



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

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, 41st Avenue Adaptive System, Clares Street Traffic Calming, a pedestrian path through Upper Pacific Cove; the 41st 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; 41st Avenue improvements: expected timeline for traffic signal synchronization; details of planned pedestrian facilities along 41st 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 41st 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 41st 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