



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

MINUTES

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

In-Person Meeting

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

Remote Location

628 Crown Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95064

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

Members present:

City of Capitola

City of Santa Cruz

City of Scotts Valley

City of Watsonville

County of Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz

County of Santa Cruz

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Caltrans (ex-officio)

Alexander Pedersen

Sandy Brown

Randy Johnson

Eduardo Montesino *Remote
AB2449 Request*

Felipe Hernandez *Remote-
AB229 request*

Andy Schiffrin (Alt)

Robert Quinn (Alt)

Manu Koenig

Bruce McPherson

Kristen Brown

Vanessa Quiroz-Carter (Alt)
*Remote Brown Act section
54953(b)*

Mike Rotkin
Scott Eades

Staff present:

Mitch Weiss

Grace Blakeslee

Shannon Munz
Amy Naranjo

Sarah Christensen
Cindy Convisser
Krista Corwin
Johnny Esteban
Riley Gerbrandt
Rachael Hughes
Max Friedman

Tracy New
Yesenia Parra
Jason Thompson
Tommy Travers
Brian Zamora
Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)

2. Considered AB2449 "Just Cause" requests

Commissioners Montesino and Hernandez declared just causes for remote participation. Commissioner Alternate Quiroz-Carter participated remotely through the regular Brown Act remote participation process.

3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra communicated that a revised agenda and a handout for item 24 were posted to the website. Item 23 (Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 Environmental Review and Update) was deferred to a later date and item 29 (Conference with Labor Negotiators) was removed from the agenda.

4. Oral Communications

Received public comment from:

Matt Farrell, Friends of the Rail and Trail

Grace Voss

Paula Bradley

Terrie Thomas

Speaker A

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Barbara Jordan

Portia

Speaker B, District 1

Speaker C

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

David <3 Public Transit

Lani Faulkner

Jean Brocklebank

Barry Scott

Sean

David Date

Lowell Hurst

Speaker D

Susan Kaufman

CONSENT AGENDA

Commissioner Sandy Brown thanked staff for vegetation control using goats and also thanked outgoing Bicycle Advisory Committee member Grace Voss and welcomed Jae Riddle to the committee.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Rotkin seconded the motion to approve the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, S. Brown, Johnson, Montesino, Hernandez, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Rotkin and Commissioner Alternates Quinn, Quiroz-Carter, and Schiffrin voting "aye."

MINUTES

5. Accepted draft minutes of the February 15, 2024 Interagency Technical Advisory Committee meeting
6. Approved draft minutes of the March 07, 2024 Regional Transportation Commission meeting
7. Accepted draft minutes of the March 14, 2024 Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee meeting
8. Accepted draft minutes of the March 20, 2024 Safe on 17/Traffic Operations Safety Committee meeting

POLICY ITEMS

No consent items

PROJECTS AND PLANNING ITEMS

9. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into a contract with Fehr & Peers for production of a rural highways safety plan (**Resolution 26-24**)
10. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to enter into a contract with Capra Environmental Services Corp. for vegetation control utilizing goats along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Corridor (**Resolution 27-24**)

BUDGET AND EXPENDITURES ITEMS

11. Accepted status reports on Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues
12. Accepted status reports on Measure D revenues
13. Accepted Fiscal Year (FY) 2023-24 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission and Measure D Semi-Annual Internal Financial Statements

ADMINISTRATION ITEMS

14. Approved appointments to the Bicycle Advisory Committee
15. Approved authorizing the Executive Director to finalize negotiations and execute an agreement with 1101 Pacific, LLC

INFORMATION/OTHER ITEMS

16. Accepted monthly meeting schedule
17. Accepted correspondence log
18. Accepted letters from RTC committees and staff to other agencies
19. Accepted information items - *none*

REGULAR AGENDA

20. Commissioner Reports

Commissioner Koenig reported on his and Interim Executive Director Mitch Weiss's participation in the March 20, 2024 Central Coast Coalition Legislative Day in Sacramento.

Chair Kristen Brown provided a reminder of an upcoming 24-hour closure of Highway 1 on April 7-8 between the Bay Avenue/Porter Street and State Park Drive interchanges for planned construction activities.

21. Director's Report

Interim Executive Director Mitch Weiss reminded all on the upcoming 24-hour closure of Highway 1 on April 7-8; he reported on the project updates and bid opening for construction of Segment 5 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail; He noted that item 23 was removed from the agenda and will be considered at an upcoming special meeting on April 18, 2024; he welcomed Transportation Planners Johnny Esteban and Max Friedman; and he recognized Deputy Director Luis Mendez's for 30 years of service.

