



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, October 06, 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 9:02 a.m.

Members present:

Sandy Brown	Ari Parker (Remote)
Kristen Brown (Remote)	Eduardo Montesino (Remote)
Randy Johnson (Remote)	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Greg Caput (Remote)	Felipe Hernandez (Alt) (Remote)
Manu Koenig	Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson (Alt) (Remote)
Bruce McPherson	Brandy Rider (Caltrans Ex-Officio) (Remote)
Jacques Bertrand	

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Sarah Christensen
Luis Mendez	Tracy New (Remote)
Yesenia Parra	Cindy Convisser (Remote)
Grace Blakeslee	Amanda Marino (Remote)
Krista Corwin	Amy Naranjo (Remote)
Shannon Munz (Remote)	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel) (Remote)
Steph Britt (Remote)	

2. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Jean Brocklebank  
Michael Lewis  
Brett Garrett  
Michael Saint  
Barry Scott  
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

A handout for item 23 was posted to the website.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Caput, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Kalantari-Johnson voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Mark Mesiti-Miller, Friends of the Rail and Trail

### **MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the September 01, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Approved draft minutes of the September 15, 2022 Transportation Policy Workshop
6. Accepted draft minutes of the September 22, 2022 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

### **POLICY ITEMS**

7. Accepted legislative updates

### **PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS**

8. Adopted revised Plans, Specifications, and Engineer's Estimate (PS&E) for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project (**Resolution 10-23**)

9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to award a construction contract to Irish Excavation for Erosion and Maintenance work along the Santa Cruz Branch Line near Manresa State Beach (**Resolution 11-23**)

### **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

10. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
11. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues

### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

12. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings
13. Approved the proposed 2023 Regional Transportation Commission meeting schedule
14. Approved the CalPERS Health Benefits premium contributions for RTC employees pursuant to the approved Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) with the RTC labor groups and the employment contract with the Executive Director (**Resolutions 12-23 & 13-23**)

### **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

15. Accepted monthly meeting schedule.
16. Accepted correspondence log.
17. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies -*none*
18. Accepted information items. - *none*

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

19. Commissioner reports - *none*
20. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston provided an update on: recent legislation which prioritizes sustainable transportation initiatives in response to climate change; AB 2449 which was signed into law and provides the possibility for some members of a legislative body to participate remotely in meetings under very limited circumstances; staff's efforts on the upcoming Caltrans fall planning grants; anticipated procurement of a consultant for the concept report and environmental work of the Electric Passenger Rail project; Measure D five-year plan updates coming to the Commission in November, coinciding with the fall budget amendment; the start of the construction

phase of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes Project between 41<sup>st</sup> and Soquel and preconstruction work underway between Bay/Porter and State Park Drive; negotiating agreements with the local jurisdictions for maintenance of the Coastal Rail Trail; and plans for the RTC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration open house, date to be announced.

## 21. Caltrans report

Office Chief for District 5 Brandy Rider delivered the Santa Cruz County Project updates and reported on the upcoming community meeting to get public input on six capital maintenance and improvement projects in Watsonville over the next 10 years; upcoming sustainable planning grant programs for winter 2023; the death of a highway worker; and she cautioned drivers entering Caltrans work zones to please slow down or move over one lane for safety.

Ms. Rider will follow up on Commissioner questions.

Received public comment from:  
Michael Saint

Commissioners discussed the need for agencies to strategize around road safety and pursue efforts like Vision Zero.

## 22. Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy (CCZEVS) Update

Transportation Planner Amanda Marino delivered the staff report. Mike Usen of DKS Associates gave a presentation and responded to questions from Commissioners re: measuring stress on the electrical grid outside the scope of this project; programs to incentivize/compel gas stations to add EV charging facilities; how the transition to EV modes of transportation will affect development of infrastructure; how EV chargers are currently funded and the future of vending & consumption; expectation that pricing between electric and gas-powered vehicles will equalize; and how the data of the current study will be operationalized.

Commissioners discussed: The future of the EV market and relationship between consumers, manufacturers, and retailers; and the need for EV infrastructure in rural areas.

Executive Director Preston discussed the importance of planning and preparing for anticipated infrastructure; and robust participation from the central region to bolster our positioning for National Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Program (NEVI) funds, which are implemented by Caltrans.

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint  
Jacob Wysocki

23. Coastal Rail Trail Maintenance and Funding

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee delivered the staff report and responded to Commissioner questions regarding the state's active transportation program (ATP) requirement to measure trail usage; deploying cameras to collect data; and inclusion of vegetation clearing and unexpected contingencies in the cost of maintenance.

Commissioners discussed: the rail trail is part of the local jurisdictions' active transportation plans, which serve all residents and visitors to the county; RTC's priority is to construct the entire trail, including the segments between 12 and 18; importance of the RTC request that local jurisdictions commit to maintenance funding; and maintenance of infrastructure as a large part of public duty.

Received public comment from:

Mark Mesiti-Miller, Friends of the Rail and Trail  
Jean Brocklebank  
Jeff Gaffney, County Parks  
Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Commissioner Koenig moved and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Continue to advance Coastal Rail Trail projects by strategically investing funds to complete pre-construction activities;
2. Continue to strategically program funds to leverage State and Federal grant opportunities;
3. Negotiate maintenance agreements with local jurisdictions responsible for maintenance and joint responsibilities for seeking funding and return to the Commission for authorization for approval;
4. Continue to require that maintenance agreements be in place, prior to advertising for construction bids; and,
5. Continue to prudently program funding for corridor and trail maintenance responsibilities on a yearly basis, as part of the Measure D – Five Year Program of Projects.

Commissioners discussed: leveraging of Measure D funds to complete the rail trail project; prioritizing sections of the trail where usage is expected to be highest; and demonstrating ability to deliver trail segments to the public.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Bertrand, S. Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Parker, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Hernandez, and Kalantari-Johnson voting "aye."

The meeting was adjourned at 11:11 a.m.

24. Next meetings

The next hybrid RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 03, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 701 Ocean Street, Room 500A and by Zoom teleconference.

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra  
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

Alissa Guther  
Christina Watson, TAMC  
David <3 public transit  
Heather Adamson, AMBAG  
Jacob Wysocki  
Jean Brocklebank  
Jeff Gaffney, County Parks  
Jesus Bojorquez  
Johanna Lighthill  
Joni Steele  
Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit  
Larry Pageler  
Mark Mesiti-Miller  
Brett Garrett  
Brian  
Barry Scott  
Michael Lewis  
Michael Saint  
Matt Farrell  
Nadene Thorne

Nadia Noriega  
Paul Guirguis  
Paula Bradley  
Rebecca Downing  
Rob Tidmore  
Shane McKeithen  
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