkner

Rick Longinotti, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

Handouts for item 2, item 11, item 26, and item 28 were posted to the website.

Director Preston communicated that the closed session item 30 was removed from the agenda. One of the two handouts for item 28 were comments from the public that were received on time but processed late due to inadvertently ending up in the RTC's spam box.

CONSENT AGENDA

Chair Brown pulled item 11 from the consent agenda.

Commissioner McPherson expressed appreciation to all partner agencies on their cooperative efforts on item 12.

Commissioner Caput moved and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item 11. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Schiffrin, and Quinn voting "aye."

MINUTES

4. Accepted draft minutes of the March 17, 2022 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

5. Accepted draft minutes of the March 30, 2022 Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the April 6, 2022 Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee meeting
7. Approved draft minutes of the April 07, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the April 11, 2022 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
9. Accepted draft minutes of the April 12, 2022 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
10. Accepted draft minutes of the April 21, 2022 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

11. Approve rejection of Bid for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Line – ***item was pulled from the consent agenda and moved to the regular agenda as item 23a.***
12. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a funding cooperative agreement with San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District (SLVUSD) for the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study (**Resolution 48-22**)
13. Approved the draft final fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 RTC work program (**Resolution 49-22**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

14. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
15. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

16. Accepted FY 2020-21 Fiscal Audit for the SCCRTC
17. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

18. Approved nomination and appointment to the Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC)

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

19. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
20. Accepted correspondence log
21. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies *-none*
22. Accepted information items
 - a. April 5, 2022 News Release: Caltrans District 5 Awarded \$2.34 Million to Plan Sustainable Transportation Projects in Local Communities

REGULAR AGENDA

23a. Approve rejection of Bid for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Line – ***item was pulled from the consent agenda and moved to the regular agenda for discussion.***

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report and responded to questions from Commissioners regarding the grant funds secured by the RTC to perform the rehabilitation; the bid exceeding the amount of funding; and the responsibilities of the operator.

Received public comment from:

Barbara Chamberlain
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Jessica Evans
Barry Scott
Saladin Sale
Lani Faulkner
Rosemary Sarka, Roaring Camp
Ryan Sarnataro
Jack Brown
Sally Arnold
Leah AC Frost
Jean Brocklebank

Commissioners discussed: RTC's legal obligations met; appreciation to staff for trying to make the project workable; rescoping the project; unwise to shift Measure D-2016 funding to this project; frequency of inspections and prioritization of safety and longevity; rail maintenance funds extremely limited; desire to see phase 1 inspections; equity issues between San Lorenzo bridge and Pajaro bridge; importance of the bridge as a pedestrian

pathway; valuable connection between Pajaro and Watsonville; structural elements of the rehabilitation.

Commissioner Rotkin motioned and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to reject the bid for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Line and directed staff to continue discussions with Roaring Camp and other parties to brainstorm ways of utilizing the grant funds to make the necessary repairs.

The motion passed with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Schiffrin, and Quinn voting "aye" and Commissioner Caput voting "no."

23. Commissioner reports – ***items 23, 24, and 25 were taken out of order after item 26 and 28.***

Legal Counsel Steven Mattas reported that responses were provided as confidential communication to all Commissioners for questions posed by Commissioners Koenig and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin regarding the 2022 Measure D ballot measure.

Commissioner Rotkin motioned, and Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion to authorize public release of that confidential communication on the current Measure D ballot measure. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst and Hernandez voting "aye."

24. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the director's report, providing information on the recent press release regarding repairs at Manresa Beach and a recent fire at the timber trestle at MP 0.86 on Monday, May 2, 2022.

25. Caltrans report

Caltrans District 5 Deputy Director John Olejnik reported on the groundbreaking event for the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing and provided an update on construction. Director Olejnik also reported on the memorial ceremony for Caltrans construction workers and reminded the public to be mindful of the cone zones when driving.

26. **PUBLIC HEARING 9:30 a.m.:** 2022 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List

Transportation Planner Amanda Marino delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: potential challenges in Metro service to accommodate a Kaiser medical facility planned for Live Oak; capacity for bikes on Metro buses; Senior Council's annual survey of needs & Area Agency on Aging comprehensive survey; piggybacking individualized paratransit & shared use of METRO vehicles; enhance door-to-door paratransit & importance of elderly & disabled retaining their independence; unmet needs list grows after decades of underinvestment in transit and paratransit.

John Olejnik, Caltrans District 5 Senior Planner and Madeline Jacobson, District 5 Transit Planner, provided more information on the importance of bridging broadband gaps.

The public hearing opened at 9:48 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

Barbara Chamberlain

Linda Wilshusen

The public hearing closed at 9:55 a.m.

