



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, April 21, 2016 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Barrow Emerson, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Scott Hamby, Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works
Sasha Tepedelenova, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Ginger Dykaar
Rachel Moriconi
Karena Pushnik

OTHERS PRESENT

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

-
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 reminded members about Bike to Work Week (including Bike to Work Day on May 12), which is one of the programs funded by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC).
 - Scott Hamby appreciated Caltrans staff for presenting information about the Highway 17 Access Management Plan to Scotts Valley City Council.
 4. **Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas:** Item 6 was moved to the end of the agenda. Handouts were provided for Item 7 on the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP), Item 8 on the most recent METRO service modification proposals, and Item 9 regarding the November 2016 Transportation Improvement Plan public outreach materials.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the February 18, 2016 ITAC meeting** (*Schneider/Fliesler*). *The motion passed unanimously by all members present.*

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents – *Item was moved to the end of the agenda.*
7. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for FFY 2016-17 to FFY 2019-20

Sasha Tepedelenova provided an overview of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) – a federally mandated document which identifies projects that have been approved for federal transportation funds and/or are regionally significant. Projects must be listed in the document in order to begin reimbursable work. She reviewed the process and timeline for projects being added to or amended in the document.

8. Update on the METRO Comprehensive Operational Analysis Proposals

Barrow Emerson, METRO provided an update on the METRO Comprehensive Operational Analysis which determined bus service operational costs should be reduced by \$6.5 million. METRO is seeking public input on the preliminary proposed service changes through a wide range of public outreach mechanisms, including public meetings/hearings, a website (which will be updated with the most up-to-date proposals), a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) document, and “pop-ups” at community events and locations.

Since March there have been some minor changes to the proposal, which include changing the frequency, days, and service hours for some bus routes; the roads used for certain routes; and elimination of routes with low ridership. METRO may also evaluate when it might be appropriate to replace regular fixed-route bus service with lifeline service or alternate services. The METRO board will take final action on June 24 in coordination with the FY16/17 budget adoption. Some of the funds previously used for operations are needed to match grants to address the backlog of METRO’s capital projects. He noted that at this time no ParaCruz paratransit cuts are planned, but the proposed sales tax measure for transportation is critical for preventing paratransit cuts.

Barrow left meeting – 2:10pm

9. November 2016 Transportation Improvement Plan – Outreach Ideas

Karena Pushnik provided an overview and update on the proposed November 2016 Transportation Improvement Plan (TRIP), shared public outreach materials regarding components of the plan, and requested the committee provide additional ideas and assistance with providing the community with information regarding transportation needs and how new local funding could help.

Committee members expressed support for the 2016 Transportation Improvement Plan discussing the dire funding situation for maintenance of the existing transportation network and the challenge of planning for mobility into the future. Members also suggested that it is important to communicate what will happen if new funding is not generated: projects that cannot happen, roadway conditions will decline even more, agencies will be unable to provide matching funds needed to secure grant funds; and the importance of transportation projects for generating jobs.

Members made the following suggestions: presentations to groups (Santa Cruz Cycling Club, American Public Works Association, Rotary, college/university student groups, City of Santa Cruz Public Works Committee, trade groups, etc), link TRIP information on ITAC member agency websites and social media networks, outreach to colleges and neighborhoods, and providing information on community television. Committee members will pursue getting a letter signed by all the public works directors to underscore the critical need and benefits for local communities from the 2016 Transportation Improvement Plan.

10. 2011-2012 California Household Travel Survey Results for Santa Cruz County

Ginger Dykaar presented information on the California Household Travel Survey, including data on Santa Cruz County travel patterns. She provided information regarding mode shares for all trips (U.S. Census data sets focus only on commute trips and the typical way individuals travel to work the week they are asked for information); information on trip lengths; and the number of trips taken between different locations. This and other data from the CHTS could be useful when agencies are seeking grants. She invited agencies to contact her if they would like copies of the data set. The committee discussed data collection methods and data limitations, and suggested analysis be done on how information from this survey compares to other traffic and travel data.

