



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, September 01, 2022  
9:00 a.m.**

**HYBRID MEETING  
County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean St., Room 525  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**Community TV Zoom  
Web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81296262340>  
Dial-in: +1 312 626 6799  
Webinar ID: 812 9626 2340**

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

|                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| Sandy Brown            |  |
| Kristen Brown          | Mike Rotkin (Remote)                       |
| Andy Schiffrin (Alt)   | Jacques Bertrand (Remote)                  |
| Virginia Johnson (Alt) | Robert Quinn (Alt) (Remote)                |
| Manu Koenig            | Felipe Hernandez (Alt) (Remote)            |
| Ari Parker (Remote)    | Lowell Hurst (Alt) (Remote)                |
| Randy Johnson (Remote) | Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio) (Remote) |

Staff present:

|                 |                             |
|-----------------|-----------------------------|
| Guy Preston     | Tracy New                   |
| Luis Mendez     | Sarah Christensen           |
| Yesenia Parra   | Brianna Goodman             |
| Shannon Munz    | Amy Naranjo                 |
| Krista Corwin   | Rachel Moriconi             |
| Grace Blakeslee | Riley Gerbrandt             |
| Rachael Hughes  | Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel) |

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Barry Scott  
Ricky Longinotti  
Michael Saint  
Brett Garrett

In response to a comment from a member of the public, commissioners discussed the funds required to comply with recent court order to recirculate part of the environmental document for the Highway 1 project. Executive Director Guy Preston provided an update on cost estimates to fund the recirculation.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

Handouts for items 16, 23 & 24 and replacement pages for items 23 and 24 were posted to the website.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned, and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, R. Johnson, Koenig, K. Brown, Parker, Rotkin and Commissioner Alternates Hurst, Hernandez, Schiffrin, Quinn, and V. Johnson voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples  
Michael Saint

**MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the August 04, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the August 08, 2022 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the August 09, 2022 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

**POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items.*

## **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

7. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans for the construction component of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder Project between Bay Street/Porter Avenue and State Park Drive interchanges, and authorize amendment 3 to the Professional Engineering Services Agreement with Mark Thomas Company, Inc. for Design Support During Construction (**Resolution 03-23 and Resolution 04-23**)

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

8. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
9. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues
10. Approved allocating 100% of the region's FY22/23 State of Good Repair (SGR) population-based (PUB 99313) and revenue-based (PUC 99314) funds (estimated \$782,000) to Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) for bus replacements (**Resolution 05-23**)
11. Approved amendments to the Fiscal Year (FYs) 2021-22 and 2022-23 Budget and Work Program (**Resolution 06-23**)
12. Approved the City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claim totaling \$9,000 for the FY 2022 Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements Project (**Resolution 07-23**)

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

13. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

14. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
15. Accepted correspondence log.
16. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
  - a. May 31, 2022 Letter to Stephanie Hansen, Assistant Planning Director Re: The Sustainability Policy and Regulatory Update to the County's General Plan/Local Coastal Program and modernization of the County Code: Draft EIR Comment
  - b. July 28, 2022 Letter to ICLEI USA from Luis Mendez Re: Support for *E+Shared Mobility Hub*

- c. August 24, 2022 Letter to Assemblymember Stone, Senator Laird, and Governor Newsom Re: Support as Written – SB457 (Portantino) – Household Vehicle Reduction Tax Credit (*Provided as a handout and posted to the website*)

17. Accepted information items. – *none*

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

18. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Bertrand provided comments on the importance of frequency when it comes to effective transit service.

Commissioner Alternate Hurst and Commissioner Parker expressed appreciation for transportation improvements made by Caltrans in the Watsonville area, including improvements to Highway 1, Highway 152, and Highway 129/Riverside Drive, including Complete Streets and traffic calming efforts.

Chair Sandy Brown reported on the recent groundbreaking ceremony for Segment 7, Phase 2 of the Coastal Rail Trail on August 11, 2022.

19. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the director's report, highlighting the offer by Santa Cruz County Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) of free fares between Sept 15-29, which will coincide with the start of fall service; changes to bus routes responsive to a staffing shortage with more information available on METRO's website; collaboration between six central coast counties to seek public input for a zero-emission vehicle infrastructure study for which a representative from Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG) will provide more information at the next RTC meeting on October 4.

Commissioners discussed: California Transportation Commission's recognition of Santa Cruz County's Active Transportation program; factors that affect bus ridership (frequency, reliability, etc.); purchase of electric buses must be strategic; bus ridership to and from the UCSC campus.

Received public comment from:

Michael Tree, Santa Cruz County Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)

Michael Saint

Beverly DesChaux, Electric Vehicle Association Central Coast Chapter (EVACCC)

## 20. Caltrans report

The Deputy Director for Caltrans District 5, Scott Eades, delivered the Santa Cruz County Project Updates and gave an oral report highlighting the launch of Caltrans new traffic monitoring app, QuickMap (<https://quickmap.dot.ca.gov>); Caltrans Local Assistance Training Day on September 8, 2022; California Transportation Commission awarded \$150 million to projects in our area including the Sidehill Viaduct Project on Highway 9; Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) improvements along Highway 152 in Watsonville; and responded to a concern about a slow-down in traffic on Highway 17.

