



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 17, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)
Jim Burr, 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
Jessica Kahn, Scotts Valley Planning Proxy
Tom Hiltner, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

RTC Staff Present: Ginger Dykaar, Rachel Moriconi, Anais Schenk

Others Present:

Brett Garrett, public
Sarah Harmon, County HSA
Theresia Rogerson, Health Services Agency (HSA)/Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC)
Stanley Sokolow, public
Piet Canin, Ecology Action-TDM Program – *via telephone*

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1. **Call to Order:** Chair Fontes called the meeting to order.
 2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
 3. **Oral Communications:** None.
 4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the May 25, 2017 ITAC meeting.** *The minutes were corrected to show that Piet Canin and Teresa Buika attended the May 25 meeting. A motion (Fliesler/Buika) to approve the amended minutes passed unanimously with all members in attendance voting yes.*
6. **Received flyer for Architecture & Engineering (A&E) Consultant Contracts training on September 21, 2017**

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Scotts Valley: Jessica Kahn and Scott Hamby reported that construction will be starting soon on the Scotts Valley Dr./Mt. Hermon Rd./Whispering Pines intersection, which is funded with a combination of STBG/RSTPX, Measure D, and city funds. A recent survey of pavement conditions show the city's average Pavement Condition Index (PCI) is 66 (out of 100) which is fair. Construction of the Glen Canyon Rd/Green Hills Rd/S. Navarra Dr bike corridor and roadway preservation project is now scheduled for spring 2018.

AMBAG: AMBAG staff is close to finishing the draft *2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)* and associated environmental review document. AMBAG is working to address model challenges. Rachel Moriconi reminded agencies that requests for amendments to the *Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)* are due to AMBAG on 8/18/17.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported on staffing changes at the RTC, noting retirements (recent and planned) and that the RTC will be hiring an engineer, transportation planning technician, administrative assistants, communication specialist, and accountant. She also noted that Anais Schenk joined the RTC staff as a transportation planner. Anais Schenk reported that she will be setting up meetings with local jurisdictions to discuss locations and other details for the bicycle route signage project. She noted that she is also working on the RTC's Visualizing Sustainable Transportation and transportation demand management projects. Ginger Dykaar reported that stakeholder meetings will be held in early September on the Unified Corridor Investment Study, with RTC-advisory committee review of the initial scenarios analysis in September. RTC staff is also working on the *2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* document.

METRO: Tom Hiltner reported that METRO is hosting an electric bus to evaluate how well it works and specifications. METRO will be testing a circulator route for downtown Watsonville this winter, funded by a cap-and-trade Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) grant. METRO has also submitted an application for 9 new CNG buses to replace older diesel buses.

Santa Cruz: Jim Burr reported that the Branciforte Creek bicycle/pedestrian bridge is almost complete, with a ribbon-cutting event scheduled for September 28. The city is reviewing proposal for design of the San Lorenzo River Trestle walkway; is wrapping up this year's Measure H-funded overlay project; and installed a bike box on Seabright Ave at Soquel Ave. The "Street Smarts" public safety education campaign is kicking off, with a community event on September 13. Claire Fliesler reported that bike share will be rolling out in March 2018. The privately-funded program is expected to include 250 bicycles at 25 stations citywide and can be expanded to other jurisdictions. Pre-construction work continues for Segment 7 of the Rail Trail.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the city did not receive any bids for the Main Street Improvement Project, which includes sidewalk and intersection improvements. The city will re-advertise the project and is going out to bid for STIP-funded sidewalk infill and Airport

Boulevard projects this fall.

UCSC: Teresa Buika reported that UCSC is finishing installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargers at several parking lots. [PG&E's EV Charging Network](#) program is also being used to install new EV infrastructure at additional locations. UCSC and METRO are also testing articulated buses on three routes.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Wiesner reported that the County has been focused on repairing and reopening roads damaged by storms earlier this year, including Soquel-San Jose Road and Valencia Road. A new bridge has been installed on Casserly Road. Storm damage repair work continues on several roadways, including Bear Creek Road and Swanton Road over Molino Creek. Construction of phase 1 of the Aptos Village project is expected to re-start in September. A new pavement management system study is starting and will be used to prioritize projects for the next five years. The county resubmitted its Active Transportation Program (ATP) application for a pedestrian walkway between San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) High School and Fall Creek Drive. The County is working with Ecology Action and the County Health Services Agency (HSA) on a Caltrans Planning grant for safe routes to schools (SRTS) and active transportation planning. He also reported that the County is hiring engineers, in part to replace three senior staff members.

Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported that EA is expanding its SRTS outreach work, in partnership with HSA. EA is planning an event at Abbott Square for National EV Week on September 9. EA is also hiring staff to work on Bike to Work Day, bike commuter, rail and trail and SRTS programs.