11. California Strategic Highway Safety Plan 2015-2019 (SHSP)

Ginger Dykaar provided an overview of the State's Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP), which is aimed at reducing the number of fatalities to zero and significantly reducing injuries on roadways. The Implementation Plan is a companion document that identifies actions towards meeting goals for different challenge areas – such as reducing fatalities and severe injuries (F&SI) for intersections and interchanges; pedestrians; bicyclists; in work zones; distracted and drunk driving; among others. Ms. Dykaar noted that Santa Cruz County has one of the highest F&SI rates in the state and the highest in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. Committee members requested that RTC staff provide statistics on the F&SI collisions for Santa Cruz County separated by challenge areas. Ms. Dykaar noted that a significant amount of information is available in the Caltrans' TIMS database. Committee members noted that statistics only include incidents that are reported by individuals and that most local police departments do not maintain statistics on collisions that do not involve injuries or only include property damage.

Mark Dettle left the meeting.

12. State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Updates

Rachel Moriconi reported anticipated California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff recommendations for the 2016 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). She reminded members that the CTC has to delay most projects and will delete over \$750 million in projects statewide due to gas tax revenue shortfalls. Following questions from committee members, Ms. Moriconi emphasized that project sponsors should continue to move forward quickly with their projects and seek an allocation of their programmed STIP funds when they are ready to proceed, regardless of the year the funds are programmed by the CTC. If at that time the CTC is not able to allocate the funds, RTC will substitute some of the region's unprogrammed Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) (formerly Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP)) funds for the STIP funds. She noted that

construction funds for one project are being deleted from the 2016 STIP, but would be a priority for reprogramming in the 2018 STIP.

13. Upcoming Funding Opportunities:

Rachel Moriconi encouraged agencies to submit applications for several upcoming regional, state, and federal funding opportunities. Some agencies expressed interest in working collaboratively to develop information for some grants – such as disadvantaged community statistics, maps, and/or health and safety data. Upcoming funding opportunities include:

- i. 2016 RTC Call for Projects: Anticipated to be released in early May 2016, with applications due in July 2016. \$7 million from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) (formerly called “RSTP”) is available for new projects. She noted that staff is recommending that the RTC prioritize projects based on criteria identified at the January 2016 ITAC meeting and staff recommends that the RTC program the funds in September 2016 (following committee and public review).
- ii. Active Transportation Program (ATP): The Cycle 3 Call for Projects includes FY19/20 and 20/21 state funding years totaling approximately \$240M. Applications due: June 15, 2016. <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/atp/cycle-3.html>
- iii. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP): Applications expected to be due in July 2016. http://dot.ca.gov/hq/LocalPrograms/HSIP/apply_now.htm
- iv. Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation (EEM) Program: Applications due July 12, 2016. http://resources.ca.gov/bonds_and_grants/eemp/
- v. California Urban Rivers Grant Program. Final guidelines are expected to be released in Summer 2016. Applications are anticipated due Fall 2016. http://resources.ca.gov/bonds_and_grants/grant_programs/
- vi. FTA 5339(b) Bus and Bus Facilities grant. Applications due May 13, 2016 <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=282624>
- vii. FTA 5339(c) Low or No Emission Program (Low-No Program). Applications due May 13, 2016. <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=282627>
- viii. Federal Earmark Repurposing. Staff reported that most of the unobligated funds that were designated to specific projects through earmarks in the past 2 decades are still going to be used for those projects and that statewide Caltrans anticipates that significantly less funding is available to redirect to other projects. Since no projects in Santa Cruz County have earmarks that are not being used, staff does not anticipate any of the repurposed funds being made available to local projects.

6. Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents

Public Works Departments stated that several pavement projects will be under construction this spring and reported that agencies communicate with the Transit District in advance of starting construction.

Caltrans - Kelly McClendon reported that Caltrans staff will be meeting with three counties (Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Monterey) and the City of Watsonville to provide information on the Route 129 Realignment project near the tri-county border, including the detour and road closure plans. He also encouraged agencies to participate in the California Bicycle/Pedestrian Plan development and regional forum in San Luis Obispo on May 5, 2016.

14. The next ITAC meeting will be held on **May 26 at 1:00pm** in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA. This is one week later than the regular schedule and a

slightly earlier hour. The meeting will be followed by the 2016 RTC Call for Projects Application Workshop at 2:30pm.

15. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

S:\ITAC\2016\April2016\April2016-ITACminutes.docx