



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, June 20, 2013
1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Anais Schenk, AMBAG
Taylor Bateman, City of Scotts Valley Planning
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Planning Proxy
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
Paia Levine, County Planning
Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Public Works
Alan Romero, MBUAPCD
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works
Majid Yamin, City of Scotts Valley Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Ginger Dykaar
Rachel Moriconi
Karena Pushnik

OTHERS PRESENT

Russell Chen, County Public Works – alternate
Sarah Neuse, Santa Cruz County Planning
Adam Spickler, Senator Monning staff

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1. Call to Order – Vice Chair Steve Jesberg called the meeting to order at 1:33pm.
 2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
 3. Oral communications – None
 4. Additions to consent and regular agendas – Handouts were distributed for items 6 and 7

CONSENT AGENDA (Buika/Wiesner) approved

5. Approved minutes of the May 16, 2013 ITAC meeting (*Jesberg abstained*)

REGULAR AGENDA

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

UCSC: Teresa Buika reported that electric vehicle charging stations at the Core West Parking Lot are under construction. Due to low bids, the university is able to add four additional spaces.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Wiesner and Russell Chen reported that the 41st Avenue/Gladys/Nobel bulbout and sidewalk project has been awarded. Chip seals for several roads are nearing completion, including San Andreas, Casserly, Felton-Empire Grade. Storm damage repairs on Empire Grade are scheduled for completion by the end of July; Eureka Canyon will be under construction starting mid-July; Alba Road repairs start June 24; construction on Branciforte is scheduled to start in September. Emergency repairs to the section of Green Valley Road that is closed are expected the last week of June. The Cabrillo College pedestrian bridge seismic project will begin this summer. Bridge preventative maintenance projects, including four concrete deck repairs and poly concrete overlays, are planned at twelve sites countywide. The Corralitos Road left turn at Bradley Elementary School project is scheduled to start construction in mid-July.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the City of Watsonville will be opening bids for resurfacing Airport Boulevard and several slurry seal projects. The City continues to evaluate options for the Highway 1/Harkins Slough Road interchange and Main Street/Green Valley Road intersection.

Air District: Alan Romero reminded members that AB2766 grant applications are due June 28.

Caltrans: Mark McCumsey reported that the guardrail on Highway 17 at Santa's Village Road was recently completed. Guardrail upgrades on Highway 17 between Scotts Valley and the county line, including new retaining walls and shoulder improvements, are underway, with construction scheduled for completion in February 2014. Starting July 1, Caltrans will be under the new State Transportation Agency, replacing Business, Transportation, and Housing – BT&H. The new California Freight Advisory Committee is developing the State Freight Plan. New Transportation Development Act guidelines were recently released and are available at www.dot.ca.gov/hq/MassTrans/State-TDA.html.

Capitola: Steve Jesberg reported they are opening bids for the parking lot behind City Hall and applying slurry seals on several roads this summer.

Santa Cruz: Mark Dettle reported that the Safe Routes to Schools construction project near Gault Elementary School will be completed in June. Bids were opened for a \$1 million cape seal project for residential roadways on the Westside of Santa Cruz, with

construction scheduled to begin mid-July. EV charging station installation at parking lots is complete and the downtown parking garage at Riverside/Front is being converted to a pay lot. Locust Street Parking Garage bathrooms are being remodeled. Arana Gulch/Broadway-Brommer multiuse path is going out to bid in July.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes construction is about 70% done. The draft environmental document for the Highway 1 Corridor is scheduled for public release in early 2014. Comments on the Environmental Impact Report for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) are due July 22. The RTC is re-advertising the rail line bridge repair contract.

Legislation: Adam Spickler of Senator Monning's office provided an update on recent state legislative actions, including a summary of the state budget and transportation-related bills. He encouraged agencies to contact the Senator's office regarding legislative priorities or issues. Anais Schenk expressed concern about AB1290 which would result in another unfunded mandate for reporting.

