



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's
Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee
(Also serves as the Social Service Transportation Advisory Council)

DRAFT MINUTES

1:30pm - 3:30pm

Tuesday, February 13, 2024

1. Roll call

The meeting was called to order at 1:33 p.m.

Members present:

- Veronica Elsea, Chair, Third District
- Elizabeth Byrd, Social Services Provider- Seniors (County)
- Nadia Noriega, Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (Community Bridges)
- Jesus Bojorquez, Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (Lift Line)
- Michael Pisano, Potential Transit User (60+)
- Caroline Lamb, Potential Transit User (Disabled)
- Rina Solorio Gomez, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
- Patricia Forhrman, Fourth District

Members Remote, voting under Just Cause or Emergency:

None

Members Remote, Not Voting:

None

Unexcused Absences:

None

Excused Absences:

- Tara Ireland, Social Services Provider – Persons of Limited Means
- Clay Kempf, Social Services Provider – Seniors
- Alex Weske, Social Services Provider – Disabled
- Paul Elerick, Second District (Friend)
- Veronica Elsea, Chair, Third District
- Patricia Forhrman, Fourth District
- Ed Hutton, Fifth District
- Patty Talbott, Social Services Provider-Seniors
- Daniel Zaragoza, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Metro

Alicia Morales, Social Services Provider-Seniors
Phil Kipnis, First District
Janet Edwards, Vice Chair, First District

RTC staff present:

Luis Mendez, Deputy Director
Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning Tech
Tommy Travers, Transportation Planner

Guests present:

Mark Johanssen, Resident, Aptos
Jeanell Martin, Resident, 2nd District
Jesse Leyva, Santa Cruz METRO

2. Introductions

3. Consider AB 2449 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)

4. Oral communications

- Elyzabeth Byrd:
 - Shared that the County launched its County-wide needs assessment. They would like feedback from residents in the county aged 40 and older. The goal is to support everyone in the County age-in-place.
 - Visit: [Agewellsantacruzcounty.org](https://www.agewellsantacruzcounty.org)
- Jeanell Martin:
 - Jeanell has an issue in Seacliff, Aptos regarding parking in the area. Vacation homes and overgrown hedges along 733 Seacliff Drive block parking which makes it difficult for Jeanell to walk down the block, particularly post-surgeries. She cannot reach her mailbox with the obstacles from vacation homes and cars parked in the right of way. She requests that E&D TAC do something to address the situation.
- Amanda Marino:
 - The preliminary draft list of unmet transit and paratransit needs for E&D Tac is postponed and will be reviewed once it's ready.
- Patricia Forman:
 - Problem with disability parking spaces in a Corralitos crossroads shopping area– the parking spaces spots have become where they park the dumpsters, disability signage was bent and no one seems to resolve it. There's no enforcement of disability of parking spaces. The question is what to do and who to reach? Committee asked to add this to the agenda since we have a similar situation in Capitola City Hall to discuss in more detail.
- Michael Pisano:

- Follow up on the safety concern in Boulder Creek. The driver was allegedly driving with their lights off when they had the collision with a teenager. Adding stop signs and LED solar light at the crosswalk would help prevent collisions like this one at the intersection of Hwy 9 with HWY 236.

5. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

- Addition regarding Chair elections in April at the end of current agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. Approve Minutes from December 12, 2023

Michael Pisano moved to approve the minutes; Patty Talbot seconded the motion. The motion passed with Elizabeth Byrd, Nadia Noriega, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Rina Solorio Gomez, Patricia Forhrman, voted in favor. Veronica Elsea abstained.

