

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Update  
January 17, 2019 Meeting

20. Unified Corridor Investment Study – Final Report & Determination of Exemption from CEQA & Grant of Phase II of Administration, Coordination and License Agreement to St. Paul and Pacific Railroad

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC):

1. Consider the findings of the Final Draft Unified Corridor Investment Study  
Unified Corridor Investment Study – Final Report

The RTC adopted a resolution accepting the Final Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) and Preferred Scenario. The UCS provides a rigorous analysis of how various groups of projects or scenarios advance the transportation goals of Santa Cruz County. Developed by Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc. and Strategic Economics, Inc. with input from RTC staff, the UCS report identifies multimodal transportation investments that would provide the most effective use of Highway 1, Soquel Avenue/Soquel Drive/Freedom Boulevard, and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line while best serving the community's transportation needs.

2. Grant of Phase II of Administration, Coordination, and License Agreement to St. Paul & Pacific Railroad

The RTC granted St. Paul & Pacific Railroad, a subsidiary of Progressive Rail Incorporated, a non-exclusive license to use the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line to provide excursion service. The granting of this license is Phase II of the 10-year Administration, Coordination, and License Agreement the RTC entered into with PGR in July 2018. PGR will have one year to present a plan to the RTC detailing excursion services. The plan must be approved by the RTC before any excursion train operations can begin.

Chamber position:

1) Chamber supports the staff recommendation of a multimodal transportation investments that would provide the most effective use of Highway 1, Soquel Avenue/Soquel Drive/Freedom Boulevard, and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

2) Chamber supports granting the license agreement between the RTC and St. Paul & Pacific Railroad

Votes on Item 1 — Unanimous in support of staff Recommendation

Yes 11 Jacques Bertrand, Sandy Brown, Randy Johnson, Trina Coffman-Gomez, Greg Caput, Ryan Coonerty, John Leopold, Bruce McPherson, Patrick Mulhearn for Zach Friend, Ed Bottorff, Mike Rotkin, Cynthia Chase

Votes on Item 2 — 7 yes 4 no

Yes votes: Jacques Bertrand, Sandy Brown, Trina Coffman-Gomez, Greg Caput, Ryan Coonerty, John Leopold, Mike Rotkin

No votes: Randy Johnson, Bruce McPherson, Patrick Mulhearn, Ed Bottorff

Not voting: Cynthia Chase