7. Provided input on contents of the Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidelines

Grace Blakeslee reported that Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidelines are being developed to identify strategies for transitioning auto-oriented streets into complete streets and guidance for incorporating complete streets policies into general plan circulation elements as required by state law (AB1358). She summarized content of the guidelines and requested input from the ITAC on the preliminary draft document and sample project checklist.

Mark Dettle volunteered Chris Schneiter of his staff to provide detailed input on what content would be most helpful to project sponsors. Mr. Dettle noted that some residents express concerns about establishing green zones and moving sidewalks closer to their homes and that an education component is needed to explain the benefits of green zones. He noted that adding a green zone to an entire block at a time, rather than parcel-by-parcel, works best. He also noted concerns expressed by the public at removing parking in order to add bike lanes and that there are trade offs for prioritizing one component of a complete street over another within limited right-of-way. He noted that in Boulder, CO, the city is making pedestrians the highest priority when designing projects—prioritizing shared path over green zones and bike lanes, signal priority for pedestrians, etc.

Teresa Buika asked if everyone in the tri-county region would have to agree on the design features and priorities. Ms. Blakeslee noted that it is a guide for local jurisdictions and project sponsors to consider and each jurisdiction would not have to do the same thing. Steve Wiesner stated that transitioning existing infrastructure into complete streets is significantly more difficult than designing new infrastructure/roads as complete streets. Ms. Blakeslee noted that the guidelines recognize environmental and right-of-way constraints may limit the type of complete features included in an area. Steve Jesberg noted that implementing complete streets on major arterials, such as 41st

Ave, could be difficult; but that it may be easier to implement on parallel roadways. Mark Dettle suggested that the guidelines include different case study/examples of existing roadways, tradeoffs of different complete street features, and how jurisdictions worked through issues. Ms. Blakeslee noted that she will return to the ITAC with the draft document for additional comments in August with RTC review scheduled for September.

8. Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Scenarios

Anais Schenk presented five scenarios developed to assess how future land use and transportation changes could affect the regional transportation system as well as travel demands or needs. The five scenarios were updated since the last TAC meeting based on input received and initial modeling work. The scenarios reflect "what ifs" for different employment, housing and transportation scenarios. Next hybrid scenarios will be developed which may combine features of each of the initial scenarios and the hybrid in Santa Cruz County may differ from that in Monterey or San Benito Counties; and then a final preferred scenario defined, to become the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) – a chapter within the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). AMBAG is hosting public workshops on the scenarios throughout the region in July and will have an online survey as a way to receive input on the scenarios.

9. Scenario Planning for 2014 Transportation Plans – STARS Transportation Investment Analysis

Ginger Dykaar provided information on the results of the scenario analysis done on transportation projects in Santa Cruz County and requested input on transportation investments to include in the hybrid scenarios to be analyzed for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS). She noted that approximately 75% of projected revenues are dedicated for certain projects or types of projects which will be included in all scenarios. The analysis focused on how much RTP targets would be advanced under different investment scenarios for remaining flexible/discretionary funds.

ITAC members provided input on the initial analysis and possible hybrid scenarios, highlighting challenges with combining land use and transportation scenarios and the challenge of focusing on the future, beyond current conditions and needs – being more proactive (rather than reactive) with land use and transportation decisions. Pia Levine noted that the County's Transit Corridor plan focuses on providing more connectivity where it currently does not exist, which may include new local streets linking areas north and south of the highway and rail line. After the land use scenarios are better defined new projects might be identified as needed to accommodate growth in those areas.

AMBAG staff noted that analysis for the SCS is being done on a tri-county basis and that TAZ level analysis is not possible in this cycle; however, modeling is getting better and will make it easier to measure performance of different scenarios in the future.

10. Received 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) update

Rachel Moriconi reported that Caltrans and the California Transportation Commission have released the preliminary draft Fund Estimate for the 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and that approximately \$4 million in new funds may be available through FY19. Based on the low amount, ITAC members indicated interest in combining the Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding cycles. Staff will return with a recommended process for programming funds at the next ITAC meeting.

11. Next meeting: The ITAC agreed to move the next meeting one week later to August 22, 2013 at 1:30 PM at the RTC Conference Room in Santa Cruz. The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

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