



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

**Thursday, October 5, 2023
9:00 a.m.**

In-Person Meeting

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

Remote Participation

RTC Zoom
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85406910971>
Dial-in: +1 564-217-2000

1. Roll call.

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

Members present:

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

Staff present:

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

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

A handout for item 19 was posted to the website.

4. Oral communications - *none*

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin motioned and Commissioner Sandy Brown seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, McPherson, K. Brown, Koenig, S. Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Hernandez, and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin voting "aye."

MINUTES

5. Approved draft minutes of the September 07, 2023 Regional Transportation Commission meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS

6. Approved Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Priorities Report (CAVA) Outreach Plan

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

7. Accepted status reports on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
8. Accepted status reports on Measure D revenues

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

9. Approved CalPERS health benefit contributions pursuant to MOUs with RTC employees (**Resolution 10-24** and **Resolution 11-24**)
10. Approved 2024 RTC meeting schedule

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

11. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
12. Accepted correspondence log
13. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
14. Accepted information items – *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

15. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Montesino announced that the Watsonville City Council Chambers have been outfitted to host hybrid meetings via Zoom.

Commissioner McPherson announced the opening of two new METRO transit routes in December as part of the Reimagine METRO campaign.

16. Director's Report

Executive Director Preston made the following staffing announcements: Transportation Planner Amanda Marino will spend one year abroad to pursue a master's degree in city resiliency at the International University of Catalonia in Barcelona, Spain; Ms. Marino will continue to work part-time remotely. RTC is recruiting a temporary transportation planner to assist the RTC while Ms. Marino is away; welcome Transportation Planning Intern Anna Kalthoff to the RTC.

Mr. Preston also announced an emergency contract with Industrial Railways Company for storm damage erosion repair work along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line; Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District authorized purchase of 57 hydrogen cell electric buses as part of Phase 1 Reimagine METRO, with funding from one state and two federal grants; future phases 2 and 3 will increase service frequency and change routes, following public outreach, planning, and action by the METRO board, and dependent on availability of funds; appreciation for METRO CEO Mike Tree's leadership and strategic vision.

17. Caltrans Report

Transportation Planning Manager (D5) John Olejnik reported the following: the FY 24-25 sustainable planning grant season has opened with upcoming workshops planned for local partners; construction updates on Highway 236, Highway 9 at Jaye's Wall, and Highway 35 where it overlaps with Bear Creek Road; winter storm preparation work along the highways in San Lorenzo Valley; and QuickMaps app gives real time construction updates.

Commissioners discussed: appreciation for Caltrans work and public communication campaigns.

Commissioner Alternate Robert Quinn arrived at 9:18 a.m.

18. Presentation on Transportation Projects in Santa Cruz County

Assistant Public Works Director Steve Wiesner and Sr. Civil Engineer Casey Carlson delivered updates on RTC-funded projects.

Mr. Wiesner responded to questions regarding traffic signal synchronization, fiber installation, a traffic management center, reversible lanes through Soquel Village, traffic circles, the Robertson intersection; preparations for winter storm season, pavement index update anticipated in 2024, difference of approach between response to winter storms of 2017 and 2023, cash-flow impacts, reimbursement through Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), the County's Vision Zero Action Plan funded through the Safe Routes for All program in partnership with the Cities of Scotts Valley and Watsonville, and cost estimate for smart lights for METRO bus routes.

Commissioners discussed: funds sourced through the RTC & competition with other jurisdictions; appreciation for the resurfacing work; looking forward to impactful improvements on Soquel Drive; local road funding going towards storm damage repair; rural road funding challenges; appreciation for the work of crews through the extraordinary atmospheric river storms; appreciation for Measure D-2016 voters; and rural road resurfacing projects impact the economy, provide jobs, and facilitate mobility for county service providers, agriculture, workers, & families.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Rebecca Downing

Matt Farrell, Friends of the Rail and Trail

Dragan Daich

Mr. Wiesner responded to Commissioners' questions regarding updating speed limit on Soquel Drive; looking for opportunities for roundabouts in the county and funding & right-of-way constraints.

19. Highway 1 Construction Update

Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen and Assistant Transportation Engineer Brian Zamora delivered a presentation.

Ms. Christensen responded to questions regarding the possibility of the overcrossing parts of the project being completed to the point of usability prior to completion of the highway widening part of the project.

Received public comment from:
Brian Peoples, Trail Now

20. Review of items to be discussed in closed session

RTC General Counsel Steve Mattas communicated a reportable action is likely from the closed session item.

The Commission adjourned to closed session at 10:20 a.m.

CLOSED SESSION

21. Conference with Real Property Negotiators (Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8)

The Commission returned from closed session at 10:30 a.m.

OPEN SESSION

22. Report out of items discussed in closed session

The Commission by unanimous vote authorized the Executive Director to approve, sign and implement the final form of the purchase and sale agreement to purchase the properties at 7994-7996 Soquel Drive for the purchase amount of \$2,000,000 and with the inclusion of language in Addendum One to the purchase and sale agreement that provided for Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Agency to hold harmless, indemnify and defend the seller from all claims pertaining to or arising from any environmental issues related to the property being purchased.

The meeting adjourned at 10:33 a.m.

23. Next meetings

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

The Transportation Policy Workshop was cancelled.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

(831)***-6833

(831)***-4205

Dragan Daich

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Paul Guirguis, Caltrans Planning

Christina Watson, TAMC

Frank Rimicci Jr.

Michael Zeller

PK

Thomas Hughes

Rebecca Downing

Nadene Thorne

Chris Schneiter

Johanna Lighthill

Jacob Wysocki

Paul Hierling, AMBAG

Jeanette Guire, RC RR

Gine Johnson

Barry Scott

FORT Zoom Host

BobFi