



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, February 02, 2023  
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	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
Grace Blakeslee	Matt Schroeder
Rachel Moriconi	Riley Gerbrandt
Brian Zamora	Tommy Travers
Krista Corwin	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)

2. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

A handout for item 24 and a replacement page for item 30 were posted to the website.

3. Oral communications.

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer  
Johanna Lighthill  
Michael Saint  
Jack Brown  
Jack Nelson

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner McPherson 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."

Commissioners discussed item 21 and appreciation for the support from Congressional representatives.

### **MINUTES**

4. Approved draft minutes of the December 01, 2022 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
5. Accepted draft minutes of the December 12, 2022 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the December 13, 2022 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
7. Approved draft minutes of the January 12, 2023 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

### **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

### **PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS**

8. Approved authorizing the executive director to award a contract to Jim Ford Construction for handrail and walkway repairs on bridges along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 21-23**)
9. Approved authorizing the executive director to amend a contract with Mark Thomas & Company, Inc. for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and

Bus on Shoulder from State Park Drive to Freedom Boulevard and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project (**Resolution 22-23**)

10. Approved authorizing the executive director to enter into agreements with Professional Tree Care and Capra Environmental Services for vegetation control along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 23-23**)

#### **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

11. Accepted status reports on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues for December 2022 and January 2023
12. Accepted status reports on Measure D revenues for December 2022 and January 2023
13. Approved the City of Santa Cruz Article 8 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims for the Bay Street Protected Bike Lanes and Pedestrian Path project and the Bikeway Striping and Minor Improvements project (**Resolution 24-23**)

#### **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

14. Adopted Assembly Bill 361 Findings for Virtual and Hybrid Meetings
15. Approved appointments and reappointments to the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee
16. Accepted appointment to the Bicycle Advisory Committee
17. Accepted staff recommendation regarding committee appointments

#### **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

18. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
19. Accepted correspondence log
20. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies – *none*
21. Accepted information items
  - a. December 23, 2022 Letter from Representative Anna G. Eshoo, Member of Congress Re: Funding for the Boulder Creek Complete Streets Project

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

22. Commissioner Reports – *none*

## 23. Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston announced opportunities to serve on the RTC's Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee (B&A/P) committee, the California Association of Councils of Government (CALCOG) or the Coast Rail Coordinating Council (CRCC) a; updates to the Brown Act and expectations for attendance at RTC meetings effective March 1, 2023; California Transportation Commission (CTC) funding allocation for the Highway 1 Bus-on-Shoulder/Auxiliary Lane Project between Bay/Porter and State Park Drive; preliminary clearing & grubbing work has begun between Soquel Ave-41<sup>st</sup>; update regarding a proposal from Progressive Rail to store rail cars on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

Commissioners discussed: Roaring Camp & Progressive rail encouraged to bring forth their proposal at the earliest opportunity; appointment of an alternate from the City of Watsonville.

Received public comment from:  
Brian Peoples

## 24. Caltrans Report

Deputy Director Scott Eades announced grant opportunities including the Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grants and three upcoming workshops hosted by Caltrans Headquarters; updates on road closures and traffic control along Highway 9 and Route 236; ongoing work to repair damage caused by storms and the California Transportation Commission SHOPP funds awarded to Route 9 Pedestrian Safety Improvement Project.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for Caltrans' immediate attention to the transportation needs of residents in the San Lorenzo Valley.

Received public comment from:  
Jim Helmer

## 25. Storm Damage to Transportation Facilities in Santa Cruz County

Deputy Director Luis Mendez and Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report.

Josh Spangrud of the City of Santa Cruz reported on damage to a portion of Segment 7 of the Coastal Rail Trail and estimates for repair work.

Commissioners discussed: strategies to retain vertical slopes; approximate timeline for repairs; storm damages are an act of God and claims to the RTC likely will not be paid but any submitted claims will be processed accordingly; possibility of purchasing rail-mounted equipment to lower the cost of contracting out rail line repairs.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Jack Brown

Michael Saint

Matt Farrell, Friends of the Rail and Trail

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Accept the information related to damage caused by recent storms; and
2. Approve **Resolution 25-23** authorizing the Executive Director to make amendments to existing contracts or enter into new contracts as necessary to address storm damage including the removal of trees felled, damaged and or weakened by the storms from the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line right-of-way or adjoining property, removal of any debris left by the storms, and re-grading of drainage ditches on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line up to a total amount of \$400,000.

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

## 26. 2023 State and Federal Legislative Programs

Senior Transportation Planner Rachel Moriconi delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed: cooperative efforts with METRO have paid off; appreciation for grant-securing efforts; successful grants due to collaboration between RTC and its partner jurisdictions; demonstrates the effectiveness of the agencies working together.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner McPherson seconded the motion to receive updates on state and federal legislative issues and adopt the RTC's legislative program to assist in analyzing the transportation impacts of legislative activities in 2023.

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

27. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there would be no reportable action from the closed session item. The Commission entered closed session at 10:30 a.m.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

28. 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**

29. Reconvene in open session and report out from closed session

The RTC reconvened in open session at 10:45 a.m. RTC Counsel Steve Mattas communicated that there was no reportable action.

30. Approval of Purchase and Sale Agreement for acquisition of 7994 & 7996 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.

Commissioners discussed: carrying out the will of the Measure D voters with respect to the auxiliary lane project; important to consider what data would change the Commission's direction on the Highway projects;

Received public comment from:  
David Date

Commissioner Rotkin motioned and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to approve Resolution 26-23:

1. Approving and accepting the terms and conditions of the Purchase and Sale Agreement (Exhibit A) to acquire real property located at 7994 & 7996 Soquel Drive, Aptos California, APN 039-232-02 & 039-232-01;

2. Authorizing the Executive Director to execute the Purchase and Sale Agreement on behalf of the RTC;
3. Authorizing the Executive Director to complete the feasibility studies required to waive the contingencies set forth in the Purchase and Sale Agreement;
4. Authorizing staff to make the payment for the real property acquisition and related escrow fees pursuant to the Purchase and Sale Agreement;
5. Authorizing the close of escrow pursuant to the terms of the Purchase and Sale Agreement;
6. 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;
7. Amending the Measure D Active Transportation 5-year Program of Projects to shift \$2,000,000 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;
8. Amending the FY23 RTC Budget accordingly; and
9. Authorizing a short-term inter-program loan from the Measure D-Highway Category to the Measure D-Active Transportation Category, if needed to manage cash flow in FY23.

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

### 31. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, March 02, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors Chambers located at 701 Ocean Street, Room 525, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Executive Director Preston communicated that the Transportation Policy Workshop scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. has been cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 10:57a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

## Attendees

Jack Brown  
Johanna Lighthill  
Michael Saint  
Jack Nelson  
BobF  
David Date  
Kimberly Finley  
Christina Watson TAMC  
Brian People  
Bryn Young  
David Van Brink  
Amy Johnson  
Joshua Spangrud  
David Morris  
Frank Rimicci  
Matt Ferrell  
Jim Helmer  
Sally for Rail + Trail  
Michael Saint  
Nancy Yellin  
Paul Guirguis, Caltrans RP  
Paula Bradley  
Peter Newton  
PK  
Ricardo Valdes  
Ryan Sarnataro  
Saladin Sale  
Shane McKeithen  
Jeanette Guire