



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone: (831) 460-3200
email: info@scrtc.org; website: www.scrtc.org*

*CONTACTS: Shannon Munz, Communications Specialist
(smunz@scrtc.org)*

*Mitch Weiss, Interim Executive Director
Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director*

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) March 7, 2024 Meeting Highlights

RTC Committee Appointments

The Commission approved appointments of Commissioners to the RTC's Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee, the California Association of Councils of Government, and the Coast Rail Coordinating Council. The Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee is the RTC's only standing committee and it serves to review and monitor issues relating to the budget, work program, and other administrative and personnel functions of the RTC and makes recommendations to the Commission regarding such items. The RTC is a member of the California Association of Councils of Government, which provides public policy advocacy and intergovernmental coordination with the state legislature, state agencies, the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties, California's Congressional Delegation, and federal officials. The RTC also has a representative on the Coast Rail Coordinating Council, which advocates for increased passenger rail service between Los Angeles and the San Francisco Bay Area, which would serve Pajaro, and has been successful in securing regular intercity passenger rail service between Los Angeles and San Luis Obispo.

The Commission also appointed two new committee members representing Districts 2 (Mark Johannessen) and 4 (Jeannene Rawlsky) to the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee for two-year terms, and two new members representing Districts 2 (Aaron Robinson) and 4 (Steven Jonsson) to the Bicycle Advisory Committee for four-year terms.

Glydways Presentation

The Commission heard a presentation from Representatives of [Glydways](#), an electric autonomous pod car venture, to learn about their transportation technology. Glydways is developing a transportation system that would use electric autonomous pod cars to transport people. The company is part of a team of consultants who secured a contract with the City of San Jose to provide transportation between the San Jose Downtown Diridon station and the San Jose Airport. Glydways representatives said the pod cars move in

dedicated guideways, carrying up to four passengers directly to their destination with no stops. According to the Glydways representatives, a pod car system can move up to 10,000 passengers per hour, have much lower capital expenditure costs than traditional mass transit systems, and have significantly lower operating expenses for each passenger mile traveled.

Informational Update Regarding Community Preference for Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Bicycle and Pedestrian Bridge Over Aptos Creek and Soquel Drive

The Commission received an informational update on the community's preference between two single-span bridge types for the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Aptos Creek and Soquel Drive. The project originally proposed a three-span simple prefabricated bridge. However, the project development team encountered challenges with utilities conflicting with the location of the bridge columns and recommended a single span, 300-foot-long bridge. Two single-span bridge options were considered. The Tied Arch Bridge would be supported by two 300-foot-long curved arches with the deck supported below. Its 50-foot-tall arch makes a striking visual statement and would be visible from adjacent public and private properties. The Stress Ribbon Bridge would be supported by suspension cables within the concrete deck. Its low profile and minimalist design would offer a harmonious blend with the environment and would be less of a visual statement than the Tied Arch type. In January 2024, the RTC released a short video and online survey to solicit input on the community's bridge preference. The online survey had 889 respondents and the results were in favor of the Tied Arch bridge type. The Project Development Team is moving forward with the Tied Arch Bridge.

Highway 1 State Park to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder Project Construction Update – Proposed Upcoming Closures of Capitola Avenue and Highway 1

The Commission received an update on the ongoing construction along Highway 1. Major construction activities will begin this month on the Highway 1 State Park to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder Project that includes a new bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing at Mar Vista Drive and the replacement of the Capitola Avenue overcrossing at Highway 1. As the project gets underway, the long-term closure of the Capitola Avenue overcrossing is necessary in order to demolish the existing structure and build the new one. The Capitola Avenue overcrossing will close to vehicle, bicycle and pedestrian traffic beginning on Monday, March 11 at 9:00 a.m., for approximately 14 months. In order to demolish the structure, a 24-hour full closure of Highway 1 between the Bay/Porter and Park interchanges is necessary. This closure is planned to begin on Saturday, March 23 at 7:00 p.m. and end on Sunday, March 24 at 7:00 p.m. Staff has prepared a public outreach plan for both the long-term Capitola Avenue closure and the 24-hour highway closure that includes robust regional and interregional communications.

Consideration and Approval of a Legal Services Agreement

The Commission approved entering into an agreement with Redwood Public Law, LLP (Redwood) for general counsel services by Steve Mattas and his team of transportation

agency attorneys. Mr. Mattas and his team have provided general and special counsel services to the RTC since August 1, 2019. Mr. Mattas and his team are departing their previous firm, Meyers Nave, PLC, and joining Redwood. The new agreement will allow Mr. Mattas and his team to continue to provide the general and special counsel services they currently provide to the RTC. The Commission also approved a one-year extension of the Meyers Nave agreement so that the current litigation and labor relations services provided by Meyers Nave attorneys will continue to be provided through the end of current matters.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

RTC and committee meetings are now being held in person. Non-voting members of the Commission and its committees, as well as members of the public and staff, will have the option to participate in person or remotely, provided equipment is available at the meeting location to allow remote participation. If there are technical difficulties during a meeting that prevent remote participation, the meeting will continue. Please check the RTC website [<https://sccrtc.org/meetings/calendar/>] or call 460-3200 to confirm meeting and video conference information for future meetings. Agendas are posted to the website at least 3 days before the meeting and will also include attendance information. Meetings may be canceled if there are no action items to be considered by the committee.

The RTC is committed to its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) during this time of national emergency. Please contact the RTC at least 3 days in advance of a meeting if special accommodations are needed. If any document, webpage, meeting, or recording is inaccessible to you, kindly notify us at info@sccrtc.org or by calling 831-460-3200.

Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, April 4, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Budget & Admin/Personnel Committee

Thursday, March 14, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Safe on 17 Advisory Committee

Wednesday, March 20, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Transportation Policy Workshop

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, March 21, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, April 8, 2024, 6:00 p.m.

Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org or call 460-3200. Some Regional Transportation Commission meetings are televised countywide by Community TV of Santa Cruz. Consult www.communitytv.org or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.