



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, November 03, 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	
Kristen Brown	Andy Schiffrin (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Robert Quinn (Alt)
Greg Caput	Felipe Hernandez (Alt)
Manu Koenig	Lowell Hurst (Alt)
Bruce McPherson	Virginia (Gine) Johnson (Alt)
Mike Rotkin	Orchid Monroy-Ochoa (Caltrans Ex-Officio)
Jacques Bertrand	

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Tracy New
Luis Mendez	Sarah Christensen
Yesenia Parra	Matt Schroeder
Shannon Munz	Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi	Amanda Marino
Riley Gerbrandt	Amy Naranjo
Cindy Convisser	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)
Stephanie Britt	

2. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas.

Handouts for items 21 were posted to the website.

3. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Michael Lewis
Jean Brocklebank
Barry Scott
Michael Saint
Johanna Lighthill
Lani Faulkner

Executive Director Guy Preston responded to a Commissioner's request for an update on staff's recommendation for a consultant for the electric passenger rail and trail project.

Commissioner Rotkin responded to concerns raised by members of the public regarding environmental impacts of the Coastal Rail Trail project.

4. Presentation from Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)

Santa Cruz METRO Planning and Development Director John Urgo delivered a presentation focusing on METRO's 5-year strategic plan goals of 100% ridership increase in 5 years, purchasing only zero emission buses and developing 175 housing units at METRO transit centers. Mr. Urgo responded to Commissioner questions regarding measuring productivity of service as a function of passengers per revenue-hour; prioritizing frequency over coverage and impacts on ridership.

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen and Executive Director Guy Preston responded to Commissioner questions regarding challenges and potential opportunities for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lane Project to incorporate a true bus-on-shoulder facility.

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint
Brian Peoples
David Van Brink
Rick Longinotti

Commissioners discussed: praise for service enhancements that will benefit customers in Watsonville.

CONSENT AGENDA

At the request of Chair Brown, Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin, on behalf of the Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee, provided additional context and rationale for the recommendations in item 9.

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

Received public comment from:

Lani Faulkner
Paula Bradley
Barry Scott

MINUTES

5. Approved draft minutes of the October 06, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the October 03, 2022 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the October 11, 2022 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
8. Approved draft minutes of the October 13, 2022 Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

9. Approved revisions to the RTC Rules and Regulation for the appointment of corresponding members to the RTC's citizens advisory committees by members of the County Board of Supervisors

PROJECTS and PLANNING ITEMS

No consent items.

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

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

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

REGULAR AGENDA

Items 17-20 were taken out of order after items 21-23.

17. Commissioner reports – *none*
18. Nomination Committee for Chair and Vice Chair

Chair Sandy Brown noted that a committee consisting of Commissioners Rotkin, McPherson and herself was put in place to nominate candidates for Commission Chair and Vice-Chair for calendar year 2023. The committee will return to the December meeting with their recommendations.

19. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston delivered the director's report, providing updates on recent community meetings for the Highway 9/SLV Schools Complex Circulation Access Study; construction bids for the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Cycle 2 project scheduled to open on November 17; Senator Laird joined transportation partners to celebrate the completion of the Project Initiation Document (PID) for the Scotts Creek Bridge Replacement and Ecosystem Resiliency Project; regular in-person Commission meetings to begin in March, with remote access available for the public if facilities allow; remote access allowances as laid out in AB2449; SCCRTC 50th Anniversary Open House scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022 from 2pm-7pm.

Received public comment from:
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

20. Caltrans report

Orchid Monroy-Ochoa, Branch Chief for Regional Planning and Local Development Review in Caltrans District 5, made the following announcements: Friday, November 4, 2022 is the last opportunity to submit comments for the 2023/24 Sustainable Communities grant guidelines; call for applications will go out at the end of December or early January; upcoming workshops planned for November 9 and 10; Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) draft guidelines for Cycle 6 available for public comment; reminder to motorists to be mindful of vehicle behavior change as the weather changes; customer service weblink available to members of the public.

21. **PUBLIC HEARING:** Measure D: Five-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects

Chair Brown opened the public hearing at 10:03 a.m. Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi delivered the staff report and a presentation. Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered a presentation on the Watsonville to Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor: SB1-Cycle 3 application.

