



**Santa Cruz County  
Regional Transportation Commission**

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**Special Meeting  
Draft MINUTES**

**Thursday, April 18, 2024  
9:00 a.m.**

**In-Person Meeting**

Scotts Valley City Council Chambers  
1 Civic Center Drive  
Scotts Valley, CA

Alternative Remote Locations  
Sheraton Grant Sacramento Hotel Business Center  
1230 J St., Sacramento, CA 95814

Neither the Chair nor Vice-Chair were present at 9:00 a.m.; therefore, Executive Director opened the meeting and Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner Pageler seconded the motion to nominate Commissioner Sandy Brown to chair the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Commissioners S. Brown, R. Johnson, Pageler, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin, Quinn, V. Johnson, and Lind voting "aye."

1. Roll call. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m.

Members present:

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

Sandy Brown  
Randy Johnson  
Eduardo Montesino *Remote  
Brown Act section 54953(b)*  
Felipe Hernandez *Remote  
Brown Act section 54953(b)*  
Andy Schiffrin (Alt)  
Robert Quinn (Alt)  
Shane Mckeithen (Alt)  
Virginia Johnson (Alt)  
Donna Lind (Alt)  
Larry Pageler  
Mike Rotkin

Staff present:

Mitch Weiss

Grace Blakeslee

Sarah Christensen

Cindy Convisser

Krista Corwin

James Falkenroth

Riley Gerbrandt

Amy Naranjo

Tracy New

Yesenia Parra

Steven Mattas (RTC Counsel)

2. Considered AB2449 "Just Cause" requests - *none*
3. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agenda

This item was heard after Oral Communications. Administrative Services Officer Yesenia Parra communicated that a revised agenda and a handout for item 5 were posted to the website.

4. Oral Communications

Oral Communications were taken out of order after item 2.

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now

Aurelio Gonzalez

Portia Ramer

Ben Vernazza

Lowell Hurst

Sean

Jared Boggs

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

5. Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 Project: Affirm Support in the Ultimate Trail Configuration, Seek Additional Funding, Work to Reduce Costs and Share Costs with the Rail Operators, and Acceptance and Adoption of Final Environmental Review Documents

Senior Transportation Planner Grace Blakeslee delivered the staff report and gave a presentation. Planner Blakeslee and Interim Executive Director Mitch Weiss responded to questions regarding: cost increases, funding, Measure D capacity, prioritizing funding for segments 13-20, risks of not approving staff report recommendations, and collaboration with partner agencies.

Commissioners discussed: funding concerns, extension requests to the California Transportation Commission, commitment to move previously

approved project forward and the need to prioritize funding for south county rail trail projects in the future.

Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin made a motion and Commissioner S. Brown seconded the motion to approve the staff recommendations to:

1. Consistent with the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 5, 7, and 18, affirm support for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 project in the Ultimate Trail Configuration;
2. Direct staff to work with the County of Santa Cruz on value analysis efforts to reduce costs for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 project in the Ultimate Trail Configuration;
3. Direct staff to negotiate necessary arrangements with the railroad operator (St. Paul and Pacific Railroad and their contracted freight provider Big Trees & Pacific also known as Roaring Camp Railroad) for relocation or the track to accommodate the Ultimate Trail Configuration at their cost to the extent feasible;
4. Direct staff to continue to pursue additional funding sources for Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 to fully fund the project and commit to fully funding the project with state, federal, and local funding sources;
5. Direct staff to identify the necessary steps for the California Transportation Commission to assign the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 Active Transportation Program grant award received by the County of Santa Cruz in the amount of \$67.6 million to the Regional Transportation Commission should it be desirable and beneficial;
6. Accept the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 Final Environmental Impact Report as adequate for decision making; and
7. Adopt Findings, Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 Ultimate Trail Configuration and the Optional First Phase: Interim Trail, and file a Notice of Determination for the Proposed Project in its entirety to complete the Project Approval and Environmental Document phase.

