



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, January 17, 2013
1:30 p.m.
RTC, Conference Room
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Ken Anderson, City of Scotts Valley Public Works
Taylor Bateman, City of Scotts Valley Planning
Russell Chen, County Planning Proxy
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz METRO
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Community Development Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Santa Cruz METRO
Jeanne LePage, Ecology Action
Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Public Works
Alan Romero, MBUAPCD
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Ginger Dykaar
Rachel Moriconi
Tegan Speiser

OTHER PRESENT

Amelia Conlen, People Power
Paul Hierling, AMBAG
Brandy Rider, Caltrans District 5
Reed Searle, City of SC Transportation Commission
Anais Schenk, AMBAG
Carol VanAusdal, Santa Cruz Co Association of Realtors
Majid Yamin, City of Scotts Valley Public Works

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1. Call to Order – Mark Dettle was selected to chair the meeting and called the meeting to order.
 2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
 3. Oral communications – Brandy Rider announced that Caltrans has issued a call for projects for Planning Grants and distributed a flyer about upcoming workshops. Rachel Moriconi reminded attendees that AMBAG will be hosting a meeting on the Land Use Initiative component of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Sustainable Communities Strategy following the ITAC meeting.
 4. Changes to consent and regular agendas – Staff distributed an updated list of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant applications for Item 7 that included Bicycle and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) recommendations.

CONSENT AGENDA (Romero/Wiesner) approved unanimously

5. Approved minutes of the December 20, 2012 ITAC meeting

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Santa Cruz: Mark Dettle reported that the City Hall solar parking lot project is finishing up. The sewer line replacement project on Ocean Street from Ocean St. Extension to Water Street in the northbound lanes is scheduled for construction February through mid-May. The city plans to construct a cold in-place recycling pavement project on Soquel and River Street this spring. Bids provided options for both normal and the cold in-place option. He noted that while there is not a lot of parking near the new Santa Cruz Warriors stadium, attendees have been parking and walking from downtown and other remote lots and using bicycle parking.

Caltrans: Brandy Rider announced that the Caltrans State Rail Plan is available for review and there will be workshops on the plan in mid-February.

MBUAPCD: Alan Romero reported that the Air District had a free yard waste collection day aimed at reducing backyard burning in San Lorenzo Valley recently and will schedule additional collection days. He reported that the City of Salinas developed an adaptive traffic signal system for a seven mile corridor aimed at reducing congestion and emissions. The signal timing software was a good investment and recommended agencies look at using it in other areas.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Wiesner reported that approximately ten locations were damaged due to the December 23, 2012 storms, each costing \$300,000-750,000 to repair, further increasing the backlog of storm damage repairs in the County. Gas and water utility projects are planned which will impact traffic in several locations, including Graham Hill Road and Soquel Drive through Soquel and Aptos. The County will restart its pavement management program mid-Spring. Russell Chen reported that repairs to East Zayante at PM 2.2 will be completed mid-February. Storm damage repairs on Empire Grade at PM 15 are starting with tree removal this month and major road work in April. Work on Calabasas Road is on hold until the end of January as a gas line is relocated.

Santa Cruz METRO: Erich Friedrich reported that the Operations Building is under contract and Metro is negotiating with companies in Harvey West area to temporarily relocate operations while the building is under construction. Metro is finishing bus stop improvements and a security project that includes cameras and lighting at several locations. Bus schedule changes are planned for mid-March which includes increased and modified Highway 17 Express Bus service and extended evening service for Route 69 through Live Oak.

Watsonville: Maria Rodriguez reported that design work continues for Highway Safety Improvement Program-funded (HSIP) signal upgrades and Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS)-funded curb ramp, signage and crosswalk projects, as well as the Airport Boulevard Reconstruction project. The HSIP and SRTS projects are scheduled to go to bid in February.

Ecology Action: Jeanne LaPage reported that Ecology Action is working with several partners on school-based programs, including "walking school buses", "Active for Me" walk to school program, Boltage bike/walk incentive and tracking program, and Complete Streets planning for Santa Cruz City Schools.

AMBAG: Heather Adamson reported that AMBAG released the revised draft population forecast for comment and is having kick-off meetings on the Land Use Initiative for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

SCCRTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that proposals for Construction Management of Rail Line improvements are due and the RTC will advertise for construction this spring.

7. Preliminary Recommendations Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)

Rachel Moriconi presented information on the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) grant cycle, including information on projects submitted for funding consideration, and staff, Bicycle Committee, and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) recommendations. Ms. Moriconi requested project sponsors inform her of any updates to project summaries and confirm implementation schedules. She reported that staff will recommend that the RTC allocate RSTP Exchange funds to projects that can be delivered in 2013, with funds to be exchanged for projects to be delivered in 2014 and 2015 once additional state exchange funds are available. Staff provided information about how staff recommendations were developed and the committee discussed the merits of certain projects.

City of Scotts Valley staff suggested increasing funding for the Scotts Valley Drive project by reducing or not funding various non-capital programs. Ecology Action requested additional funds for the Boltage project. City of Watsonville staff stated that adding bicycle lanes to Freedom Boulevard, as requested by the Bicycle Committee, would significantly increase the project cost and therefore was not feasible. In response to a question from Santa Cruz Metro staff, City of Santa Cruz staff confirmed that they will work with Metro to minimize impacts to bus service as part of the Laurel Street project. Metro staff stated that after reevaluating program costs that it would be possible to scale back the Ride-On Folding Bicycle project to provide fewer vouchers. Air District staff appreciated that there are many good projects and suggested that a bike share program for bus riders be considered for a future AB2766 grant. Amelia Conlen of People Power spoke in support of the Ride-On and Boltage projects. Tegan Speiser noted that the Boltage Program has been successful at reducing traffic near schools as mitigation for the Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project construction. Steve Wiesner stated that the staff recommendations reflect a balanced approach, with good geographic distribution, appreciated staff working with project sponsors in developing the recommendations and made a motion to approve the staff recommendations. **The ITAC approved the motion (Wiesner/Rodriguez) recommending that the RTC approve funding for projects as shown in the preliminary staff recommendations**, with members Fliesler, Friedrich and Romero abstaining.

8. Project Prioritization for the 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Ginger Dykaar, RTC Transportation Planner, summarized the staff report, the requirements for a Regional Transportation Plan and Metropolitan Transportation Plan, the process and timeline, as well as additional analysis that will be done on the project lists – including evaluation of various scenarios. She appreciated project sponsors for all the work they did to update the project list. She requested that ITAC members review and provide input on the draft project list and project rankings by January 23, 2013. Brandy Rider, Caltrans, stated that projects undergoing environmental review subject to Caltrans or FHWA oversight should be on the constrained project list to avoid project delays. Heather Adamson added that capacity increasing projects and those that will seek federal funds should be on the constrained list.

9. Regional Transportation Plan Draft Financial Element

Rachel Moriconi presented the preliminary draft Regional Transportation Plan Financial Element, which assumes revenues from a future sales tax measure and status quo funding from traditional, core transportation revenue sources. She appreciated project sponsors for providing estimates for local revenues sources which make up nearly 70% of the funds available for transportation projects in Santa Cruz County. She requested that ITAC members review the projections and provide updates to staff by January 23, 2013.

The meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m. The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for **February 21, 2013 at 1:30 PM** in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

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