



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission
Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)**

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, February 18, 2016 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC)
Barrow Emerson, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Scott Hamby, Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy
Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Tara Leonard, County Health Services Agency (HSA)
Theresia Rogerson, County HSA
Steve Piercy, Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC)
Robert Gilbert, UCSC Student
Emma Lee, UCSC Student

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1. **Call to Order:** Chair Wiesner called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
 2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
 3. **Oral Communications:**
 - Rachel Moriconi announced that California Office of Planning and Research (OPR) has released a set of revised California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines for analysis of transportation impacts of projects, in response to SB743. Comments are due to OPR on February 29, 2016.
 - Rachel Moriconi reminded local jurisdictions to complete the 2016 Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment survey accessible online at www.SaveCaliforniaStreets.org by **Friday, March 18**.
 4. **Additions/Changes to consent and regular agenda:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved minutes of the January 14, 2016 ITAC meeting. Fontes and Fleisler *seconded approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by members present.*

REGULAR AGENDA

6. **Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents - Verbal updates from project sponsors**

Watsonville - Murray Fontes reported that the city is finishing curb ramp replacements near schools. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)-funded signal and pedestrian upgrades at various locations citywide are going to bid this spring. Environmental review of the Airport Blvd project has been completed, with the project scheduled to go to bid this summer. City staff will present information on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Rail Trail in the city at the Regional Transportation Commission's (RTC) April 7 meeting. The 13th annual [Egg Drop Competition](#), hosted by Public Works, will be held on March 25.

SCCRTC - Rachel Moriconi reminded project sponsors to submit updated project lists for the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) to Ginger Dykaar by April 1. Suggestions from the public on new project ideas will be sent shortly to jurisdictions for consideration. Rachel asked agencies to send transportation photos to Karena Pushnik. Steve Wiesner suggested that the ITAC provide input on details of the ballot measure.

Caltrans: Kelly McClendon reported the Highway 17 Access Management Plan (AMP) technical analysis is underway; Caltrans is considering public input and will present range of concepts for the highway to the public this spring. Caltrans is soliciting public input regarding Highway 17 access through an [online survey](#). The Scott Creek Bridge Replacement feasibility study continues, with a field review done with partners this week. Project goals are to restore the lagoon and replace the bridge.

1:50pm – Teresa Buika arrived.

AMBAG: Erich Friedrich reported that : AMBAG is updating the regional growth forecast and working on the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP); AMBAG offices have moved; and that AMBAG is also working on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) implementation plan for rural transit.

Capitola: Steve Jesberg reported that; the city will be going to bid to repave 38th Ave. and add bike lanes; the city hopes to also add sidewalks near Capitola Road. Capitola is also seeking Caltrans authorization to install green bicycle lanes at three Highway 1 interchanges; the City is also evaluating design options for the Rail Trail, with environmental review and final design expected later this year.

Santa Cruz: Claire Fliesler reported the Santa Cruz corridors planning process is still underway, with open houses being hosted every 3rd Thursday. Chris Schneiter reported on the Segment 7 Open House and presenting alternative alignment ideas to the Council, looking at moving trail along Bay Street and that an award was received from League of Cities for their roundabout projects.

METRO: Barrow Emerson introduced METRO's newest planner, Pete Rasmussen. METRO staff will schedule meetings with local jurisdictions to ensure bus network needs, including bus stop placement and design, are integrated into the planning process.

County: Steve Wiesner reported that the El Rancho Road storm damage and a Safe Routes to School (SRTS) project near Boulder Creek Elementary are going to bid soon. He also reported on the Old County Road bridge replacement and Redwood Lodge storm damage repairs and that the County will be seeking grants for Segment 9 of the Rail Trail.

7. Caltrans Transportation Concept Report Updates for State Route 1 (SR1)

Kelly McClendon reported that Caltrans is preparing a Transportation Concept Report (TCR) for State Route 1 (SR 1), a long-range plan (through 2040) for the corridor. The TCR will identify route-and mode-specific information and system management strategies. The TCR covers SR 1 from Santa Barbara County to the San Mateo County line and will consider the Tier 1 Highway 1 Corridor investment plan for Santa Cruz County. Members received traffic volume and performance information for SR 1. Caltrans will be providing updates on the TCR throughout the development process. TCR is focused on maintenance and preservation, though may include strategic capacity expansion in some areas. Caltrans is completing TCRs for all the highways in District 5. SR 9 and SR 152 TCRs will be prepared later this year.

Chris Schneiter requested that Caltrans ensure the Highway 1/9 intersection, San Lorenzo River Bridge, and congestion on Mission Street are considered. In response to question from the committee, Mr. McClendon indicated that Average Daily Traffic (traffic volumes) will not be used as a specific prioritization tool. Most of the TCR focused on reporting existing and forecasted conditions – performance methods not specifically part of the project – but general strategies will be identified. He stated that programmed/planned projects in Regional Transportation Plans (RTP) will be listed. The TCR will identify improvement strategies for different types of roads, including “main street” sections of SR 1, including transit, bicycle, and pedestrian uses. Shoulder width standards will also be discussed.

