



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

FINAL MINUTES

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

NOTE: Meeting was held via Zoom.

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:35 p.m.

Members present:

Tara Ireland, Social Service Provider-Persons of Limited Means
Lisa Berkowitz, CTSA (Community Bridges)
Jesus Bojorquez, CTSA (Lift Line)
Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)
Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
Janet Edwards, 1st District
Veronica Elsea, Chair 3rd District
Patty Talbott, Social Service Provider-Seniors Alternate
Daniel Zaragoza, SCMTD (METRO)
Phil Kipnis, 1st District Alternate

Unexcused absences:

Alex Weske, Social Service Provider – Disabled
Paul Elerick, 2nd District
Ed Hutton, 5th District

RTC staff present:

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner
Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner

Others present:

Christina Witt, Department of Rehabilitation
Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz
Dan Blomquist, Mark Thomas
John Uργο, Santa Cruz METRO

2. Introductions

3. Oral communications
4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approve Minutes from October 11, 2022

A motion (Kipnis/Edwards) was made to approve the minutes from October 11, 2022. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Patty Talbott, Daniel Zaragoza, and Phil Kipnis voting in favor. Veronica Elsea abstained from the vote.

6. Approve Minutes from December 13, 2022

A motion (Edwards/Pisano) was made to approve the minutes from October 11, 2022. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Patty Talbott, Daniel Zaragoza, and Phil Kipnis voting in favor. Veronica Elsea abstained from the vote.

7. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights
8. Receive E&D TAC 2023 Meeting Schedule
9. Receive TDA Revenues Report
10. Receive FY 23-24 TDA Claims Calendar
 - a. Support for Zero Emission Rail Transit & Trail Project Letter from the E&D TAC
 - b. Dangerous by Design 2022
 - c. Public Transport Planning and Development toward Resilience, Case of Toyama City

A motion (Kipnis/Edwards) was made to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Patty Talbott, Daniel Zaragoza, and Phil Kipnis voting in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

11. Receive Program Updates

a. Volunteer Center

Tara Ireland did not have an update to share with the committee at this time.

b. Community Bridges

Jesus Bojorquez announced that Community Bridges Lift Line received a new electric vehicle to be used by the community funded by Measure D.

c. Santa Cruz METRO

Daniel Zaragoza provided information regarding METRO's work assisting in storm evacuations. METRO is implementing a pilot program Youth Cruz Free starting March 1st where K-12 Students can ride METRO for free.

d. SCCRTC – Covid Public Meeting Rules and AB 2449

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, informed the committee that starting in March 2023 the RTC citizen advisory committee meetings will be held under the general Brown Act rules. A quorum of committee members needs to be present in person, but members of the public or committee alternates may participate remotely.

Ms. Marino provided information regarding the request from The City of Watsonville requesting that the E&D TAC write a letter of support for Watsonville's Vision Zero Corridor Study (VZCS).

A motion (Kipnis/ Bojorquez) was made for the E&D TAC Chair to write a letter of support on behalf of the committee for the for the Watsonville Vision Zero Corridor Study. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Patty Talbott, Daniel Zaragoza, and Phil Kipnis voting in favor.

e. Pedestrian Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

i. Pedestrian Hazard Report

Chair Veronica Elsea stated that the subcommittee is continuing to meet and discussing ways to improve response times in the pedestrian hazard report processes working with local jurisdictions.

The subcommittee is continuing to monitor the public meetings and projects of local jurisdictions throughout Santa Cruz County. Ms. Elsea identified projects that they are monitoring and the next subcommittee will be March 24th at 2:00 pm.

10. Committee Appointment

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the three applicants expressing interest to fill vacancies on the E&D TAC shown in the February 2023 membership roster. The applicants introduced themselves and provided a statement of why they are applying to serve on the committee.

A motion (Kipnis/ Bojorquez) was made to recommend approval to the RTC to appoint new members to the E&D TAC. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, Veronica Elsea, Patty Talbott, Daniel Zaragoza, and Phil Kipnis voting in favor.

11. Draft Criteria for RTC Discretionary Funds

Amy Naranjo, Transportation Planner – Amy Naranjo presented the initial draft evaluation process for RTC discretionary funding decisions and provided discussion points to encourage committee input. This included potential criteria and measure to be used to evaluate projects, programs, plans, and how public funds are used.

No action taken.

12. Preliminary Draft 2023 Unmet Needs List

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, provided a background and importance of identifying Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs. The Unmet Needs List is used to support recommendations for funding prioritization, and to provide input to service providers. The committee provided input on the Preliminary Draft 2023 Unmet Needs List.

No action taken.

13. Draft Call for Projects for TNC Access for All Program

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, stated an overview of the Draft Request for Proposals for the Transportation Network Companies (TNC)

Access for All Program to improve the accessibility of on-demand transportation for persons with disabilities in Santa Cruz County. Ms. Marino requested that the committee nominate members to review the applications received.

A motion (Lamb/Pisano) was made to elect Janet Edwards with Phil Kipnis as an alternate to serve on the reviewing committee for the TNC Access for All Program applications. The motion passed with members Patty Talbott, Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor.

14. Green Valley Rd. Path Design

Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz Staff, and Dan Blomquist, Mark Thomas Consulting Firm, presented the Green Valley Road Multi-Use Trail Improvement Project to improve pedestrian and bicyclist connections between the city of Watsonville and the unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County.

No action taken.

15. Santa Cruz METRO Line 71/Rapid Corridors Project

John Uργο, Santa Cruz METRO staff, gave a presentation on the Santa Cruz METRO Line 71/Rapid Corridors Project to identify solutions aimed at making travel by bus faster, more reliable, and easier to access between the cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz.

No action taken.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:45 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2023 at 1:30 located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Marino, Staff