



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

MINUTES

**Monday, June 16, 2022
9:00 a.m.**

**REMOTE MEETING
Community TV Zoom
Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85763723127>
Dial-in: +1 669 900 6833
Webinar ID: 857 6372 3127**

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

Jacques Bertrand	Ari Parker
Sandy Brown	Bruce McPherson
Kristin Brown	Rob Quinn (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	Matt Schroeder
Sarah Christensen	Amy Naranjo
Riley Gerbrandt	Brian Zamora
Amanda Marino	Krista Corwin
Rachel Moriconi	Keith Rayburn
Tommy Travers	

2. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

Upon request by some Commissioners prior to the meeting to hold oral communications for items not on the agenda at the beginning of the meeting rather than at the end, Chair Koenig ruled that the Commission would receive oral communications up until the public hearing start time scheduled for 9:30 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Mark Mesiti-Miller, No Way Greenway
Ryan Sarnataro
Saladin Sale
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Jack Nelson
Matt Farrell, No Way Greenway
Barry Scott
Melani Clark, Roaring Camp
Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Jacob Wysocki
Sally Arnold
Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit
Robin Belkin
Mark Johannessen
Judy Gittelsohn

The remaining oral communications for items not on the agenda were received during item 28. Handouts for items 24, 27, and 28 were posted to the website.

CONSENT AGENDA

The consent agenda was taken out of order following item 27. Commissioner Bertrand made a motion and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda.

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Corinna McFarlane

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

MINUTES

3. Approved draft minutes of the April 21, 2022 Transportation Policy Workshop

4. Approved draft minutes of the May 05, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the May 10, 2022 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee special meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

6. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the cooperative agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for design, environmental review, permitting, construction and maintenance of Segment 7 of the Monterey Bay Scenic Sanctuary Trail (MBSST) Network on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Right of Way (**Resolution 51-22**)
7. Accepted the draft Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (SCCRCIS)
8. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into an agreement with Julian Tree Care for vegetation removal at the Capitola Trestle (**Resolution 52-22**)
9. Approved the RTC to serve as the Local Access Fund Administrator for Transportation Network Companies (TNC) Access for All Program (**Resolution 53-22**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

10. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to amend the term of the Master Agreements for Measure D formula funds allocated to recipients (**Resolution 63-22**)
11. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
12. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues
13. Approved Amendments to the Fiscal Years (FYs) 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budget and Work Program (**Resolution 54-22**)
14. Approved Fiscal Year 2022-23 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 Claims for the Bike to Work (BTW) Program (**Resolution 55-22**)

15. Approved Fiscal Year 2022-23 Article 3 and Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim from the RTC for Administration, Planning, and Operations (**Resolution 56-22**)
16. Approved Fiscal Year 2022-23 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Article 8 Claims for Volunteer Center, Community Bridges, and Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (**Resolution 57-22, Resolution 58-22, Resolution 59-22**)

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

17. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings
18. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021 Measure D Annual Report

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

19. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
20. Accepted correspondence log
21. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
 - a. May 23, 2022 Letter to Lon Van Gemert, CEO of St. Paul and Pacific Railroad (SPPR)/Progressive Rail (PGR) re: Maintenance Request – Santa Cruz Branch Line Freight Easement Property
 - b. May 23, 2022 Letter to ATP Grant Selection Committee re: support for the Santa Cruz Rail Trail Segment 8 and 9 Construction
 - c. June 03, 2022 Letter to ATP Grant Selection Committee re: support for “Safe Routes to Downtown Watsonville” Project
22. Accepted information items
 - a. May 16, 2022 Letter to Sandy Brown, Chairwoman from Representative Anna Eshoo Re: the Boulder Creek Complete Streets Project

REGULAR AGENDA

23. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Rotkin encouraged the Commission to read his column published in Lookout Santa Cruz suggesting next steps for the RTC following the election results of the 2022 Measure D ballot measure.

24. Director’s Report

Executive Director Guy Preston communicated the following: a special RTC meeting will be held on July 21 at 9:00 a.m. to consider AB 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid meetings; a hybrid meeting in the County Board of Supervisors Chambers is being planned for August; Transportation Planner Amanda Marino will attend a conference of the Association for Commuter Transportation in Chicago beginning on July 31; more details on the RTC's administration of a new revenue stream for paratransit services approved in item 9; appreciation for the 2016 Measure D voters and to the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee (MD-TOC) for their work on the annual report in item 18; letters of support from Representative Anna Eshoo and Senator Alex Padilla for federal funding for RTC projects; overview of the current state budget process; construction of Caltrans' Highway 1 41st Avenue-Soquel Drive Auxiliary Lane and Bus-on-Shoulder project put out to bid on June 6; and welcome to the RTC Transportation Planner I Matthew Schroeder.

Commissioners discussed: important for members of the public to address the Commission in person & support for hybrid meetings beginning in August; status update regarding Measure D bonding; hybrid townhall meetings yield impressive attendance; virtual access to RTC meetings allows equitable participation from South County residents.

25. Caltrans report

Caltrans District 5 Office Chief for Transportation Planning Brandy Rider announced: Notice of Funding Availability for the Bridge Investment Program, providing funding for the planning, replacement, rehabilitation, and protection of the nation's largest bridges; planning, feasibility, and revenue-forecasting project applications are due July 25, 2022; construction project applications due September 8, 2022; and anticipated kick-off of sustainable community grants at the end of the fall.