Teresa Buika suggested Caltrans look at electric vehicle charging station access/network and possibly identify public lands/locations that could be good EV charging sites. Inclusion of this information could be beneficial for securing grants. Kelly McClendon noted Caltrans is also looking at Park and Ride system gaps; Kim Shultz noted that Watsonville has done some research on possible locations. Steve Wiesner encouraged Caltrans to ensure TCR considers all of the planning efforts underway. Kelly reviewed the overall schedule, which includes developing specific concepts and strategies for the corridor this summer.

8. State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Update

Kelly McClendon provided information on programmed State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects through Fiscal Year (FY) 17/18 and new projects proposed for the 2016 SHOPP through FY 19/20. SHOPP is the state highway maintenance plan focused on safety and system preservation projects. Caltrans has shifted to include more complete streets components in projects, including active mode expansion. At a future ITAC meeting Caltrans will present more information on incorporation of complete streets components and greenhouse gas reduction measures in SHOPP projects. The draft 2018 SHOPP candidate list will be distributed to ITAC soon and Caltrans is starting to include bicycle and pedestrian components. Committee members were asked to review and provide input on these projects to the appropriate Caltrans Project Managers. In response to a question from

Steve Wiesner about how the SHOPP is funded and how the drop in the price-based gas tax is impacting the SHOPP, it was noted that the SHOPP is funded with a combination of federal funds and the general state gas tax, so the priced-based excise tax makes up a very small portion.

9. Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety Information

Tara Leonard and Theresia Rogerson from the County Health Service Agency (HSA) presented information on the 2015 bicycle and pedestrian observation study, as well as bicycle and pedestrian collision information. The safety observation studies are used to evaluate the impact of educational efforts on the behavior of bicyclists and pedestrians. It was noted that information comes from the Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System (SWITRS) and does not include incidents on trails. She provided highlights of trends found in the observation study and collision reports. Steve Piercy provided an overview of an online map he developed which shows locations of incidents. Ms. Rogerson noted that the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) has developed guidelines for bike/pedestrian safety during construction and that Caltrans is working on video about the issue. She will provide the video and guidelines to local jurisdictions to share with contractors.

10. Revised 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Proposal

Rachel Moriconi provided an update on State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding shortfalls. The RTC approved staff and project sponsor recommendations at its Transportation Policy Workshop (TPW) to delay some previously programmed STIP projects to later years. If the California Transportation Commission (CTC) decides to delete local projects from the STIP, the RTC agreed to substitute Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) for STIP funds. The RTC will postpone a call for projects for RSTP funds at least until after CTC staff recommendations are released.

11. Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC)

Erich Friedrich, AMBAG, provided information on the Cap and Trade Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant program. Of the \$400 million available statewide, 50% is designated for affordable housing projects; 50% of total grants must be near or in disadvantaged communities – of which only one area of Watsonville is eligible. AMBAG encourages everyone to submit applications, in order to demonstrate need, even though chances of being funded are low for projects in the Monterey Bay Area, especially because there is currently no Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) or rail transit in Santa Cruz County. Because AMBAG's region is not considered rural, projects in the Monterey Bay Area will be competing with major metro areas. Mr. Friedrich indicated there may be opportunities to get funds for vanpools. Murray Fontes noted that if a project has not already completed environmental and right-of-way phases, they also cannot compete. Mr. Friedrich suggested agencies work with METRO if they do have a project within ½ mile of fixed route service.

12. METRO Structural Deficit and Comprehensive Operation Analysis (COA)

Barrow Emerson, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) provided information on the METRO Comprehensive Operation Analysis, structural deficit, and financial stabilization plan which includes service reductions. He shared the *Good Times* newspaper article which summarizes the issue. Metro is going to need to take at least \$6.5 million out of its operating budget. Options to reduce service hours include: reduce number of bus stops; reduce hours

of bus service; or delete bus routes completely - which would have a significant impact on ParaCruz service area. METRO will ensure they are not disproportionately impacting low income or minority areas. METRO staff will present initial options on March 25; then will refine the service reductions and there will be a 30 day public comment period beginning in late April through to a public hearing on May 27. Based on public input, final service reductions recommendations will be voted on in June. Public outreach includes a website, meetings with community groups, "pop up" meetings targeting riders at transit centers, advertising in buses, and news media outreach. METRO staff is seeking strategic direction from local jurisdictions – identify priorities of roadways for transit. Attendees stated it is a horrible situation, suggested looking at current travel patterns, land use plans for route restructuring, and the circulation element of general plans, establishing policies and standards for productivity and coverage.

13. **Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2016 at 1:30pm in the SCCRTC Conference Room.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

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