



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

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**AGENDA**

**Thursday, September 15, 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**

*Accessibility: See last page for details.*

*En Español: Para servicios de traducción al español, diríjase a la última página.*

*Agendas Online: Click below to receive notification via e-mail.*

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**COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP**

Caltrans (ex-officio)	Tim Gubbins
City of Capitola	Jacques Bertrand
City of Santa Cruz	Sandy Brown
City of Scotts Valley	Randy Johnson
City of Watsonville	Eduardo Montesino
County of Santa Cruz	Greg Caput
County of Santa Cruz	Ryan Coonerty
County of Santa Cruz	Zach Friend
County of Santa Cruz	Manu Koenig
County of Santa Cruz	Bruce McPherson
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Kristen Brown
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Ari Parker
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Mike Rotkin

*The majority of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.*

1. Roll call
2. Oral communications

*Any member of the public may address the Commission on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not already on the agenda. The Commission will listen to all communication, but in compliance with State law, it may not take action on items that are not on the agenda.*

*Speakers are requested to state their name clearly so that it can be accurately recorded in the minutes of the meeting.*

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

*All items appearing on the consent agenda are considered to be minor or non-controversial and will be acted upon in one motion if no member of the RTC or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda. Members of the Commission may raise questions, seek clarification or add directions to consent agenda items without removing the item from the consent agenda as long as no other Commissioner objects to the change.*

### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

4. Adopt Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

5. Next meetings

The next hybrid RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 06, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 701 Ocean Street, Room 525, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 with remote access via Zoom hosted by Community TV. See [agenda](#) for more information.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 20, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

**HOW TO REACH US**

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250 Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
phone: (831) 460-3200 / email: [info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org)

**LIVE BROADCASTS**

*Note:* Due to technical difficulties, Community Television of Santa Cruz will be unable to broadcast the RTC meeting live. The meeting will be recorded and can be viewed later at [www.communitytv.org](http://www.communitytv.org). For questions, call (831) 425-8848.

**AGENDA PACKETS**

Complete agenda packets and all documents relating to items on the open session are posted online at <https://sccrtc.org> at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Sign up for E-News updates at [sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions/](https://sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions/)

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

*Items on the agenda:* Written comments received by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday before the meeting will be posted to the RTC website by 2:00 p.m. that same afternoon to allow time for Commissioner review. The opportunity to make oral comments is offered prior to the discussion period of each item.

*Items not on the agenda:* Written comments on topics within the RTC's jurisdiction, but not on the agenda, that are received during the monthly correspondence period will be posted to a public document. The correspondence period cut-off is 12:00 p.m. on the second Monday prior to the RTC meeting. A link to that document is provided in the Correspondence Log of that month's meeting. The opportunity to make oral comments to the Commission on such topics is offered during Oral Communications.

**COVID-19 REMOTE MEETING UPDATE**

On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 into law, which allows the RTC to hold virtual and/or hybrid meetings so long as the RTC makes findings that the state of emergency continues to directly impact its ability to meet safely in person. Information needed to log into the virtual meeting is listed on the first page of the meeting's agenda. Download the Zoom app: <https://zoom.us/download>.

**ACCESSIBILILTY**

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This meeting location is an accessible facility. If you wish to attend this meeting and require special assistance in order to participate, please contact RTC staff at 460-3200 (CRS 800/735-2929) at least three working days in advance of this meeting to make arrangements. People with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those persons affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent-free.

**SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN/ TRANSLATION SERVICES**

*Si gusta estar presente o participar en esta junta de la Comisión Regional de Transporte del Condado de Santa Cruz y necesita información o servicios de traducción al español por favor llame por lo menos con tres días laborables de anticipo al (831) 460-3200 para hacer los arreglos necesarios. (Spanish language translation is available on an as needed basis. Please call (831) 460-3200 at least three days in advance to make advance arrangements.*

**TITLE VI NOTICE TO BENEFICIARIES**

*The RTC operates its programs and services without regard to race, color and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person believing to have been aggrieved by the RTC under Title VI may file a complaint by contacting the RTC at (831) 460-3200 or 1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or online at [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org). A complaint may also be filed directly with the Federal Transit Administration to the Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590.*

**AVISO A BENEFICIARIOS SOBRE EL TITULO VI**

*La RTC conduce sus programas y otorga sus servicios sin considerar raza, color u origen nacional de acuerdo al Título VI del Acta Sobre los Derechos Civiles. Cualquier persona que cree haber sido ofendida por la RTC bajo el Título VI puede entregar queja con la RTC comunicándose al (831) 460-3200 o 1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 o en línea al [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org). También se puede quejar directamente con la Administración Federal de Transporte en la Oficina de Derechos Civiles, Atención: Coordinador del Programa Título VI, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.*

