



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 6, 2023  
9:00 a.m.**

**In-Person Meeting**

County Board of Supervisors Chambers  
701 Ocean St. Room 525  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Remote Participation**

RTC Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85406910971>

Dial-in: +1 564-217-2000

Webinar ID: 854 0691 0971

1. Roll call.

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m.

Members present:

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

Staff present:

Guy Preston	Yesenia Parra
Luis Mendez	Sarah Christensen
Shannon Munz	Krista Corwin
Rachel Moriconi	Brianna Goodman
Amy Naranjo	Riley Gerbrandt
Brian Zamora	Cindy Convisser
Amanda Marino	Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)
Tracy New	

2. Considered AB2449 request(s) – *none*

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

A handout for item 11 and replacement pages for item 25 were posted to the website. A presentation for item 4 was posted to the website. Items 26 and 27 were pulled from the agenda.

4. Resolution of Appreciation for Storm Damage Response

RTC Commissioners and staff presented resolutions of appreciation to:

- Santa Cruz County Public Works
- Watsonville Public Works
- Capitola Public Works
- Scotts Valley Public Works
- City of Santa Cruz Public Works
- Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
- Caltrans

for their round-the-clock response to storm damage incidents throughout Santa Cruz County. Commissioners also thanked RTC staff for their work on storm damage incidents along the rail line.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the resolution. The motion carried unanimously.

Received public comment from:

Carey Pico

5. Oral communications

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer

Carey Pico

Johanna Lighthill

Barry Scott

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

**CONSENT AGENDA**

Upon request from a Commissioner, item 13 was pulled from the consent agenda for discussion and became item 20a.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda with the exception of item 13. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen,

Rotkin, S. Brown, K. Brown, Johnson, Koenig, McPherson, Hernandez, Montesino, and Commissioner Alternates Quinn and Schiffrin voting "aye."

## **MINUTES**

6. Accepted draft minutes of the February 13, 2023 Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the February 14, 2023 Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee meeting
8. Approved draft minutes of the March 02, 2023 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
9. Approved draft minutes of the March 09, 2023 Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee meeting

## **POLICY ITEMS**

*No consent items*

## **PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS**

10. Approved authorizing the executive director to amend a contract with Clean Team Associates for janitorial services on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (**Resolution 31-23**)
11. Approved authorizing the executive director to award a contract to Granite Rock Company to repair handrails and walkways on bridges along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 32-23**)

## **BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS**

12. Accepted status report on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
13. Accepted status report on Measure D revenues
14. Approved payment to US Bank for disputed charges

## **ADMINISTRATION ITEMS**

15. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to execute a pipeline license agreement with the Santa Cruz County Sanitation District (**Resolution 33-23**)

## **INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS**

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

19. Accepted information items

- a. Public meeting requirements under the Brown Act and AB 2449

**REGULAR AGENDA**

**20a. Accept status report on Measure D revenues**

Commissioners discussed the Measure D-2016 distribution formula for recipient jurisdictions. In response to a question from a commissioner, Executive Director Guy Preston and Deputy Director Luis Mendez clarified how population, road-miles, and point-of-sale data are factored into the formula.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Montesino seconded the motion to accept the revenue report in item 13. The motion carried unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, Johnson, S. Brown, K. Brown, Rotkin, Koenig, McPherson, Hernandez, Montesino, and Commissioner Alternates Quinn and Schiffrin voting "aye."

20. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner McPherson commended Santa Cruz METRO and GO Santa Cruz County for launching the One Ride at a Time program, which promotes the environmental benefits of transit and raises funds for the National Monterey Bay Sanctuary Foundation and the Bay of Life Fund.

Commissioner McPherson also reported on the expansion of Central Coast Community Energy (3CE) to include unincorporated San Luis Obispo County. 3CE a coalition of 35 agencies working together to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Central California.

Commissioner Kristen Brown announced the launch of Youth Cruz Free ridership program offered by Santa Cruz METRO. The pilot program offers free fares for students in grades K-12 and runs from March 1, 2023 through February 29, 2024.

Chair Koenig reported on his and Executive Director Preston's attendance at Central Coast Coalition Day on March 15 in Sacramento. The Chair and Executive Director and other partners advocated for transportation projects that will benefit the entire Central Coast region, particularly the RTC's grant applications for the Transit Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) and the Active Transportation Program (ATP) and for increased funding for both programs.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

## 21. Director's Report

Executive Director Preston delivered an update on two emergency contracts approved in consultation with Chair Koenig to repair two partial washouts along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) near Manresa State Beach and north of New Brighton State Beach campground, and emergency debris removal from 23 locations between Harkins Slough in Watsonville to the western end of Prospect Avenue in Capitola. The contracts were executed with the low-bidder Industrial Railroad Company in the amount of \$328,522 and \$194,868, respectively. By Resolution, RSTPX funds will be loaned to pay invoices until reimbursements can be issued from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES).

