



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 18, 2016 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Mark Dettle, Santa Cruz Public Works
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Scott Hamby, Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Luis Mendez
Rachel Moriconi
Kim Shultz

OTHERS PRESENT

Jessica Kahn, Scotts Valley Public Works
Angela Gile, Assemblymember Mark Stone

-
- 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:**
 - Pete Rasmussen reported that METRO service reductions will be going into effect on September 8.
 - Rachel Moriconi provided a summary of the Frazier – Beall transportation funding proposal, which would increase funding for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), local streets and roads, the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), transit, and active transportation. The committee discussed elements of the bill and that the bill would require approval by 2/3rds of the legislature. Angela Gile noted that Assemblyman Stone is supportive of the proposal.
 - Kelly McClendon reported that the next call for projects for the Caltrans Planning Grant is scheduled for release on August 26, with application due in early November. A teleconference on the application will be held on August 31.
 - 4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the April 21, 2016 ITAC meeting** (*Fliesler/Fontes*). *The motion passed unanimously by all members present.*
6. **Received State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Semi-Annual Project List.** Steve Wiesner appreciated that Caltrans project managers have been very communicative about upcoming projects.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Regional Transportation Commission (RTC): Luis Mendez reported that the transportation measure on the November 2016 ballot has been assigned the letter "D". He shared that resources are available regarding public agency work related to ballot measures. Rachel Moriconi reported that that RTC has received several consultant proposals for the Mar Vista Drive Bike/Pedestrian Crossing of Highway 1 project preliminary design and environmental analysis. The RTC approved a request from Iowa Pacific to operate special "Polar Express" trains in November/December generally between Santa Cruz and Capitola. The RTC also approved the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project list at its August 4, 2016 meeting.

Caltrans - Kelly McClendon reported that Caltrans has updated the Highway 9 Transportation Concept Report (TCR) based on input received from local agencies. The TCR for Highway 1 is under development and work on the TCR for Highway 152 will begin in the fall.

Scotts Valley – Scott Hamby introduced the city's new engineer Jessica Kahn. He also reported that the storm damage repair at the Granite Creek/Highway 17 overpass approach will begin soon and includes sidewalk repairs and retaining walls. Microsurfacing for Mount Hermon Road from the city limits to Highway 17 is currently out to bid, with construction to begin this fall. The city work with METRO on striping plans near the Lockhart Gulch bus stop, in order to add bicycle lanes. Design for the Scotts Valley Dr./Mt. Hermon Rd./Whispering Pines intersection project continues.

METRO – Pete Rasmussen reported that new bus schedules which start September 8 are available online. He requested agencies contact him if any development projects are planned along bus lines to ensure that bus stops are considered.

AMBAG – Erich Friedrich reported that AMBAG is seeking input on draft Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Implementation Plan toolkits. He reported that AMBAG is also working on a high-level rural transit planning for the tri-county region and the Financial Element for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP).

Santa Cruz – Mark Dettle and Claire Fliesler reported that the city is finishing up Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)-funded signal upgrades; cape seal and repaving projects. The city will be going to bid for cold in-place recycling paving projects soon. In total through the City Sales Tax Measure H, the city has issued \$14 million in bonds in the past two years for pavement projects. Design for the Highway 1/9 project is finishing up. The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Segment 7 project will be reviewed by

the city's public works committee and highlighted during the City Hall to You event in September. Authorization to bid and award the Branciforte Creek bridge project is being considered by City Council. Rezoning work is underway for major corridors in the city. Additional community meetings will be held on the draft Active Transportation Plan. Amelia Conlen has been hired as the new city Transportation Coordinator.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that the roundabout for the new FedX building is completed. Freedom Boulevard will be reconstructed soon. The MBSST survey and geotechnical work is done and in-house design work has begun.

