



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, March 02, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

**IN PERSON 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	Mike Rotkin
Kristen Brown	Eduardo Montesino
Alexander Pedersen	Larry Pageler (Alt)
Randy Johnson	Robert Quinn (Alt)
Justin Cummings	Virginia Johnson (Alt)
Manu Koenig	Scott Eades (Caltrans Ex-Officio)

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Yesenia Parra
Luis Mendez	Sarah Christensen
Shannon Munz	Krista Corwin
Grace Blakeslee	Brianna Goodman
Amy Naranjo	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)
Brian Zamora	

2. Considered AB2449 request(s) - *none*
3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

A replacement page for item 15 and a handout for item 23 were posted to the website.

4. Oral communications

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Michael Pisano

Michael Saint

Jack Brown

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

MINUTES

5. Approved draft minutes of the February 02, 2023 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
6. Accepted draft minutes of the February 16, 2023 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS

7. Approved authorizing the executive director to enter into an agreement with the County of Santa Cruz for right of way support services (**Resolution 27-23**)
8. Approved authorizing the executive director to amend the professional service agreements with Associated Right of Way Services, Inc. (ARWS) and RailPros, Inc. (**Resolution 28-23**)
9. Approved amendments to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) (**Resolution 29-23**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

10. Accepted status reports on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues for December 2022 and January 2023
11. Accepted status reports on Measure D revenues for December 2022 and January 2023

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

12. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to submit claims and execute all necessary agreements for financial assistance for repair of storm damage to the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 30-23**)
13. Approved rejecting claims
14. Approved reappointment and appointment of members of the Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&DTAC)

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. Commissioner Appointments to Committees – oral report

Commission Chair Manu Koenig reported the following nominations to committees:

- Commissioners Hernandez, Cummings, McPherson, Koenig, Montesino & Kristen Brown to the Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee.
- Commissioner Friend to continue as the RTC representative to CALCOG.
- Commissioner Pedersen to the Coast Rail Coordinating Council and Commissioner Rotkin as the alternate.

Commissioner Rotkin motioned and Commissioner Kristen. Brown seconded the motion to approve the nominations to committees. The motion passed

unanimously with Commissioners R. Johnson, Rotkin, S. Brown, K. Brown, Koenig, Pedersen, Cummings, Montesino, and Commissioner Alternates Quinn, V. Johnson, and Pageler voting “aye.”

Received public input from:
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

21. Director’s Report

Executive Director Guy Preston reported on the recent appointments of Commissioner Vanessa Quiroz-Carter by Santa Cruz Metro, Alternate Casey Clark for the City of Watsonville, and Alternate Maria Orozco for Santa Cruz County’s Fourth District. In addition, the Caltrans District Five Director position was filled by Scott Eades and he will continue to serve on the RTC board as an ex-officio member.

Executive Director Preston also provided updates on RTC meeting locations, parking passes, considerations for in-person and remote meeting participation for members of the public; Transportation Policy Workshop meetings; Budget, Administration & Personnel Committee meetings; storm damage repair contracts; rail car storage proposal by Progressive Rail and Roaring Camp; Santa Cruz METRO’s One Ride at a Time campaign; and the MEGA award event hosted by Congressman Jimmy Panetta and attended by Chair Koenig, Commissioner Hernandez, RTC Communications Specialist Shannon Munz and RTC Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen.

22. Caltrans Report

District 5 Director Scott Eades reported on cycle 2 of the Clean California grant program; emergency contracts authorized for storm damage repair work and fallen tree removal; traffic control estimated until March 17 for slide repairs on Highway 9; and road closures on Highway 9 from Trestle Pass Road to the Route 35 junction, on route 35, and on route 236. Caltrans crews are working with PG&E to open up the roads as quickly as possible.

Commissioners congratulated Mr. Eades on his promotion; and appreciated Caltrans for their response to storm damage on the highways.

Received public comment from:
Sarah Rigler
Jack Brown

23. Update on the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen delivered the staff report and she and Executive Director Guy Preston responded to questions

regarding: Measure D funding strategy for the segment 12 overcrossing improvements; anticipated improvements in travel time between Watsonville and Santa Cruz; maintenance and construction cooperative agreements for segments 8 and 9; and schedule of delivery of trail projects located in South County.

Commissioners discussed: traffic control & signaling at Robertson Street; lane distribution on northbound Soquel by the fire station causing chokepoint in the morning; safety improvements on Soquel Drive offered by bike lane plans; and desire to meet with staff to discuss faster project delivery in South County.

Received public comment from:

Matt Farrell, Friends of the Rail and Trail
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Michael Pisano
Michael Saint
Jack Brown
Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Commissioners discussed: sidewalk improvement between 41st and Robertson; environmental document review for Segments 8 and 9 of the Coastal Rail Trail coming before the Commission in May; and the county's consideration of traffic circles for improvements currently under construction on Soquel Drive.

26. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 06, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., at the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisor Chambers .

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting has been cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit
Georgina Arias, UCSC

Jacob Wysocki
Johanna Lighthill
Murray Fontes – Public Works
Nadene Thorne
Nancy Yellin
(831)-***-4205
Jeanette Guire RC RR
Sarah Rigler
Jack Brown
Michael Saint
Michael Pisano
Matt Farrell, Friends of the Rail and Trail