**AGENDA:** September 15, 2022

**TO:** Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation  
**FROM:** Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director  
**RE:** Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

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## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) find that:

1. The RTC has reconsidered the circumstances of the current COVID-19 state of emergency; and
  2. The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of the RTC, its committees, its staff and the public to meet safely in person; and
  3. State or local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and
  4. Therefore, meetings of the RTC will continue to be held in a hybrid or virtual format via Zoom and meetings of RTC committees will be held virtually via Zoom.
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## **BACKGROUND**

In March 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency which remains in effect. The Governor also issued executive orders suspending several provisions of the Brown Act to ensure that the work of government agencies could continue with virtual meetings to reduce the risk of spreading COVID-19. The executive orders suspending the Brown Act provisions expired on September 30, 2021. AB 361 was signed into law and took effect on October 1, 2021, which allows virtual meetings as long as the declared state of emergency continues and requires that findings be made by local agencies to continue virtual and/or hybrid meetings.

## **DISCUSSION**

Unfortunately, the COVID-19 pandemic continues; therefore, the RTC has been making the necessary AB361 findings at its meetings since November

2021 to continue to hold virtual and/or hybrid meetings. The goal of the RTC is to hold RTC meetings in a hybrid format as long as the COVID-19 situation permits, and the facilities are available for hybrid meetings. The August 4, 2022 meeting was the first hybrid RTC meeting. Staff will continue to plan for hybrid RTC meetings, which currently can only take place using the County Board Chambers. For hybrid meetings, a limited number of Commissioners and members of the public may participate in person. Everyone participating in person will need to abide by Santa Cruz County requirements that may be in place for wearing masks and social distancing. All others will participate via Zoom. All of the meetings of RTC committees will continue to be virtual meetings via Zoom because conference rooms are not equipped for hybrid meetings.

To continue to hold virtual and/or hybrid meetings, the RTC must continue to make findings as required in Section 54953 of the Government Code, added by AB 361, which states:

“(3) If a state of emergency remains active, or state or local officials have imposed or recommended measures to promote social distancing, in order to continue to teleconference without compliance with paragraph (3) of subdivision (b), the legislative body shall, not later than 30 days after teleconferencing for the first time pursuant to subparagraph (A), (B), or (C) of paragraph (1), and every 30 days thereafter, make the following findings by majority vote:

- (A) The legislative body has reconsidered the circumstances of the state of emergency.
- (B) Any of the following circumstances exist:
  - (i) The state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members to meet safely in person.
  - (ii) State or local officials continue to impose or recommend measures to promote social distancing.”

**Therefore, staff recommends that the RTC find that RTC has reconsidered the circumstances of the current COVID-19 state of emergency; the state of emergency continues to directly impact the ability of the members of the RTC, its committees, its staff and the public to meet safely in person; and state and local officials continue to recommend measures to promote social distancing; and meetings of the RTC will be virtual or hybrid while meetings of committees will be virtual.**

### **30-Day Requirement for AB 361 Findings**

State law requires that findings to continue virtual and/or hybrid meetings be made every 30 days. State law also allows special virtual meetings for the sole purpose of making AB 361 findings to hold virtual and/or hybrid meetings. Therefore, the RTC may periodically hold special virtual meetings solely for the purpose of making necessary AB361 findings. A number of agencies around the state are working towards legislative modifications so such special meetings will not be required but such modifications are not anticipated soon.

### **FISCAL IMPACT**

The costs necessary to hold meetings of the RTC either as regular Brown Act meetings, virtual meetings or hybrid meetings are included in the approved RTC budget. The costs to hold Brown Act and virtual meetings of RTC committees are also included in the RTC budget. No additional fiscal impacts are anticipated for such meetings at this time. For hybrid meetings of RTC committees, it would likely be necessary to equip conference rooms accordingly, which would have additional fiscal impacts.

### **SUMMARY**

Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, the Governor declared a state of emergency and issued executive orders to allow public agencies to hold meetings virtually. The executive orders allowing virtual meetings expired and AB 361 was signed into law to allow the continuation of virtual and/or hybrid meetings as long as the state of emergency still exists and public agencies make appropriate findings. Staff recommends that the RTC make such findings to allow virtual and/or hybrid meetings of itself and its committees.