



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, May 16, 2013
1:30 p.m.
Watsonville Main Library Meeting Room
275 Main St., Suite 100, 2nd Floor
Watsonville, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Taylor Bateman, City of Scotts Valley Planning and Public Works Proxy
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Erich Friedrich, Santa Cruz METRO
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Planning Proxy
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Public Works
Chris Schneiter, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Ginger Dykaar
Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Anais Schenk, AMBAG - alternate

1. Call to Order – Chair Chris Schneiter called the meeting to order at 1:40pm.
2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
3. Oral communications – Members reported that the Highway Safety Improvement Program webinar recently hosted by Caltrans emphasized that this grant cycle will be data driven, based on crash reduction.
4. Additions to consent and regular agendas – Information about road maintenance in Santa Cruz County was distributed for Item 8.

CONSENT AGENDA (Bateman/Buika) approved

5. Approved minutes of the April 18, 2013 ITAC meeting

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Watsonville: Maria Rodriguez and Murray Fontes reported that the City is working on design for several projects and submitting grant applications.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that construction continues on the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project. The draft Environmental Impact Report for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) will be released soon. Bids are due for the rail line structures construction.

Santa Cruz METRO: Erich Friedrich reported that new summer service starts June 6 and includes new schedules for Big Basin. Work on the new CNG fueling station and operations building continues. The kick-off meeting for the short range transit plan (SRTP) is May 17.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Wiesner reported that construction on Green Valley Road will be completed in a couple of weeks. Storm damage repairs on several roads, including Empire Grade, Alba Road, and Eureka Canyon continue. Construction of three bridge deck repair projects will begin within the next two months. The Corralitos Road at Bradley Elementary School project is out to bid, with award expected by the end of June. Sidewalk repairs are being done on lower 41st Avenue. Sewer repair projects are underway on Soquel, Minto Road and Meidl Avenue; and the Mid-Peninsula Housing project at Minto Road is under construction.

Scotts Valley: Taylor Bateman reported that the light at the Scotts Valley Drive/Quarry intersection is being reset.

Santa Cruz: Chris Schneiter reported that the Safe Routes to Schools construction project near Gault Elementary School is half way done. The cold-in-place recycling pavement projects on Front, River, and Cathcart streets are done, with final striping completed May 15. Installation of EV charging stations is also underway.

Watsonville: Maria Rodriguez encouraged ITAC members to attend the APWA BBQ next week in Corralitos.

7. Scenario Planning for 2014 Transportation Plans

Anais Schenk and Ginger Dykaar made a joint presentation on the sustainable communities strategy (SCS) scenarios and long-range transportation plan updates. They provided an overview of how the scenario planning will be used to select projects for the constrained Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) project list and provided a summary of each of the scenarios being evaluated. AMBAG staff emphasized that implementation of goals and the final project list may differ between each county. One function of the SCS is to show the consequences of not advancing certain types of projects. Staff noted that the majority of funding is dedicated to certain types of projects and that in all scenarios those dedicated funds will continue to go to those functions (e.g. existing/status quo roadway

maintenance, transit service), with the scenarios focused on discretionary/more flexible funding.

ITAC members asked questions about how specific types of projects, especially those with multi-modal components (e.g. Freedom Boulevard roadway rehabilitation that includes some bike, transit, sidewalk modifications/enhancements) would fit into each scenario. Teresa Buika expressed concern that some scenarios are not relevant to Santa Cruz County/focused on Monterey County/Highway 101 corridor. It was suggested to include a scenario with a higher level focus such as jobs, economic diversity and access/connection to Santa Clara County. Members suggested including certain types of projects under specific scenarios. Members identified challenges associated with advancing some projects: for instance Bus Rapid Transit and complete streets projects are sometimes restricted by roadway right-of-way. Some jurisdictions are working on requiring set backs from the roadway during development so that in the future additional right-of-way could be acquired for sidewalks and bicycle lanes, but this is oftentimes opposed by business owners. It was noted that bus preemption and signal synchronization are mutually exclusive.

AMBAG will be refining the scenarios based on input received. Heather Adamson noted that there are/have been several public workshops on the scenarios and that there is an online survey being used to receive additional public input. The RTC will receive a presentation on the scenarios and types of projects in each scenario at its June 26 Policy Workshop.

8. Local Streets and Roads Needs

Rachel Moriconi provided information from the 2012 California Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment, which shows Santa Cruz County roads ranked among the most severely deteriorated in the state. Consistent with discussions at past ITAC meetings, staff recommended that public works departments work collectively to develop a summary report on the condition of and funding needs for the local road system. She requested updates to a spreadsheet with information on pavement conditions, annual budgets, and the cost to address the maintenance backlog. Attendees agreed to provide updated information by June 3. Staff will work with City of Santa Cruz Public Works staff to develop a summary report of the cost to operate and maintain the local road network. Santa Cruz METRO staff indicated interest in providing similar information on the condition of transit facilities/vehicles.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m. The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for **June 20, 2013** at **1:30 PM** at the RTC Conference Room in Santa Cruz.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

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