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

1. Adopt the *2022 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List* (Attachment 1), with revisions as appropriate, following the public hearing; and,
2. Consider unmet transit and paratransit needs as funding becomes available.
3. Direct staff to add the broadband issues that were discussed by Ms. Jacobson of Caltrans and to leave the scoring of that unmet need up to staff's discretion.

Motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Schiffrin, and Quinn voting "aye."

27. Presentation from the City of Capitola Department of Public Works -
The item was postponed to a later meeting.

28. **PUBLIC HEARING 10:30 a.m.:** Measure D-2016 Highway Corridors and Active Transportation – Five-Year Program of Projects

Executive Director Guy Preston introduced the staff report and presented staff's alternative recommendation.

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee delivered a presentation on Coastal Rail Trail development, funding requests from the local jurisdictions, and programming for the Active Transportation investment category of Measure D-2016. Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered a presentation on cycle 3 of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridors project and programming for the Highway 1 Corridors investment category for Measure D-2016. Director Preston delivered a presentation on the two cash flow scenarios presented in the staff recommendation, the funding capacity of Measure D-2016, and the potential to railbank the SCBL from Lee Road in Watsonville to Davenport.

Director Preston responded to questions regarding: clarifying the implications of the staff's alternative recommendation; clarifying staff's recommendation with respect to the City & County of Santa Cruz's grant seeking for Segments 8-12; the need for bonding in order to program funds; additional programming required for FY23 budget amendment includes cost overrun on segment 7 and additional funding to complete the environmental analysis for segments 8, 9, 10, and 11; operationalizing the recommendation to "advance discussions to railbank the SCBL"; cost estimates include trail only (excludes costs to rehabilitate the line for rail service); costs to rehabilitate or replace the Capitola trestle; option to complete the trail in segments as funding becomes available; keeping options open until voters weigh in on the Greenway initiative on June 7; ability of the City to maximize flexibility for building their segments of the trail; terms of current & potential future maintenance agreements with local jurisdictions; class standards of the segments & building for freight and/or passenger rail; no need for a debate or a decision today between "rail with trail" or "trail only."

The public hearing opened at 12:39 p.m.

Received public comment from:

Robin Belkin
Saladin Sale
Brian (Trail Now)
Jessica Evans
Barry Scott
Deb Molina
Paula Bradley
Christina Watson
David Van Brink

Michael Saint
Rosemary Sarka
Jack Brown
Faina Segal
Kathryn Mizuno
Leah AC Frost
Kyle Kelley
Equity Transit
Ryan Sarnataro
Pauline Seales
Ann Kaplan
Unnamed Speaker
Charles Hicks
William Menchine
Magi Amma

The public hearing closed at 1:19 p.m.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the alternate staff recommendation.

At the suggestion of Commissioner McPherson, the maker of the motion added a friendly amendment to direct staff to return to the Commission for a discussion on cost overruns and the seconder accepted the amendment.

Commissioner Koenig proposed a friendly amendment that a maintenance agreement must be put in place with the partner agencies prior to advertising for construction of any future segment.

The maker of the motion (Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin) proposed that the discussion on maintenance take place at the September Commission meeting and Commissioners Koenig and Rotkin agreed.

Commissioner Koenig proposed a friendly amendment to authorize grant applications for segments 8-11 for either scenario while remaining silent on the rail line to ensure maximum flexibility to implement either option in the future.

Commissioners discussed and staff responded to a question regarding the lack of the RTC's authority to authorize the grant applications for Segments 8-11.

The maker of the motion (Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin) added an amendment to direct staff to provide recommended language to the City and

the County for their grant applications for Segments 8-11. Commissioners Koenig and Rotkin accepted the amendment.

Commissioners discussed: fragile nature of the proposed compromise; consistency of approach & formalizing the ability of the agencies to move forward with either option; appreciation to staff for alternative recommendation; potential to secure a railbanking agreement with Roaring Camp that does not preclude future implementation of rail.

Engineer for the City of Santa Cruz Nathan Nguyen provided more information on the City's cycle 6 Active Transportation Plan construction grant application and responded to a Commissioner's question regarding cost overruns.

Commissioners discussed: differentiation between cost overruns and long-term maintenance costs; equity of RTC allocations between North and South County projects.

In response to a question from Commissioners, Director Preston provided information on funds previously provided to the City of Watsonville for Segment 18 and clarified that the City covered cost overruns for Segment 18.1.

Commissioners discussed: RTC's track record on approving jurisdictional requests for funds; concern about the gradual creep toward railbanking.

Director Preston reported what funds were provided to the City of Watsonville for their segment & the significant utility needs of the City of Santa Cruz's project. Director Preston stated that staff will make a recommendation (or not) if there is a need for additional funding during construction, based on today's decision not to include language on cost overruns at this time.