8. Vision Zero report: "The Impact of Traffic Violence on Santa Cruz County"

Theresia Rogerson and Sarah Harmon from the County Health Services Agency (HSA) presented the Vision Zero "The Impact of Traffic Violence on Santa Cruz County" report. The report emphasizes the need to prevent transportation-related deaths and injuries. It includes statistics about collisions, identifies high-injury corridors, and analyzes trends in different areas of the county. Sarah Harmon highlighted that traveling at unsafe speeds and distracted driving are major causes of incidents; 54% of severe/fatal crashes were on 6% of roadways in the county; and pedestrian deaths and serious injuries made up 46% of incidents in Watsonville in the twelve month period from May 2016 to May 2017, as compared to 2% countywide. HSA and the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) are working on a toolkit for agencies that includes vision zero policies and plans that prioritize the prevention of traffic deaths and injuries and provides technical support and data that can be used to secure funding for projects that will prevent transportation-related fatalities and injuries. HSA/CTSC is also reaching out to the community with information to reduce crashes. The report and additional information is online at: www.sctrafficsafety.org/VisionZero. HSA staff responded to questions and suggestions from ITAC members about data, coordination with other state and local safety programs, outreach plans, and terminology.

9. State Funding Updates

Rachel Moriconi provided updates on state funding programs, including the state's implementation plans for new Senate Bill 1 programs and revenues. She highlighted that plans for FY17/18 SB1 formula funds to cities and counties are due to the CTC by October 16,

2017. She also provided updates on the State Transit Assistance program, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), SB 1 competitive programs, and Cap and Trade programs. She requested that agencies report on their planned use of new SB 1 formula funds and identify priority projects that would be potential candidates for competitive state funding programs.

Tom Hiltner reported that METRO plans to use FY17/18 State Transit Assistance (STA) funds to serve as a match for grants for bus replacements; is looking at possible Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) candidates, such as Pacific Station; and may request a planning grant to evaluate the downtown Santa Cruz bus route structure. Jim Burr reported that Santa Cruz will likely seek new state funds for the Highway 1/9 intersection. Murray Fontes reported that Watsonville will likely use SB1 formula funds on road maintenance and may apply for a planning grant with Ecology Action for safe routes to schools plans. Teresa Buika reported that UCSC may seek a planning grant for a TDM-best strategies planning tool. Steve Wiesner reported that the County will likely use SB 1 formula funds as match to grants for storm damage repairs for the next few years, then on its pavement management system. The County may partner with Scotts Valley and Ecology Action on a joint active transportation plan. Bicycle plan updates, green bicycle lanes priorities, and pedestrian facilities plans for more urban areas are also possible candidates. Jessica Kahn reported that some of Scotts Valley's SB 1 funds will likely be used on the Green Hills Road project and implementation of its new pavement management system. Erich Friedrich reported that AMBAG may use new SB 1 planning funds on the activity-based model and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) planning and implementation.

10. Active Transportation Program (ATP) Update

Rachel Moriconi reported that the CTC expects to release its staff recommendations by the end of the month for the 2017 Active Transportation Program (ATP) Augmentation, which will make approximately \$115 million in new FY17/18 and FY18/19 SB1 funds available to previously approved projects that can be advanced into FY17/18 and FY18/19 and to projects that previously applied for ATP funds, but were not funded. Over \$500 million was requested, including for five projects in Santa Cruz County.

Ms. Moriconi noted that the CTC is working with Caltrans to streamline the application for smaller projects for Cycle 4 next year. Agencies identified some possible candidates for the 2018 call for projects and challenges with the ATP program, including Highway 1/Harkins Slough Road bicycle/pedestrian bridge, active transportation plans, San Lorenzo River walkway lighting, Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) segments 8 and 9 construction, Vision Zero safety projects, and bike commuter programs.

11. 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Development

Rachel Moriconi reported that staff anticipates that the RTC will issue a call for projects in September for the region's formula shares of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)/Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX), SB 1 State Transit Assistance, and SB 1 Local Partnership Program funds. The RTC's proposal for STIP funds is due to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) by December 15, 2017. She requested that the ITAC provide input on the draft evaluation criteria and requested updates on previously programmed projects, including

any potential cost increases by August 23. Members indicated support for criteria related to number of people served, safety, system preservation, and changes in vehicle miles traveled and associated air pollution to continue to be given the greatest consideration. It was noted that with city and county SB 1–formula fund plans, Caltrans planning grant applications, and 2018 RTIP applications all due in October, agencies will be very busy in September and October.

12. Measure D: Informing the Public about Investments

Rachel Moriconi reported that Measure D recipient agencies are required to inform the public about how Measure D revenues are being used. She requested input on draft signage specifications and other methods to keep taxpayers informed. Staff also requested updates on schedules for Measure D-funded projects. Agencies noted that especially for smaller and short term projects it is uncommon for there to be signage at construction sites. Discussion of the item will be continued at a future meeting.

- 13. Next meeting:** The next ITAC meeting scheduled for September 21, 2017 will begin at 1:00 p.m. (instead of 1:30 p.m.). The meeting will be followed by a Caltrans Local Assistance training on new requirements for Architecture & Engineering contracts at 2:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner