



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, January 14, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, UCSC
Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Russell Chen, County Planning Proxy
Barrow Emerson, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, AMBAG
Scott Hamby, Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy
Josh Spangrud, Santa Cruz Public Works
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Eric Child, Public
Mark Dettle, Santa Cruz Public Works
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans (by phone)

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- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Wiesner called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.
 - 2. Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
 - 3. Oral Communications:** None.
 - 4. Additions/Changes to consent and regular agenda:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 5.** Approved minutes of the November 19, 2015 ITAC meeting. *Fliesler moved and Fontes seconded approval of the minutes. The motion passed unanimously by members present.*
- 6.** Received 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy: Notice of Preparation for an Environmental Impact Report

REGULAR AGENDA

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

METRO: Barrow Emerson reported that the METRO board would receive reports on possible service reductions starting next month. METRO is interested in meeting with everyone

involved in the project development process regarding implementation of the METRO Bus Stop Guide.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported Watsonville's citywide Safe Routes to Schools pedestrian project is nearly finished; that the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) signal upgrade and pedestrian facilities project will go to bid in the spring; a signal synchronization project is scheduled for Summer 2016; STIP allocation request for design of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Lee Road section has been submitted; and design options continue to be evaluated for the Freedom Blvd. (Broadis to Alta Vista) project.

Scotts Valley: Scott Hamby reported that proposals for design of the Scotts Valley Drive/Mt. Hermon Rd/Whispering Pines intersection project are due January 15; Granite Creek bridge design is under review by Caltrans; storm drain projects are also underway.

County: Russell Chen reported the Old County Road bridge replacement, Redwood Lodge storm damage repairs, and El Rancho Road storm damage repairs projects will be completed in February and March. The contractor is onboard, awaiting arrival of materials, for the Felton Covered Bridge project. Steve Wiesner reported that the County awarded a contract in December for its Safe Routes to School Active Transportation Program (ATP) countywide flashing beacon/speed feedback sign project. The County is seeking a STIP allocation for the Freedom Blvd rehabilitation project from the CTC in March.

RTC: Grace Blakeslee reporting that work is beginning on the grant-funded User Oriented Transit Marketing and Bike Route Signage projects. The Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) is interested in providing input on intersection/signal projects. Rachel Moriconi reminded attendees that comments on the Highway 1 Environmental Impact Report are due January 18. She noted that the RTC also approved the transportation investment plan for a November sales tax ballot measure at its December meeting and is considering formulas for distribution of funds. She requested updates from public works departments regarding local street and road statistics. Local agencies will be considering the investment plan at their board meetings.

AMBAG: Erich Friedrich reported that comments are due January 29 on the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) EIR Notice of Preparation, with a public meeting being held on January 27 in Aptos. AMBAG will also be working on Overall Work Plan updates and is working on the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) implementation plan for rural transit.

Santa Cruz: Josh Spangrud reported there will be an open house on the City's Rail Trail project on January 28. Pavement Management projects go to bid at the end of the rainy season. Improvements for bicyclists are planned on King Street from Bay St to Mission Street. The grand opening of the River Levy lighting project is January 22. Claire Fliesler reported that circulation and parking background information for the Corridor Planning project is coming soon, with recommendations regarding circulation, parking, and zoning anticipated to be considered by City Council this fall. Mark Dettle reported that work is underway on the citywide adaptive signalhead and safety project.

UCSC: Teresa Buika reported that construction of the ATP-funded Bike Path safety project is scheduled for this summer.

Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported that Safe Routes to Schools education programs continue, with worked focused in the Watsonville area. Ecology Action is working on an Alternative Fuel

Planning Grant and is fiscal sponsor for Friends of the Rail & Trail (FORT), doing work in support of the transportation ballot measure, and raising funds for the Seabright to Live Oak section of the Rail Trail.

Caltrans: Kelly McClendon reported there is a workshop on the Sustainable Freight Action Plan on January 28 in Marina. The plan is a joint effort of the Energy Commission, ARB, and Caltrans to make freight transportation more efficient.