Based on a request from Commissioner Montesino, Commissioner Alternate Schiffrin amended his motion to direct staff to provide an analysis at the June Commission meeting of the potential allocation of the remaining Measure D funds capacity (\$97 million) as follows: \$45 million for future development of Segments 13-20, \$45 million for maintenance, and \$7 million to assist with budget for segments currently under development. Commissioner S. Brown, who seconded the motion on the floor, accepted the amendment to the motion.

The motion passed with Commissioners S. Brown, R. Johnson, Montesino, Hernandez, Pageler, Rotkin, and Commissioner Alternates Schiffrin and Quinn voting "aye," and Commissioner Alternates V. Johnson and McKeithen voting "no."

Received public comment from:

Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Christine McGill  
Aurelio Gonzalez  
Barry Scott  
Barb Raab  
Bennet Williamson  
Anna  
Lani Faulkner, Equity Transit  
John Roskelliey  
Tom Padula  
Barb Petrie  
Saladin Sale  
Carl Seibert  
Jeremiah Daniels  
Terrie Thomas  
Barak  
Paula Bradley  
Alison Alamie  
Tina Andreatta  
Stacey  
Portia Ramer  
Jacob Wysocki  
Speaker A  
Lowell Hurst  
Ben Vernazza  
Cami Corvin  
Michael Lewis  
Jean Brocklebank  
Michael Saint  
Jessica Evans  
Sean  
Rosemary Sarka  
David Dean  
Pauline Seales  
Karl Auerbach  
Gregory Becker  
Steve Schieffer  
Johanna Lighthill

24. 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,

Krista Corwin, Administrative  
Assistant

Attendees

Anne Easley  
Portia Ramer  
Tina Andreatta  
Martha Macambridge  
Carmen Bernal  
Aurelio Gonzalez  
Leda/Bill Bishoff  
Faina Segal  
Matt Farrell  
Rob Tidmore  
Unhae Langis  
Barb Jordan  
Barry Scott  
Barb Petrie  
Jeremiah Daniels  
Peter Whitford  
R Jusbek  
Barak Wouk  
Bethany Gachon-Pipes  
Paula Bradley  
Barbara Raab  
Colleen Gimertz  
William Mollina  
John Benito  
Val Cole  
Barbara Meyer  
John Roskelliey  
Carl Seibert  
Eva Brunner  
Thomas Padula  
Ros Munro  
Thomas Fredericks  
Jessica  
Ryan Meckel  
Nancy Yellin  
David <3 Public Transit  
Nathan Nguyen  
David  
Judy G

Peter Gibson  
(831)-\*\*\*-2449  
PRC001  
Matt Machado  
Cory  
Kathy  
Rosemary Sarka  
Theo Kell  
Lowell Hurst  
Melinda Orbach  
David Carlson  
Kristen  
Paul Guirguis  
Pauline Seales  
Steve Schieffer  
(408)-\*\*\*-5132  
David Dean  
Jim  
Barbara Hanson  
Laurie Waters  
Johanna Edmonds  
Jesse Williams  
Karen  
Johanna Lighthill  
Karl Auerbach  
Kristina Glavis  
Housing Santa Cruz County  
Elika Changizi  
Erik  
Peter Detlefs  
Lori Carraway  
Dianne D  
Anita Salem  
Trish Chapman  
Linda Locklin  
Karena Pea  
Rm  
Claire  
S Garner

Desiree Fox  
(408)-\*\*\*-5132  
Sean  
Grace Stetson  
Heather Adamson  
Jocelyn  
Pam  
Cami Corvin  
Judy Gittelsohn  
Ben Vernazza  
Leif Kohler  
Lola Quiroga  
Brian Peoples  
Elizabeth Madrigal  
Greg[at]laselva.us  
Gregory Becker  
George Turk  
David Morris  
Anita  
Barb Jordan  
Stacey  
Nadene Thorne  
Fkeeley  
Terry Wood  
Casey Beyer  
Chris Schneiter  
Brendan Quirk  
Martha  
Galaxy S10+  
Michael Lewis  
Jean Brocklebank  
John's iPhone  
Jared Boggs  
Jared's 13 Mini  
Rebecca Hurley  
Joni  
Pete Whitford  
Kate Elliot  
Michael Saint  
Frank Rimicci Jr.  
Magdaleno O.