Executive Director Preston also delivered an update on the availability of meeting locations that can accommodate remote participation by members of the public. He asked Commissioners for feedback. Commissioners noted that having remote capabilities was important at this time and that meetings could resume in Watsonville once equipment was updated.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Matt Ferrell

## 22. Caltrans Report

District 5 Director Scott Eades provided updates on state route closures, re-openings, and emergency repair contracts. Director Eades also delivered an update on the Scotts Creek Coastal Resiliency Project and the kick-off of the Coastal Hazards Study project initiated by Caltrans, RTC and the Resource Conservation District and funded by California Department of Fish and Wildlife. The overview of key projects sheet that is included in the monthly RTC agenda packet was recently updated with contact information for specific projects and instructions to submit customer service requests.

In response to a question from a Commissioner, Director Eades discussed which portions of the Scotts Creek project are currently funded through the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and the schedule of various phases of the project. Director Eades and Director Preston provided insights on the distribution of the phases between consultants and in-house staff.

Received public comment from:

Jim Helmer

23. GO Santa Cruz County Program Update

Transportation Planners Amanda Marino and Amy Naranjo delivered a presentation and responded to Commissioner questions regarding: potential partnership with upcoming e-bikeshare program; how income eligibility is determined; education & age requirements; how the rebates are administered; planned outreach to Watsonville residents; what more is needed for a countywide e-bike voucher pilot; and month-by-month data reflected in the RideAmigos platform.

Received public comment from:

Matt Miller, Ecology Action

Matt Ferrell

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

Piet Canin, Ecology Action

Paula Bradley

Commissioners discussed: voucher program could provide valuable data to the air resources board; discounts for bikeshare offered by UC Santa Cruz; need for a park & ride lot in Watsonville to reduce car trips; opportunity for program expansion when former West Marine building becomes a governmental center; outreach to the parking district of the City of Watsonville; transportation demand management (TDM) programming bolsters multi-modal approach; and outreach to county General Services Division (GSD) to discuss future park-and-ride at the new Watsonville facility.

Commissioner Rotkin moved to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Receive annual program update for Cruz511 and GO Santa Cruz County and provide input on a pilot program to incentivize the use and purchase of electric bicycles; and
2. Authorize the Executive Director to extend the contract with Miller-Maxfield, Inc. for GO Santa Cruz County TDM marketing services, and increase the amount by \$30,000 to a maximum of \$60,000; and
3. Authorize the Executive Director to extend the contract with Ecology Action for GO Santa Cruz County TDM employer outreach services and increase the amount by \$40,000 to a maximum of \$69,385. (Attachment 5)
4. Approve a fiscal year (FY) 2022-23 budget amendment as shown in Exhibit A of Attachment 5.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion and proposed a friendly amendment directing staff to return in two months with program funding options for both an e-bike voucher and a bikeshare program and return with a discussion of outreach planned for Watsonville. The maker of the motion accepted the friendly amendment.

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

#### 24. Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-2024 Proposed Budget

Director of Budget and Finance Tracy New delivered the staff report.

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

1. Adopt **Resolution 35-23** approving the proposed FY2023-24 RTC and Measure D budgets as shown on Exhibit A
2. Accept the Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenue forecast for FY 2023-24 provided by the County Auditor
3. Accept the Measure D revenue forecast for FY 2023-24 provided by HDL Services
4. Accept the 30-year revenue projection which incorporates the HDL forecast for FY 2023-24; and
5. Accept the 5-year revenue estimates for the Measure D recipients which incorporate the HDL forecast for FY 2023-24 and calculation of the revenue distribution for local jurisdictions with updated data.

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

#### 25. Santa Cruz County Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Priorities Report (CAVA)

Transportation Planner Brianna Goodman delivered a presentation. In response to a question from a Commissioner, Executive Director Guy Preston provided information about the conversations that will need to be had between the RTC and the Coastal Commission with respect to the design of various segments of the rail trail. Planner Goodman responded to Commissioner questions to provide more detail on the framework of the

project; how average daily trips and other variables are factored into the analysis of priorities.

Commissioners discussed: immediate sharing of local information versus analyses by third-party consultants; contract includes stakeholder outreach meetings; elected officials and local agencies can provide valuable stakeholder input.

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

1. Adopt **Resolution 36-23** authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into an agreement with Williams Sale Partnership (WSP) USA Inc. for professional consulting services totaling up to \$300,000 to perform the Santa Cruz County Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Priorities report.

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

Items 26 and 27 were pulled from the agenda.

28. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 04, 2023 at 9:00 a.m., at the Capitola City Council Chambers located at 420 Capitola Ave., Capitola, CA, 95010.

The next Transportation Policy Workshop meeting has been cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

Brian Peoples

Carey Pico

Barry Scott

(831)-\*\*\*833

Equity Transit

Johanna Lighthill

Bhupendra Patel  
BobFif  
Grandeyc  
Jacob Wysocki  
Paula Bradley  
Piet Canin, Ecology Action  
Matt Ferrell  
Jim Helmer  
Alissa Guther  
Matt Miller