Commissioners discussed: the motion on the table as modified friendly amendments to be as follows:

1. Hold a public hearing on programming and financing options for Measure D Highway Corridors and Active Transportation regional investment categories;
2. Consider public and RTC Advisory Committee input; and
3. Adopt **Resolution 50-22** to:
 - a. Program additional Measure D-Highway Corridors and Active Transportation revenues to Highway 1 and Coastal Rail Trail projects as shown in Exhibit A, without specifying alignment preference. This includes programming additional Measure D-

regional funds for the Highway 1 Freedom to State Park Project, Coastal Rail Trail Segments 7 through 12, as well as ongoing program costs;

- b. Commit to future actions to finance, if determined necessary to meet funding commitments, in accordance with the Measure D - Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), Policy 4.5 (Attachment 2);
 - c. Amend the RTC FY23 budget to reflect approved programming actions and reflect updated project schedule and cost information for previously programmed projects;
4. Direct staff to advance discussions to railbank the SCBL, from Lee Road in Watsonville to Davenport, as a measure to reduce RTC's financial exposure for either the interim or ultimate trail.
 5. Direct staff to return with a discussion on [long term] maintenance issues no later than September and a discussion on how to deal with cost overruns.
 6. Direct staff to provide recommended language to the City and County for moving forward with the grant applications to allow for flexibility.
 7. Require that a maintenance agreement be in place, prior to the advertisement of future trail projects for construction.

The motion (Schiffirin/Rotkin) passed with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffirin and Quinn voting "aye." Commissioner Alternates Hurst and Hernandez voted "no."

Commissioners discussed: historical cooperation between Commissioners representing all parts of the county.

Chair Brown requested that staff respond to questions posed by members of the public regarding: the potential risk for losing funding if the RTC does not take action to move forward with the preferred alternative; a memo explaining the RTC's commitments to Progressive Rail for the first 7 miles of the Coastal Rail Trail; mileage & cost comparisons between the interim and ultimate alignment.

Chair Brown asked for information regarding whether commitments have been met with Progressive Rail for first 7 miles of the rail line. Executive Director Preston responded that the RTC has met its commitments with regards to the first 7 miles of the rail line and staff will be sending a letter to Progressive Rail for not maintaining that section of the rail line.

29. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Item 30 was removed from the agenda. There was no closed session.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

30. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 02, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.
See agenda for location.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday,
May 19, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Barbara Chamberlain
Brian (Trail Now)
Jessica for Ultimate Rail & Trail
Barry Scott
David dislikes bullies
Equity Transit
Fern Selzer
Linda Wilshusen
Michael Saint
Robin Belkin
Saladin Sale R&T
Tina Andreatta
(831)***-2319
Alissa Guthier, TAMC
Ann
Ann Kaplan
Barry Pearlman
Batya Kagan
Ben Vernazza
Bill
BobFi
Brian
Buzz Anderson
Carolyn Brigit Flynn
Casey Beyer

Charles Hicks
Christina Watson
Clare Gallogly
Community tb
Cory
Craig
David Morris
Deb Molina
Deez1
Eva Brunner
Faina Segal
Gary
Gina Gallino Cole
Gracevoss[at]sbcglobal.net
Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Howard Cohen
Jacob Wyocki
Jayme
Jean Brocklebank
Jeanette Guire RC RR
Jeremy
Jesus Bojorquez
Jim MacKenzie
Jim Mulherin
Jim Tracey

jm
Joanna
John Benza
John Urgo, Santa Cruz METRO
Joni Steele
Kate Elliot
Kathryn Mizuno
Keiran Kelly
Kota
Krisna Supatra-Campbell
Kristen Sandel
Lawrence Kaplan
Leah AC Frost
Linda Locklin-Coastal Commission
Magi Amma
Marc Yellin
Marcia Poms
Mark Johannessen
Mark Mesiti-Miler
Matt Farrell
Matt Machado
Meilin Obinata
Mike Guth
Nadene Thorne
Nancy Yellin
Natalie Goff
Nathan Nguyen
No More CZU Fires
Paul P
Paula Bradley
Pauline Seales
Peter Haworth
PK
Richard Marlais
Robin Musitelli
Ronnie Trubek
Rosemary Sarka
Ryan Sarnataro
Sally Arnold for trail AND rail
Shane Mckeithen
Stephanie Britt
Susan Cavalieri
Teresa Buika
Todd
Tony Calcagno
Travis Cary

Trink Praxel
Victoria McCharen
VM
WestCliffer831
Whitney Ramos
William Menchine
wilpfsc
(831)***-7526
(831)***-7526
(831)***-1540
(831)***-1416
Becky Taylor
Bonnie Adams
Deborah Still
Dena Taylor
Elizabeth Clifton-Doolin
Gary yes on D
Johanna Lighthill
Patricia Barnett
Susan Brutschy
Tane Tachyon
Todd Muck
Water Engineering