In response to a question from a Commissioner, Executive Director Weiss commented on the likelihood that the recent Board of Supervisors' vote regarding the certification of the Segment 10 and 11 Environmental Impact Report and entry into contract with Caltrans would jeopardize receipt of active transportation grant funds allocated by the California Transportation Commission.

In response to a question from a Commissioner, Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee provided more information about the cause of cost

increases for environmental mitigation in Segment 5 of the North Coast Rail Trail Project.

Commissioners discussed bids coming in both above and below the engineer's estimate for construction of the Segment 5 North Coast Rail Trail.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Jean Brocklebank
Michael Saint

22. Caltrans Report

Caltrans District 5 Director Scott Eades delivered the Caltrans project updates: measures taken and planned to address impacts and manage risks resulting from slip-out near Rocky Creek Bridge; schedule for repairs to additional slides to the South including Paul's and Regent's; \$5 billion in funding available through federal Nationally Significant Multimodal Freight & Highway Projects (INFRA) and National Infrastructure Project Assistance (Mega) programs with applications due on May 6, 2024; new federal funding available through the Active Transportation Infrastructure Investment Program with applications due on June 17, 2024; state Active Transportation Program grants due in June 2024; biannual packet of projects that Caltrans is working on in Santa Cruz County presented to the RTC to look for opportunities to collaborate & coordinate.

Commissioner Montesino departed the meeting at 10:58 a.m.

Received public comment from:

Lowell Hurst

24. Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Update and Railroad Bridge Loading Assumptions

Associate Engineer Riley Gerbrandt delivered the staff report. Mark McLaren, Tiffany Mendoza, and Peter Graff from HDR Consulting also presented information on public engagement, infrastructure evaluation, and bridge loading design standards.

In response to a question from a commissioner, Executive Director Weiss, Mr. Gerbrandt, and Senior Transportation Engineer Sarah Christensen provided more information on the staff recommendations and the implications of a "yes" and "no" vote. Staff communicated that a yes vote

would provide staff more clarity moving forward into the concept report with respect to railroad bridge designs; cost estimates of bridge repairs and replacements anticipated one year from now; whether there would be any opportunities for value engineering savings on any of the bridges in the inventory in the future; consultations with Roaring Camp; desire to see assessments of the bridges for bicycle & pedestrian use alongside the assessments needed for freight rail use; incorporation of trail planning into railroad bridge design assumptions; and replacement of historic timber trestles.

Commissioners discussed: responsibility to scrutinize reports, methodologies, and analyses; bridge loading assumptions and capacity for rail and trail use; understanding the cost of bringing passenger rail to Santa Cruz County; historic lessons from other aspirational regional rail projects; benefit of transit only manifests if ridership does; better study would ask "what is the capability of the bridges?"; appreciation to staff for keeping the project moving forward; and slow progress on rail project results from lack of consensus on the Commission.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Sandy Brown seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendation to:

1. Receive an update on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Concept development;
2. Direct staff to design new infrastructure to support the industry standard Cooper E80 loading for freight rail; and
3. Direct staff to design repairs to the existing Branch Line infrastructure to support the anticipated passenger train demand loadings and current operational freight rail loadings that will be developed by the Project.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, S. Brown, Johnson, Hernandez, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Quinn, and Quiroz-Carter voting "aye."

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples
Judy Gittelsohn
Speaker D
Terrie Thomas
Portia
Johanna Lighthill
Jean Brocklebank
Lani Faulkner
Michael Saint
Barry Scott

Jack Brown
David Date

25. 2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan – Goals and Policies

Transportation Planner Tommy Travers delivered the staff report. In response to questions from a Commissioner, Mr. Travers provided more information on the Regional Transportation Plan being an overall guidance document; transportation equity metrics; how efficiency, safety, maintenance and cost-effectiveness are accounted for in the Goals and Policies document.

Commissioners discussed the importance of a project being listed in the Regional Transportation Plan in order to seek potential future state or federal funding.

Commissioner Rotkin made a motion and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to approve the draft goals and policies for the 2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, S. Brown, Johnson, Hernandez, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Quinn, and Quiroz-Carter voting “aye.”