Rachel Moriconi responded to Commissioners' questions regarding funding to extend the left-hand turn lane entering the Target on Mt. Hermon Road; rail funding availability as a grant match; funding for Segment 7 as depicted on the chart; possible intermediate uses of grant funds should certain segments of the Electric Passenger Rail project prove to be too costly to complete;

Received public comment from:

Ricky Longinotti
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Michael Saint
Barry Scott

Chair Brown closed the public hearing at 10:42 a.m.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to hold a public hearing and adopt **Resolution 14-23** to approve the updated Fiscal Years (FY) 2022/2023-2026/2027 five-year programs of projects (5-Year Plans) for Measure D regional investment categories and projects: Highway Corridors, Active Transportation, Rail Corridor, the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing and San Lorenzo Valley-Highway 9 Corridor Improvements.

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

22. State Legislative Update and Resolution of Appreciation for Assemblymember Mark Stone

Assemblymember Mark Stone delivered a legislative update, highlighting parallels between the RTC's Measure D 5-Year Plans and the state's transportation priorities and noting opportunities for significant investments in transportation infrastructure.

Chair Brown presented a Resolution of Appreciation to Mr. Stone for his dedication and efforts improving Santa Cruz County's transportation system.

Commissioner Rotkin motioned and Commissioner Koenig seconded the motion to approve the resolution.

Commissioners discussed: Mr. Stone's leadership on transportation and environmental issues; appreciation for years of public service; appreciation for support from Mr. Stone's staff; exemplary service for the people of Santa Cruz County.

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

23. Amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022-23 Budget and Work Program

Director of Finance and Budget Tracy New delivered the staff report. Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi responded to Commissioner questions regarding how the budget amendment may impact funding for the Watsonville segments of the Coastal Rail Trail project.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Adopt **Resolution 15-23** approving the proposed FY2022-23 RTC Budget and Work Program and Measure D Budget as shown on Exhibit A.
2. Amend the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) to shift Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) funds between projects, as shown on Exhibit B.

Commissioners discussed: the recommendation to re-allocate surplus funds; TDA revenues less than forecasted; uncertain economic times; Assemblymember Stone's advice to exercise caution; suggestion to approve

the allocation recommended by staff but hold back distribution of funds until March 2023; METRO would be the most directly affected by the decision to put off funding until March; purchase of electric vehicles depends on funding; increasing frequency of routes is key to increasing ridership; support for the staff recommendation.

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

24. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

Chair Brown announced the topic of the closed session. RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there was the potential for reportable action in open session.

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 11:36 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

Closed session began at 11:38 a.m.

25. Review Public Employee Performance Evaluation (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957) Position: Executive Director

Conference with Labor Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957.6) Agency Designated Representatives: Sandy Brown and Steve Mattas

Unrepresented employee: Executive Director

OPEN SESSION

The Commission reconvened in open session at 11:58 a.m.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas reported that by an 8-0 vote, the RTC noted that Mr. Preston received an exemplary evaluation and has met the contractual standards under the terms of his employment contract for step increase to level E effective December 23, 2022.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.

26. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 01, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 17, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra
Administrative Services Officer

Attendees:

(831)-***-3660

(669)-***-2020

(831)-***-0950

John Urgo

Paul Guirguis, Caltrans

Murray Fontes

Rebecca Downing

Paul

Nadene Thorne

Pete

KMC

Michael Lewis

Jean Brocklebank

Alissa Guthier

Lani Faulkner

Barry Scott

Brian (Trail Now)

Ricky Longinotti

John & Linda Brown

Howard Cohen

Joni & Dan

Faina Segal

Carlos Palacios, Santa Cruz County

PRC001

Johanna Lighthill

Ben Vernazza

Nancy Yellin

Madilyn Jacobsen (she/her) Caltrans D5

Michael Saint

Rob Tidmore, Santa Cruz County Parks

Paula Bradley

Matt Farrell

David <3 Public Transport

Wondimu Mengistu

Jacob Wysocki

Mark Mesiti-Miller

Petra Mottishaw (she/her)