



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, January 12, 2023  
9:00 a.m.**

**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        | Bruce McPherson                   |
| Kristen Brown      | Eduardo Montesino                 |
| Alexander Pedersen | Larry Pageler (Alt)               |
| Randy Johnson      | Robert Quinn (Alt)                |
| Felipe Hernandez   | Andy Schiffrin (Alt)              |
| Manu Koenig        | Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio) |
| Mike Rotkin        |                                   |

Staff present:

|               |                             |
|---------------|-----------------------------|
| Guy Preston   | Yesenia Parra               |
| Luis Mendez   | Sarah Christensen           |
| Shannon Munz  | Cindy Convisser             |
| Krista Corwin | Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel) |

2. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

A revised agenda was posted to the website. Handouts for items 9 and 10 were also posted to the website. Upon request from Progressive Rail and Roaring Camp, item 10 was pulled from the agenda and will be considered at the February 2, 2023 RTC meeting.

3. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Johanna Lighthill

Jack Nelson

Michael Saint

Barry Scott

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Rotkin motioned and Commissioner K. Brown seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Koenig, Rotkin, McPherson, K. Brown, Johnson, Pedersen, S. Brown, Montesino, Hernandez, and Commissioner Alternates Pageler, Schiffrin and Quinn voting "aye."

### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

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

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

5. Review of items to be discussed in closed session.

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that the Commission will enter into a closed session to discuss two items related to real property negotiations. There may be one reportable action from the item concerning real properties on Soquel Drive.

The RTC adjourned to closed session at 9:25 am.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

6. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line portion between MP 3 and MP 7

Agency Negotiators: Guy Preston and Luis Mendez

Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC and St. Paul and Pacific Railroad

Under Negotiations: Lease terms

7. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)

Property: 7992 Soquel Drive (APN 039-232-03), 7994 Soquel Drive (039-232-02), 7996 Soquel Drive (APN 039-232-01) Aptos, CA 95003  
Agency Negotiators: Guy Preston, Luis Mendez, and Sarah Christensen  
Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC and The Oak, LLC, Dennis and Julie Ann Jacobsen  
Under Negotiations: Price and terms for acquisition of property

## **OPEN SESSION**

### 8. Reconvene in open session and report out from closed session

The RTC reconvened in open session at 10:10 a.m. RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there was no reportable action from item 6. For item 7, by unanimous vote, the Commission authorized an additional \$100,000 in funding for due diligence activities associated with the properties at 7994 and 7996 Soquel Drive.

#### 8a. Commissioner reports

Commissioner Hernandez noted significant damage due to flooding throughout the county and requested an assessment of the damages in order to seek emergency funding.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin announced that he has been appointed to serve as alternate for Commissioner Justin Cummings and his appointment was approved at the most recent meeting of the Board of Supervisors.

#### 8b. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston thanked staff, the public, and the media for their participation in the RTC's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary open house and announced recent awards of funding for projects in Santa Cruz County including:

- \$115.8 million from the California Transportation Commission Active Transportation Program (ATP) for six projects
  - \$35.7 million to the City of Santa Cruz for Segments 8 and 9 of the coastal rail trail
  - \$67.6 million to the County of Santa Cruz for Segments 10 and 11 of the coastal rail trail
  - \$6.9 million to the City of Watsonville for the Safe Routes to Downtown Watsonville project
  - \$2.9 million to the City of Santa Cruz for construction of a multiuse path on Swanton Boulevard and improvements on Delaware avenue
  - \$1.8 million to the County of Santa Cruz Health Services Agency

- \$700,000 to the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) for Slug Bike Life programming
- \$30 million in Mega grant funding from the US Department of Transportation by way of the Federal Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act for the Watsonville to Santa Cruz Multimodal program
- \$1.5 million Congressional appropriations funding for construction of the Boulder Creek Complete Streets project

Governor Newsom declared a state of emergency on January 4, enabling President Biden to make an emergency declaration and make available assistance funds from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for 17 counties, including Santa Cruz County, with an incident period beginning January 8, 2023; preliminary estimates of \$50mil in roadway and other damages; RTC staff performing spot assessments of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line; welcome to new commissioners Felipe Hernandez, Alexander Pedersen, Justin Cummings, and Caltrans Ex-Officio Interim Director Richard Rosales.