County of Santa Cruz – Russell Chen and Steve Wiener reported that storm damage repairs on Highland Way, El Rancho Road, and Felton-Empire Road are expected to finish construction in October. Emergency culvert repairs on West Hilton, Freedom Boulevard chip seal, Boulder Creek Elementary Safe Routes to Schools, and Active Transportation Program (ATP) speed feedback signs and crosswalks near schools projects are nearly complete. Groundbreaking for the Twin Lakes/East Cliff Dr. project between 5th and 7th Avenues is scheduled for September 15. The County is evaluating options for a portion of the Aptos Village project, for which only one bid was received. Several sanitation projects are also planned or underway near Neary Lagoon, Hidden Beach, and Noble Gulch. Utility undergrounding in Seacliff is scheduled to begin after Labor Day, with the Seacliff Village transportation project scheduled to go to bid in Spring 2017, pending completion of the utility work. The committee discussed adding extra conduit during construction as part of "dig once" policies and standards. The County is also working on the HSIP-funded guardrail and striping projects.

8. 2016 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) – Preliminary Staff Recommendations

Rachel Moriconi presented preliminary staff recommendations for \$7 million from the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), highlighting the ITAC- and RTC-approved criteria used to evaluate projects. She noted that the RTC board is scheduled to select projects to receive the funds following a public hearing at its September 1, 2016 meeting.

Steve Wiesner noted that everyone is challenged to keep up with unmet needs and that without new funding from Measure D county roadways will go from bad to worse. He suggested that since the County of Santa Cruz is responsible for nearly 70% of the maintained roadway lane miles that they should receive more funds and that geographic and economic equity should be considered. Several committee members noted that they submitted applications for projects that would be more competitive based on the criteria established for the call for projects and stated that the criteria should not be changed after applications were due. Ms. Moriconi noted that approximately \$2.8 million is recommended for regional projects. She invited suggestions for criteria to use for ranking projects in future grant cycles.

The committee unanimously approved a motion (Dettle/Fliesler) accepting the staff recommendations with the option for the County to re-spread recommended funds among other County Public Works projects, with all members present voting "yes." Staff noted that since these are the region's share of funds through FY17/18, that reduced funding amounts should only be distributed to projects that can be scaled back and/or otherwise still be delivered by June 2018.

9. Caltrans California Transportation Plan

Kelly McClendon provided an overview of the California Transportation Plan 2040 (CTP) which includes information on meeting SB 391 greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions goals, consolidates information from several other Caltrans plans, and sets basic criteria that will be used in evaluating planning grant and other project proposals. The plan also modeled GHG reductions from Regional Transportation Plans statewide. Mark Dettle suggested that the state should also be considering GHG released from fires and forest management practices when looking at ways to achieve GHG reduction goals.

10. Integrating Complete Streets and Climate Change Considerations in Caltrans Projects

Kelly McClendon reported on Caltrans' ongoing efforts toward integrating Complete Streets and climate change considerations into projects. Caltrans has prepared an assessment checklist, similar to the Monterey Bay Area's Complete Streets Checklist, for use during system planning and specific project development to identify how complete streets and climate change components could be incorporated into State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and other projects. It includes consideration of bicycle, pedestrian, transit, and local conditions and plans; as well as susceptibility to climate change factors such as increased flooding, sea level rise, and sensitive habitat areas. He noted that in some instances it may not be possible to address everything, but that bus turn outs, curb extensions, wider shoulders, and pedestrian crossings are among the examples of types of features that might be added to projects. Caltrans will work with local agencies to complete the assessment.

11. November 2016 Transportation Ballot Measure Update

Rachel Moriconi presented the final Ordinance and Expenditure Plan that were approved by the RTC since the last ITAC meeting. She highlighted sections of the Measure D Ordinance, including the operative date, implementation, amendment, maintenance of effort, annual reporting and taxpayer safeguards, audits and accountability clauses. Committee members discussed agencies that have endorsed the measure, unfunded needs and projects that could be funded from the measure.

12. The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for September 15, 2016 at 1:30pm in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

13. The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

S:\ITAC\2016\Aug2016\Aug2016-ITACminutes.docx