Received public comment from:
Faina Segal

Director Preston responded to a comment from a member of the public regarding the Notice of Funding Availability.

26. **PUBLIC HEARING 9:30 a.m.:** Measure D: Community Bridges/Lift Line Five-Year Plan

This item was taken out of order following Item 2 and prior to the Consent Agenda.

Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi delivered the staff report. Community Bridges staff Doug Underhill and Jesus Bojorquez were available to respond to Commissioner questions.

The public hearing opened at 9:36 a.m.

Received public comment from:
Brian Peoples

The public hearing closed at 9:39 a.m.

Commissioners discussed: Services provided by the two paratransit agencies in the county and costs to users; paratransit services meet a county need and are a wise use of public funds.

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

1. Hold a public hearing on the Community Bridges-Lift Line proposed Five-Year Program of Projects (5-Year Plan) for its direct allocation of Measure D: Transit for Seniors and People Living with Disabilities investment category funds for Fiscal Years 2022/2023-2026/2027 (FY22/23-26/27); and
2. Adopt **Resolution 60-22** to approve the five-year program of projects.

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

27. Adoption of the Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as required by CEQA Guidelines and adoption of the 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Transportation Planner Amy Naranjo delivered the staff report and responded to a commissioner's question regarding commencement of work on the next RTP. Executive Director Guy Preston commented on the decision to include rail transit on the unconstrained list (instead of the constrained list) and the local funds modeling needed to open doors to state and federal funding. Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Director of Planning Heather Adamson provided comments on the land use assumptions and modeling expected to be performed in 2023 for the next RTP update; possibility of a mid-cycle amendment to the plan; nothing prevents the RTC from starting work on rail implementation.

Commissioners discussed: lack of integration of transit plan with housing elements in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) from AMBAG; the work needed to move rail transit between the unconstrained and constrained lists; centrality of transit-oriented housing.

Commissioner Kristen Brown departed the meeting at 10:45 a.m..

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Trink Praxel, Friends of the Rail and Trail

Jack Nelson

Robin Belkin

Ryan Sarnataro

Barry Scott

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Michael Saint

Ben Vernazza

Commissioners discussed appreciation for Bud Colligan's recognition of a clear statement from the public on the 2022 Measure D vote; limitations of ridership estimates that are based upon federal standards adopted during the Reagan years; emphasis on partnerships and future planning; the 2045 plan is a document which meets state and federal requirements and can be changed at any time; public comments have overdramatized the impact of RTC projects on North Coast agricultural lands; feasibility of keeping the interim trail option in the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) given the outcome of the vote; noted language shift between "ultimate trail" and "preferred alternative"; request to consider agenda items pursuant to seeking funding for the preferred option; RTC has received a very loud message; getting back on track with plan for light rail; visions need to be a compromise in order to be realized; implementation requires input from multiple perspectives; request for greater involvement with the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG); responsibility to be responsive to the public; drawbacks and costs of highway expansion; reconsider austerity mode when it comes to rail implementation; appreciation for the ways that staff are matching aspirations of the public to the realities of implementation; reminder that 2016 Measure D voters supported highway expansion; transit-oriented development & the county's sustainability update; 2022 Measure D lost by a large margin; voters did not want to change the county's general plan; "no" vote does not change the logistical and fiscal challenges of the rail corridor; willingness to pursue an EIR, bonding, etc.; mutual desire to leave negativity behind and work together to try to implement the will of the voters.

Commissioner Rotkin motioned, and Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Consider the Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR) for the 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan. The full document is available for download at <https://www.ambag.org/plans/2045-metropolitan-transportation-plan-sustainable-communities-strategy>
2. Adopt **Resolution 62-22**, adopting the Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program related to the Environmental Impact Report certified by the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments, as the lead agency under CEQA, for the 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan; and,
3. Adopt **Resolution 63-22**, adopting the Final 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan.

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

28. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:
Corrina McFarlane

29. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there would be no reportable action from closed session and that Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra would recuse herself from the RAMM portion of labor negotiations. Executive Director Guy Preston communicated that he would recuse himself from closed session discussions.

Received public comment from:
Krista Corwin
Riley Gerbrandt

CLOSED SESSION

30. 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 12:09 p.m.

31. Next meetings

The next special RTC meeting will be held via Zoom teleconference on Thursday, July 21, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting will be held via Zoom teleconference on August 18 at 9:00 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

(831)-***-2319

Barbara Riverwoman

Barry Scott

BobFi

Brian

Brian (Trail Now)

Bruce Sawhill

Cindy Sekkel SLV

Corrina McFarlane

David Date

David Morris

Dianne D

Doug Underhill

Dr. Casey KirkHart

George Dix

Howard Cohen

Jack Nelson

Jacob Wysocki

Jesus Bojorquez

Jim MacKenzie

Johanna Lighthill

Joni Steele

Judy Gittelsohn

Kyle Kelly

Linda Wilshusen

Margie Biddick

Mark Conley

Mark Johannessen

Mark Lee

Matt Farrell

Michael Tree

Murray Fontes

Nadene Thorne

Nancy Yellin

Piet Canin

PK

R Khan

Robin Belkin

Ronnie Trubek

Rosemary Sarka

Ryan Sarnataro

Saladin Sale

Sally for Trail AND Rail

Todd

Trink Praxel

WestCliffer831

Wondimu Mengistu, METRO