Received public comment from:

Michael Saint, Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

26. Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 Proposed Budget

Director of Budget & Finance Tracy New delivered the staff report.

Commissioners discussed the fact that the Budget and Administration/Personnel Committee unanimously recommends approval of the staff recommendations.

Commissioner Rotkin made a motion and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Adopt the resolution approving the proposed FY 2024-25 RTC and Measure D budgets as shown on Exhibit A of Attachment 1;
2. Accept the Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenue forecast for FY 2024-25 provided by the County Auditor;
3. Accept the Measure D revenue forecast for FY 2024-25 provided by Hinderliter de Llamas Services

4. Accept the 30-year revenue projection which incorporates the Hinderliter de Llamas forecast for FY 2024-25 and
5. Accept the 5-year revenue estimates for the Measure D recipients which incorporate the Hinderliter de Llamas forecast for FY 2024-25 and calculation of the revenue distribution for local jurisdictions with updated data
6. Adopt the resolution approving the updated effective April 1, 2024, pay rate schedule that incorporates all RTC approved Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and non-represented pay rate increases to date as shown on Exhibit A of Attachment 6.

The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners Pedersen, S. Brown, Johnson, Hernandez, Koenig, McPherson, K. Brown, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Quinn, and Quiroz-Carter voting "aye."

CLOSED SESSION

23. Public Employment
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54957)
Title: Executive Director
24. Conference with Legal Counsel – Existing Litigation
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.9(d)(1))
Campaign for Sustainable Transportation v. California Department of Transportation et.al.
Case No. 24VVM000051
25. Conference with Real Property Negotiators
(Pursuant to Government Code Section 54956.8 with respect to every item of business to be discussed in closed session)
Property: 7994 and 7996 Soquel Drive
Agency Negotiators: Mitch Weiss, Luis Mendez, and Sarah Christensen
Negotiating Parties: SCCRTC and Tenants of 7994 and 7996 Soquel Drive
Under Negotiation: Price and terms for potential relocation related to acquisition of property

Legal Counsel Steven Mattas reported that there was no reportable action for items 23 and 24. For item 25, The Commission authorized the Executive Director to enter into relocation agreements with the tenants of 7994 and 7996 Soquel drive, Aptos CA up to the amount authorized in closed session. The Executive Director and Chair are also authorized to approve expenditures up to the maximum amount identified in closed session.

27. Next meetings

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 9:00 a.m., at the Capitola City Council Chambers, located at 420 Capitola Avenue, Capitola, CA.

Respectfully submitted,

Yesenia Parra, Administrative Services Officer

Attendees

(895)-***-3447

Tiffany Mendoza

Peter Graff, HDR

Heywood Giablomi

Bds007

Nancy Yellin

Keith Bontrager

Christopher Bradford

Jesse

Dianne D

(831)-***-6833

Lowell Hurst

FORT Zoom Host

Paco

Ann Baier

Gine Johnson

Jean Brocklebank

Michael Lewis

(916)-***-8765

Bud Colligan

John

Jaime Renteria

Steve

How Soon Is Now? (2)

(408)-***-2392

Google Pixel 4a(5G)

Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville

Ben Vernazza

Zooming@3031

(831)-***0905

Matt Machado, CDI

Orchid Monroy-Ochoa, Caltrans

iPhone-F4GCFW50N72J

Carol VanAusdal

Thomas Hughes

Joni

Trink Praxel

AnneMarie Sorcenelli

Antonio Rivas

(831)-***-6833

Cory

BK

Josue Monroy

Barry Scott

Jesse

Max Chun

Heather Adamson, AMBAG

Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit

David <3 Public Transit

E

Benjamin Ketcham

Jason

(916)-***-4954

Rebecca Downing

T.C.

Christina Watson, TAMC Planning

Sean

Casey Beyer

Marlene Wells

BobFi

Michael Saint

Jason Hoppin

Kate Elliot

David Date

Breeze Kinsey
Frank Rimicci Jr.
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Mark
Rosemary Sarka
Jack Brown
David Carlson, County of Santa Cruz
Michael
Linda Wilshusen
Johanna Lighthill
Suki Wessling
Nadene Thorne
Peter Haworth
John Banjette
Portia Ramer
Grace Voss
B Jordan
Matt Farrell
Paula Bradley
Tina Andreatta
Eva Brunner
David Alreck
Judy Gittelsohn
Peter Newton
Ryan Sarnataro