



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, April 11, 2023

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:40 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

Unexcused absences:

Alex Weske, Social Service Provider – Disabled
Paul Elerick, 2nd District
Ed Hutton, 5th District
Clay Kempf, Social Service Provider – Seniors
Daniel Zaragoza, SCMTD (Metro)

RTC staff present:

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner

Others present:

Christina Witt, Department of Rehabilitation
Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz METRO
Miranda Taylor, AMBAG
Kailash Mozumder, City of Capitola
Jonathan Weidman, UCSC
Kyle Klein, B Cycles
Marianne Ahern, Member of the public

2. Introductions

3. Consider AB2449 request(s) to participate in the meeting remotely due to emergency circumstances (a physical or family medical emergency that prevents a member from attending in person) - None
4. Oral communications

Marianne Ahern, Member of the public, presented intersections in Capitola that are hazardous to individuals with disabilities. She identified intersections where pedestrians were struck by motorists in the past 6 months. The intersections include Clares St. & Capitola Rd, Capitola Rd & 41st Avenue, Soquel Dr & Carriker Lane, and Captiola Rd & 7th Avenue. Ms. Ahern emphasized the need for safe pedestrian crossings that are ADA accessible at hospitals and shopping centers. Specifically, at Capitola Rd & Clares St. individuals using a wheelchair are unable to reach the pedestrian push button to cross the street.

5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

A motion (Edwards, Pisano) was made to move Item 18. Regional E-Bike Share Program before Item 11 due to time conflicts of presenters. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approve Minutes from February 14, 2023

A motion (Pisano/Berkowitz) was made to approve the minutes from February 14, 2023. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor.

7. Approve TDA allocation requests for Ride N Stride and Community Traffic Safety Coalition Programs
8. Receive RTC Meeting Highlights
9. Receive Information Items

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

REGULAR AGENDA

18. *(Moved before Item 10)* Regional E-Bike Share Program

Jonathan Weidman, UCSC Staff and Kyle Klein, B Cycles Staff presented an overview of the City of Santa Cruz in partnership with the Cities of Capitola and Watsonville, the County of Santa Cruz, UCSC, and Cabrillo College Regional Electric Bike Share Program. The Vendor BCycle and its parent company, Trek, will fully own and operate the Bike Share system. Bike Share is expected to launch in June 2023 throughout the City of Santa Cruz and UCSC campus. The regional system is scheduled to expand to Capitola, Watsonville, Cabrillo College and the unincorporated County in early 2024.

E&D TAC members asked questions regarding where the docking stations will be located, how parking will be enforced, and monitored.

No motion taken.

10. Receive Program Updates

a. Volunteer Center

Tara Ireland provided information on the Volunteer Center's Fall Prevention Program. More information can be found at <https://scvolunteercenter.org/programs/empowered-aging/falls-prevention-program/> The Volunteer Center also gained 8 new volunteers for their Transportation Program.

b. Community Bridges

Jesus Bojorquez announced that Community Bridges Lift Line will be extending the free rides to COVID-19 vaccinations and pharmacies.

c. Santa Cruz METRO

No update.

d. SCCRTC – Covid Public Meeting Rules and AB 2449

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, informed the committee that the RTC directed staff to develop a scope of work for a Regional e-bike and/or non-motorized bike voucher program, as well as a e-bike share incentive for the Go Santa Cruz County Program. Ms. Marino invited the committee members to participate in a

stakeholder group to review and provide input on the program.

- 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 meeting will be on May 26th at 2:00 pm. Ms. Elsea also provided information on how to report pot-holes or hazardous road conditions. For Santa Cruz public works you can call 831-420-5160, visit the app "My Santa Cruz County", or www.cityofsantacruz.com/howdoI/report. In Watsonville you may call customer service 831-768-3133, and in Scotts Valley you may call the Maintenance Division 831-438-8689.

