



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission
Transportation Policy Workshop**

MINUTES

**Monday, April 21, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

**REMOTE MEETING
Community TV Zoom
Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84006098188>
Dial-in: +1 669 900 6833
Webinar ID: 840 0609 8188**

1. Roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand	Virginia Johnson (Alt)
Sandy Brown	Rob Quinn (Alt)
Kristin Brown	Larry Pageler (Alt)
Mike Rotkin	Lowell Hurst (Alt)
Manu Koenig	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Felipe Hernandez (Alt)

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Shannon Munz
Luis Mendez	Tracy New
Yesenia Parra	Brianna Goodman
Sarah Christensen	Amy Naranjo
Riley Gerbrandt	Grace Blakeslee
Rachael Hughes	Krista Corwin
Rachel Moriconi	Keith Rayburn
Tommy Travers	Brian Zamora

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:
Barry Scott

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

CONSENT AGENDA

No consent items

REGULAR AGENDA

4. Transportation Funding Overview

Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi delivered a presentation on how transportation programs and projects are funded in Santa Cruz County and the RTC's responsibility to administer transportation funds.

Commissioners discussed: changes to the public funding system (i.e. Congressional earmarks, the relationship between the local match and the grant's competitiveness; Reagan-era changes to funding criteria, larger urban areas tend to compete better for rail funding than non-urban areas, reduction in transit funding, costs of electrifying a fleet); freight study recently commissioned by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG); Live Oak considered an opportunity zone for trail funding; staff's presentation informative and useful for the public; chicken-and-egg problem with respect to rail trail funding takes political will to overcome; rail funds pre-programmed; grants have strict criteria; confidence in staff to position our community for grants that could fund Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) projects; correction of a misinterpretation that Caltrans would have funded an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the passenger rail project; need for a business plan to consider impact of tourism, transit, and distribution of goods on Santa Cruz economy & equity; staff successful in obtaining grants; clarifying position on availability of funds for rail; the role of staff in the decision not to move forward with the business plan for passenger rail.

Staff responded to questions regarding: evaluating the deficiencies in transportation equity within the county; risk-reward analysis performed when planning to seek funds for potential major investments; with respect to fluctuating gas prices, effect of SB1 on fuel tax funding; maintaining sustainable transportation of goods while stimulating funding through sales tax; amount of funding available for the Active Transportation Program (ATP); RTC's support for California Transportation Commission proposal to increase ATP funds; competitiveness of the trail program for ATP grants.

Received public comment from:

Saladin Sale

Dianne D

Lani Faulkner

Sally for Rail and Trail

5. Measure D Financing Scenarios as a Strategy to Expedite Delivery of Highway 1 and Coastal Rail Trail Projects

Executive Director Guy Preston, Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee, Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen, and Director of Budget and Finance Tracy New delivered a presentation. Melissa Schick and David Leifer of KNN Public Finance provided a presentation on the cash flow models based on the proposed projects. Ms. Blakeslee and Ms. Christensen provided more information on other funding options, other considerations, and next steps.

Staff responded to questions regarding: how the cash flow model takes an anticipated recession into consideration; standards of planned bridge repair in the interim trail scenario; effect of auxiliary lane/bus-on-shoulder project on construction cost of bridge over highway 1 and funding the project through the active transportation expenditure plan; progress of discussions with Roaring Camp; how costs of mitigation indicated by the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are accounted for in either project, specifically soil remediation; clarification of cost estimates in either scenario with respect to the Capitola Trestle; making a decision on the preferred scenario with respect to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) & with respect to pursuing grant funding; key decision is how much Measure D Active Transportation regional funding would be available to project sponsors to use as a grant match; whether the RTC would be responsible for maintenance costs of the rail trail; feasibility of breaking segment construction into phases to facilitate grant funding.

Rob Tidmore, project manager for Segments 10 and 11 for the County of Santa Cruz, provided more information about strategies to maximize grant funding for active transportation projects.

Commissioners discussed: Request to agendize a discussion of the costs of maintenance for the rail trail with the local jurisdictions; Highway 1 interchange at Soquel also a significant chokepoint.

Executive Director Preston clarified that the grant cannot cover both scenarios because the application requires a funding plan, and the funding plans and costs for each scenario would differ greatly. Mr. Preston further clarified that the Highway 1/Segment 12 project has one-build alternative with optional phases and Ms. Christensen reiterated the timeline for major decision points for the project.

Staff responded to questions regarding longevity and cost estimates for repurposing and maintenance of the Capitola Trestle; annual maintenance costs and cost sharing with the local jurisdictions; right-of-way costs.

Received public comment from:

Barry Scott
Jacob Wysocki
David Dean
David Van Brink
Sally Arnold
Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Commissioners discussed: feasibility of the optional interim trail; infrastructure is expensive and provides benefit to future residents; support for bonding no matter which scenario is chosen; support for interim trail on segment 12; remembering the needs of the most disadvantaged communities; increase in construction costs will likely outweigh the interest on bonding; request for staff to come back with information regarding how well positioned we are to obtain grants for each of the proposed scenarios; railbanking would render our multimodal project a single-mode project; looking forward to the results of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' (AMBAG) freight study.

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

Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra communicated that there would be no reportable actions from the closed session item.

Received public comment from:

Krista Corwin, Community of RTC Employees (CORE)
Amy Naranjo, Community of RTC Employees (CORE)
Brianna Goodman, Community of RTC Employees (CORE)
Riley Gerbrandt, Community of RTC Employees (CORE)
Keith Rayburn, Community of RTC Employees (CORE)
Tommy Travers, Community of RTC Employees (CORE)
Rachael Hughes, Community of RTC Employees (CORE)
Grace Blakeslee, Community of RTC Employees (CORE)

CLOSED SESSION

Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra left the meeting for the RAMM portion of the closed session.

7. Conference with Labor Negotiators (pursuant to Government Code 54957.6)

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

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

Closed session adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

8. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting will be held via Zoom teleconference on Thursday, May 05, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting will be held via Zoom teleconference on Thursday, May 19 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

Barry Scott
Brian
Dandion1
David Dean
David <3 public transit
Dianne D
Equity Transit
Gina Cole
Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Jacob Wysocki
Jeanette Guire RC RR
Jim Mackenzie
Jodi Durrett
Johanna Lighthill
Joni Steele
Kristi
Linda Wilshusen
Peter Haworth
Rob Tidmore, County of Santa Cruz
Robin Sale, FORT
Saladin Sale R&T+RC
Sally for Rail and Trail
Tom Manniello
Trink Praxel