7. Received Transportation Development Act (TDA) Revenues Report

8. Receive FY 23-24 TDA Calendar

- Patty Talbot moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Caroline Lamb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously with Elizabeth Byrd, Nadia Noriega, Jesus Bojorquez, Michael Pisano, Caroline Lamb, Rina Solorio Gomez, Patricia Forhrman, and Veronica Elsea voting in favor.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Receive Program Updates

- Volunteer Center
 - None
- Community Bridges
 - The TNC Access for All program is currently being promoted to boost ridership.
- Santa Cruz METRO
 - Metro hired five new operators for ParaCruz.
 - Opened a new customer experience center and there are free fares

- until February 25th, 2024.
- Daniel Zaragoza is the Deputy Operations Director and is now the Interim CEO. Jesse Leyva will be filling in for Daniel Zaragoza and please feel free to connect with him.

- Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)
 - None

- Pedestrian Ad-hoc Subcommittee
 - The subcommittee meets to study hazard reports. They're going to partner with the Bicycle Advisory's subcommittee to study how they can improve accessibility around construction zones for pedestrians and cyclists. This will be a collaborative effort with the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

10. Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project (ZEPRT) Preliminary Purpose and Need, Riley Gerbrandt, Associate Engineer, RTC

- RTC Staff presented the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project which proposes a new high-capacity passenger rail service and stations along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.
- To learn more about the project visit sccrtc.org/zeprt
- The committee requested clarification on the purpose of layover facilities. Staff clarified that layover facilities where the train stops to allow trains to stop and let other trains pass. It is not a facility for passengers to get out.
- Staff also provided details about the bilingual resources available at the open houses and availability of translation services during outreach.
- Inquiry regarding access to the stations. Whether this project will consider how infrastructure and access to the stations will include studies on sidewalks and getting there.
- Question regarding how the project is integrating with future land use. Transit oriented plans and initiatives will be integrated during the process.
- The ZEPRT timeline is the most expedited timeline based on how long capital projects take to build. There may not be too many opportunities to speed up the process but we're trying to tap into funding available for rail and hopefully the project timeline will line up with timelines as they become available.
- The project concept outlines its objectives, which are then evaluated in the environmental impact process. This informs what you can achieve with minimal environmental impact. This also helps to reduce the costs by focusing on a focused project concept. It's also worth noting that the RTC is working on obtaining all the funding for the environmental review process.

11. Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Complete Streets Policy – Regina Valentine, Senior Planner for AMBAG

- With the passing of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act/Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021, the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments is required to set aside a portion of its funds towards complete streets planning.
- The public comment period is Feb. 1, 2024-March 15, 2024. Comments may be emailed to rvalentine@ambag.org
- Clarification on Watsonville and Santa Cruz working on complete streets program. How is this complete streets plan different from the plan's cities do. This is a region-wide policy and strengthens the complete streets policies in local jurisdictions. For implementation, AMBAG collects the transportation needs for the region every four years as part of this plan to maintain eligibility for funding. It serves as a high-level document to be consistent with regulations.
- Committee asked to add LED lighting on crosswalks as something to be emphasized in the final draft.

12. Regional Transportation Equity Priority Communities, Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner

- The RTC received a Caltrans Planning Grant to develop an Equity Action Plan. Their current task is to redefine "disadvantaged community" and develop criteria to help define which communities face discrimination and conditions that have resulted in inequities.
- Disadvantaged is a term with negative connotations. The current term is "Equity Priority Community" – the focus is social equity and identify areas and groups of individuals that have faced burdens in the County.
- This will help inform funding, planning, and outreach.
- The committee expressed concerns about the inefficiencies of focusing on the terminology rather than addressing the actionable changes that could be enacted to reduce these hardships.
- The goal is to have a good transportation service that works for everyone. We need to work within our means for the best possible way to help the people that really need it.
- The committee also discussed prioritizing transportation services to reduce bus travel times and access to transportation centers. Make sure they reach work centers and where travelers may be coming from.

Meeting adjourned at 3:18 pm.

The next E&D TAC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 9, 2024 at 1:30 located at the SCCRTC office at 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Minutes respectfully submitted by Stephanie Britt, Transportation Planning Tech