11. Draft 2023 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, explained that annually the E&D TAC prepares the Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List to identify unmet transportation needs of seniors and people with disabilities and/or limited means to provide a useful tool to access and prioritize needs in the region. The E&D TAC considered the Preliminary Draft 2022 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List at their February 14, 2023 meeting. Revisions from the Preliminary Draft to the Draft are shown using underline and strikeout and reflect recommendations made by the E&D TAC, input from members of the public, partner agencies, and RTC staff. Committee members and members of the public are encouraged to provide comments using the online form or by emailing amarino@sccrtc.org. Committee members provided edits to the list that will be included in the final draft.

A motion (Pisano/Lamb) was made to approve the Final Draft 2023 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List with amendments and recommend approval of the list to the RTC for their consideration on May 4, 2023 with amendments as needed following the public hearing. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor.

12. FY 2023-24 Transportation Development Act and State Transit Assistance Funds for the Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, delivered the staff recommendation for the TDA/STA claim for Santa Cruz METRO. Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz METRO staff, provided an overview of the Metro TDA/STA claim.

A motion (Bojorquez, Edwards) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve METRO's TDA/STA claim. The motion passed with members Tara Ireland, Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor.

13. FY 2023-24 Transportation Development Act and State Transit Assistance Funds for Community Bridges Lift Line Paratransit Program

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, communicated the staff recommendation for the TDA/STA claim for Community Bridges Lift Line. Jesus Bojorquez, Community Bridges Staff, provided an overview of the Community Bridges Lift Line TDA/STA claim and answered committee member's questions and provided additional information.

A motion (Ireland/Lamb) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve Community Bridges Lift Line's TDA/STA claim. The motion passed with members Patty Talbott, Tara Ireland, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor. Lisa Berkowitz abstained from the vote.

14. FY 2023-24 Transportation Development Act Funds for Volunteer Center

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, presented the staff recommendation for the TDA claim for the Volunteer Center. Tara Ireland, Volunteer Center staff, provided an overview of the Volunteer Center TDA claim.

A motion (Berkowitz, Bojorquez) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve The Volunteer Center's TDA/STA claim. The motion passed with members Patty Talbott, Tara Ireland, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Lisa Berkowitz, Janet Edwards, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor.

15. 2023 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP)

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner, delivered the staff recommendation for the 2023 LCTOP program to fund the Santa Cruz METRO Youth Ride Free pilot program. Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz

METRO staff, provided an overview of the pilot program.

The E&DTAC recommends METRO and RTC also consider providing free transit rides to seniors, veterans, jurors, and on election days in the future.

A motion (Edwards, Lamb) was made to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission approve the RTC program 100% of the region's FY22/23 LCTOP funds to METRO's new Youth Ride Free pilot program. The motion passed with members Lisa Berkowitz, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Janet Edwards, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor. Tara Ireland opposed the vote.

16. San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study

Amanda Marino, Transportation Planner provided information on The San Lorenzo Valley Schools Access Study (Study) serving as the next step toward implementing the SLV Schools Access Project identified in the Highway 9/SLV Complete Streets Corridor Plan. Staff invited committee members to serve on an ad-hoc subcommittee in order to provide further input to the project team.

No motion taken.

17. City of Capitola projects on Kennedy Drive and on Capitola Road

Kailash Mozumder, City of Capitola Staff presented The Kennedy Drive Sidewalk Project adding a new sidewalk, new uphill bike lane, crosswalk striping, and ADA curb ramp. Mr. Mozumder additionally presented The Capitola Road Pavement Project that will restore deteriorated pavement from the 41st Avenue intersection west to 30th Avenue. The committee reviewed and provided input regarding pedestrian accessibility.

19. AMBAG 2023 Public Participation Plan Development Process

Miranda Taylor, AMBAG Staff, provided an overview of the 2023 Public Participation Plan (PPP) development process. The Public Participation Plan is a comprehensive document that guides regional planning agencies and local jurisdictions in the public participation process for the tri-county Monterey Bay region that either receive federal funds or are subject to a federally required action. Committee members provided feedback and asked questions regarding timeline and agencies involved in the development of the 2023 Public Participation Plan.

Meeting adjourned at approximately 3:35 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 13, 2023 at 1:30 located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Marino, Staff