Received public comment from:  
Brian Peoples

#### 8c. Caltrans Report

Deputy District 5 Director Scott Eades announced upcoming grants in three categories: Sustainable Transportation, Climate Adaptation Planning, and Strategic Partnerships. A virtual grants workshop will be held for agencies in District 5 on January 26, 2023.

Director Eades also communicated that Highway 17 and Highway 101 are fully open following closures due to storm damage. Closures remain on Highway 9 near Ben Lomond for another couple weeks and one-way traffic near Waterman's Gap, near the Highway 17 junction, and near route 236 with no estimated time of re-opening.

Caltrans' Local Assistance staff will continue to work with the local jurisdictions and seek state and federal emergency funding for storm damage repairs.

9. Approval of Purchase and Sale Agreement for acquisition of 7992 Soquel Drive for Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder from State Park Drive to Freedom Boulevard and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report and gave an oral report.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Barry Scott

Aurelio Gonzalez

Michael Saint

In response to a question from a member of the public, Ms. Christensen provided information about plans to demolish structures on the properties to be acquired.

Commissioner Rotkin made a motion and Commissioner Hernandez seconded the motion to approve **Resolution 20-23**:

- a. Approving and accepting the terms and conditions of the Purchase and Sale Agreement to acquire real property located at 7992 Soquel Drive, Aptos California, APN 039-232-03;
- b. Authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement on behalf of the RTC;
- c. Authorizing the Executive Director to complete the feasibility studies required to waive the contingencies set forth in the Purchase and Sale Agreement;
- d. Authorizing staff to make the payment for the real property acquisition and related escrow fees pursuant to the Purchase and Sale Agreement;
- e. Authorizing the Chair of the Commission to execute the certificate of acceptance for the associated Deed and escrow documents as required to effectuate transfer of the property to the RTC;
- f. Amending the Measure D Active Transportation 5-year Program of Projects to shift \$1,200,000 of funds forward to FY23 that were previously programmed in FY25 for the purpose of acquiring right-of-way for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder from State Park Drive to Freedom Boulevard and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project;
- g. Amending the FY23 RTC Budget accordingly.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Koenig, Rotkin, McPherson, K. Brown, Johnson, Pedersen, Hernandez, S. Brown, Montesino, and Commissioner Alternates Pageler and Schiffrin voting "aye."

10. Consideration of Proposed Rail Car Storage on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line per the Administration Coordination and License Agreement with St. Paul and Pacific Railroad/Progressive Rail

Item 10 was pulled from the agenda. The item is to be considered at the RTC meeting on February 2, 2023.

#### 11. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 02, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 701 Ocean Street, Room 500A, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. by Zoom teleconference.

The meeting adjourned at 10:51a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Yesenia Parra  
Administrative Services Officer

#### Attendees

(408) \*\*\*-2392

(831) \*\*\*-6833

Alex Lopez

Aurelio Gonzalez

Barry Scott

BobFi

Brian (Trail Now)

Buzz Anderson

David <3 Public Transport

Equity Transit

Erik

Hannah Cohn

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

Jack Nelson

Jacob Wysocki

Johanna Lighthill

JS

Kevin Drabinsky

Linda Wilshusen  
Matt Ferrell  
Michael Saint  
N Yellin  
Nadene Thorne  
Paul Guirguis, Caltrans RP  
Paula Bradley  
Ramon Gomez  
Rebecca Downing  
Ryan Sarnataro  
Sally Arnold  
Woutje