Commissioners discussed: traffic impacts and costs & benefits of regular highway maintenance.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Heather Adamson, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)

## 21. City of Capitola Presentation

Public Works Director for the City of Capitola Steve Jesberg delivered a status update on transportation projects, including improvements to Brommer Street, 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue Adaptive System, Clares Street Traffic Calming, a pedestrian path through Upper Pacific Cove; the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue & Capitola Road Intersection & Roadway Rehabilitation Project.

Director Jesberg responded to Commissioners' questions about the bikeway maintenance schedule; challenges in funding the Clares Street project; coordination with Caltrans to deliver projects; 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue improvements: expected timeline for traffic signal synchronization; details of planned pedestrian facilities along 41<sup>st</sup> and Capitola Road; long range plans for improvements to bicycle facilities; and traffic calming on Park Avenue.

Commissioners discussed noticeable improvements in active transportation infrastructure; anticipated public art components; engagement with the public; appreciation for public works staff.

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint

Beverly DesChaux, EVACCC

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

22. Highway 9 Boulder Creek Complete Streets Improvements – Federal Grant Opportunities Update

Brianna Goodman, Transportation Planner delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for staff, Supervisor McPherson for his advocacy and for the long-term planning and work resulting in projects along Highway 9

Commissioner Alternate Virginia Johnson motioned and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to:

1. Receive an update on the Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley program, including staff efforts to fund the Boulder Creek Complete Streets Improvements via federal grants; and
2. Direct staff to apply for two federal funding grant opportunities, which will require future programming of local funds (likely Measure D – Highway 9 category funds) to leverage federal funding grants.

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

23. Highway 1 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Soquel Drive Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project Amendment to Construction Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans, Amendment to Measure D Five-Year Program of Projects for Highway Corridors Category, and Amend Fiscal Year 23 Budget

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report and gave a presentation.

Director of Budget and Finance Tracy New responded to a question regarding the previous programming of unspent funds.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation (CFST)

Beverly DesChaux, EVACCC

Commissioners discussed: cost estimates are expected to increase as the project progresses; call to transform Highway 1 into an electric vehicle facility in anticipation of the coming ban on gas-powered vehicles; moving forward with compromises in order to advance the bus-on-shoulder project.

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

1. Authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute Amendment 2 to the Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for the construction component of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project between 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to Soquel Drive interchanges which includes a new bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing at Chanticleer Avenue (Caltrans Coop 05-0391);
2. Program an additional \$1,862,100 of Measure D-Highway Corridors revenues and shift \$469,000 unspent prior year funds to FY22/23 for the Project as shown in the proposed 5-Year Program of Projects;
3. Amend the RTC FY23 budget to reflect the approved programming actions (**Resolution 08-23**).

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

24. Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder from State Park Drive to Freedom Boulevard and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project Contract Amendment with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. for the Final Design Phase

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report and gave a presentation.

Ms. Christensen responded to Commissioners' questions regarding packaging the project strategically to leverage grant funds for the comprehensive multimodal project; traffic management tactics conducted by Caltrans during construction; preservation of railroad bridge to freight standards.

Commissioners discussed: integrated approach to project design safeguards the right-of-way for future development of the rail project; need for clarity on ultimate costs of each option; accountability to the public over Measure D expenditures; importance of keeping the project multimodal.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Sally Arnold

Barry Scott

Matt Farrell

Mark Mesiti-Miller, Friends of the Rail and Trail (FORT)

Beverly DesChaux, EVACCC

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Ms. Christensen and Director Preston responded to a question about auxiliary lane project plans for the portion of Highway 1 between Soquel Avenue and Morrissey Boulevard.

Commissioner Rotkin made a motion and Commissioner Bertrand seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to authorize the Executive Director to negotiate and execute Amendment 1 to the contract with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. (TP2122) for an amendment amount not to exceed \$9,998,225 for final design services, a total contract value not to exceed 12,079,064, and a term ending on December 31, 2028, subject to the final negotiations and review by legal counsel as to form (**Resolution 09-23**).

Commissioners discussed: costs of the current scope of work as well as the ultimate project; investment of local funds; appreciation for the integrated approach for the design phase; maximize opportunities to make decisions in the future based on actual costs; public vote indicated support for electric passenger rail; path to railbanking unlikely in this county.

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

#### 25. 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 at 701 Ocean St. Room 525 with remote access by Zoom teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 15, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra  
Administrative Services Officer



Attendees:

Michael Pisano (he/him)  
Ryan Sarnataro  
Casey Beyer  
Murray Fontes  
Stephen Baxter  
18314406833  
Petra Mottishaw  
Kira Caselli  
Brian  
Jack Dilles  
Paula Bradley  
Kailash Mozumder  
Beverly DesChaux  
Matt Machado, Community  
Development and Infrastructure  
Heather Adamson AMBAG  
Steph Britt  
BobFi  
Nadene Thorne  
Tony Gregorio  
Mark Mesiti-Miller  
Alex Lopez  
Mark Johannessen  
Steve Wiesner  
Brian (Trail Now)  
Judy Gittelsohn  
Johanna Lighthill  
Matt Farrell  
Victor Herrmann  
Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit  
Peter Haworth  
Joni Steele  
Saladin Sale  
Miguel Aznar  
Jeanette Guire RC RR  
Theresia Rogerson HSA  
Brett Garrett  
Paul Guirguis (CT Regional Planning)  
Barry Scott  
Rosemary Sarka  
Ricky Longinotti  
david ♡ public transit  
Micheal Saint

Trink Praxel  
Wondimu Mengistu