8. Complete Streets Checklist Updates

Grace Blakeslee provided an overview of the Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook developed in 2014, which provides resources for road design in the Monterey Bay Area that consider the needs of all users, including non-drivers of all ages and abilities. ITAC members were asked to provide input on the Complete Streets Project Review Checklist and use of the Guidebook, which were developed to assist local agencies in ensuring complete streets components are incorporated into the design and implementation of projects. Barrow Emerson reported that METRO will suggest checklist updates that incorporate the METRO Bus Stop Guide for local agencies to use during development of projects. Claire Fliesler reported that the City of Santa Cruz has used the Guidebook to identify appropriate design features for different types of roadways. Josh Spangrud noted there has not been much new development. Steve Wiesner stated it is a good reminder, especially for new staff, of items to consider during project design.

9. Legislative Update

Rachel Moriconi presented and requested input on draft RTC legislative priorities for 2016, which focus on preserving funds designated for transportation and generating new, more stable revenue sources. She also provided a summary of the Governor's January State Budget proposal, AB1591 (Frazier), and the federal Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST). Members expressed interest in learning more about how much funding from the Governor's proposal might be available to local jurisdictions, including the proposed new "Low Carbon Road Program".

10. 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Update

Rachel Moriconi provided an update on State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding shortfalls and the 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). She reported that on the day before the ITAC meeting, regions were informed that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) would be considering a revised Fund Estimate due to falling gasoline prices and associated gas tax revenues. Up to 40% of programmed projects may need to be deleted statewide to match updated revenue projections. Staff will meet with project sponsors once additional information is provided by the CTC and Caltrans. Revised proposals from regions will be due to the CTC by February 26. Staff will present staff and project sponsor recommendations to the RTC at its February Policy Workshop. Staff and the committee discussed options to minimize impacts to previously programmed projects. Mark Dettle suggested the RTC consider the number of people impacted by projects. The committee also discussed seeking alternative funding, considering project readiness, reducing funds across all projects, backfilling projects that are deleted by the CTC with Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds. Eric Child and Teresa Buika noted that the unreliable nature of STIP funds emphasizes the need for a local sales tax measure.

3:00pm - Hamby left the meeting.

11. Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) Draft Application

Rachel Moriconi requested input from the ITAC regarding criteria for evaluating projects, the draft application, and the proposed schedule for the next Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) call for projects.

Wiesner, Fontes, Spangrud, Fliesler, and Emerson suggested that system preservation, number of people served, and safety are the most important criteria. Buika and Canin suggested that reducing greenhouse gas emissions and vehicle miles traveled should be priorities. Friedrich suggested that safety and reducing greenhouse gas emissions be priorities. Blakeslee suggested that deliverability should also be considered. Moriconi noted that given extreme funding shortfalls it will be important to focus on providing funds to the most vital projects. Some committee members expressed support for the application, while others requested a shorter application or simple project selection process. Staff reminded members that by law funds cannot be distributed on a formula basis and the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) must be considered when evaluating projects.

3:25pm - Buika left the meeting.

In light of STIP revenue shortfalls, **the committee approved a motion (Fontes/Spangrud) recommending that the RTC postpone the call for projects until more is known about how previously approved STIP projects will be affected** (*Voting yes – Chen, Emerson, Fliesler, Fontes, Friedrich, Spangrud, and Wiesner; Abstention – Canin*).

12. Funding Program Updates

The Committee received updates on several state and local funding programs:

- Active Transportation Program (ATP) –California Transportation Commission (CTC) Cycle 3 Call for Projects may be released as soon as March 2016, with applications due in June. CTC staff is seeking input on the draft guidelines and application.
- Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) – Call for projects was released earlier in the month.
- FY15/16 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program applications due February 1, 2016

13. Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:40 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 18, 2016 at 1:30pm in the SCCRTC Conference Room.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi