

## Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's

## RTC Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

# AGENDA Thursday, September 15, 2016 1:30 p.m.

RTC Conference Room 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA

- Call to Order
- 2. Introductions
- 3. Oral communications

The Committee will receive oral communications during this time on items not on today's agenda. Presentations must be within the jurisdiction of the Committee, and may be limited in time at the discretion of the Chair. Committee members will not take action or respond immediately to any Oral Communications presented, but may choose to follow up at a later time, either individually, or on a subsequent Committee agenda.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

All items appearing on the consent agenda are considered to be minor or non-controversial and will be acted upon in one motion if no member of the Committee or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda. Members of the Committee may raise questions, seek clarification or add directions to Consent Agenda items without removing the item from the Consent Agenda as long as no other committee member objects to the change.

- 5. Approve Minutes of the August 18, 2016 ITAC meeting *Page 3*
- 6. 2016 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) Approved Projects Page 7

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 7. Coastal Resilience Mapping Tool Page 10
  - a. Staff report and Presentation from Dr. David Revell
  - b. Attachments
- 8. Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents Verbal updates from project sponsors
- 9. Update on the Sustainable Communities Strategy Implementation Project: Draft Toolkits page 12
  - a. AMBAG Memorandum and Presentation from Erich Friedrich

- 10. Transportation Funding Updates
  - a. Verbal update
- 11. Next Meeting Due to scheduling conflicts, staff proposes the next ITAC meeting be moved to October 27 at 10:30am or 1:00 pm, based on committee member availability. This is one week later than the usual meeting date. The meeting will be held in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Adjourn

**HOW TO REACH US:** Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060; phone: (831) 460-3200 / fax (831) 460-3215 email: info@sccrtc.org / website: www.sccrtc.org

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## 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 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> 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 being 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 Completes 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

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### **Adopted 2016 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)**

Approved by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) September 1, 2016

\$7M of the Region's share of STBG funds available through FY17/18

Agency	Project Name	Description	Total Cost	Approved Funds	Summary of Benefits
County of Santa Cruz	Aptos Village Phase 1 & 2	Construct new traffic signals and railroad crossings. Includes road widening, center turn lane, sidewalks (750 feet), bike lanes, drainage infrastructure, new street (Parade St), and pavement overlay of Soquel Dr (Spreckels to Trout Gulch) and Aptos Creek Rd. Condition: Include bike parking racks as part of project. Consider transit prioritization for signal.	\$2,000,000	\$650,000	High use, major arterial (Soquel Dr). Create a pedestrian friendly environment to encourage use of the businesses and community facilities throughout the Village and the new Village Common; create new infrastructure to access the Village core area for new businesses and residences; provide multi-modal facilities; and, maintain Aptos Villages' historical character. Serves over 20,000 vehicles per day + bicyclists and pedestrians
County of Santa Cruz	Branciforte Drive Chip Seal	Asphalt Digouts, Chip Seal, and restriping of 0.62 miles of Branciforte Drive from Granite Creek to PM 2.4	\$197,000	\$174,000	Extend the life of this road so that it may continue to benefit the community. Serves as alternate route between Scotts Valley and Santa Cruz. Serves over 4650 vehicles per day.
County of Santa Cruz	Glen Arbor Road Recycle, Overlay, & Chip Seal	Pavement Recycling, Asphalt Overlay, Chip Seal, and restriping 0.52 miles of Glen Arbor Road from Hwy 9 at bridge to Quail Hollow Rd. The project will also include a subdrain at a point where a natural spring is causing subgrade destabilization.	\$467,000	\$400,000	Extend the life of this road so that it may continue to benefit the community. Primary roadway for Ben Lomond residents, bus route and used by bicyclists. Serves over 7700 vehicles per day.
County of Santa Cruz	Granite Creek Road Recycle & Overlay	Pavement Recycling, Asphalt Overlay, and restriping of 1.85 miles of Granite Creek Road from Scotts Valley city limits to PM 0.56	\$1,038,000	\$500,000	Extend the life of this road so that it may continue to benefit the community. Serves approximately 4250 vehicles per day.
City of Santa Cruz/Caltrans	State Routes 1/9 Intersection Improvements	Adds lanes to the Highway 1 and 9 intersection to improve operations and safety. The intersection will be upgraded to include standard lane widths, transitions, shoulders, bike lanes, lighting, sidewalks and access ramps.	\$7,850,000	\$950,000	Improve access and safety, reduce congestion and bottleneck, energy use and emissions. Very high use, multimodal, regionally significant project. Serves over 85,000 vehicles per day. Provides access for the university, Santa Cruz west side, Harvey West Area and Downtown.
City of Santa Cruz	Water Street Pavement Rehabilitation between North Branciforte Avenue and Ocean Street	Pavement rehabilitation of Water Street between North Branciforte Avenue and Ocean Street. Condition: Add bicycle and pedestrian treatments at intersections, especially at Branciforte to reduce conflicts between motorized and non-motorized users.	\$1,453,769	\$445,000	Preserves existing infrastructure and improves accessibility for a multimodal arterial for all users: auto, trucks, transit, bikes and pedestrians. The method of paving may include could-in-place recycling which is a more sustainable paving practice. Serves approx. 20,450 vehicles per day and 1700 transit riders.
City of Scotts Valley	Glen Canyon Road/Green Hills Road/S. Navarra Drive Bike Corridor and Roadway Preservation	Repave two roads, add bike lanes, and signage. Includes road markings like sharrows and green lane treatments to assist commuters, students, and recreational bikers. Scope may be reduced to Green Hills Rd and reduced section of Glen Canyon if additional local revenues are not secured.	\$1,265,703	\$711,000	Pavement preservation, increase active transportation (biking), reduce GHG and vehicle use, increase safety, enhance public health. Serves approx. 8950 vehicles per day.
Watsonville	Green Valley Road Reconstruction from Struve Slough to Freedom Boulevard	Reconstruct existing roadway and bike lanes and install sidewalk. Condition: increase sidewalk width consistent with the Complete Streets Guidebook. City may have to reduce existing roadway lane widths in order to provide wider sidewalks; may repave instead of reconstruct roadway or reduce limits of reconstruction based on allocated funds.	\$1,198,000	\$795,000	Extend service life of arterial roadway and ensure safe, drivable surface for motorists and bicyclists. Replacement of existing striping and signage shall enhance safety of motorists and bicyclists. Replacement of existing paved path with concrete curb, gutter and sidewalk and replacement of non-ADA compliant curb ramps and driveways shall improve existing pedestrian facilities and extend service life. Serves over 20,000 vehicles per day.

Agency	Project Name	Description	Total Cost	Approved Funds	Summary of Benefits
Watsonville	Freedom Boulevard Plan Line	Preparation of a plan line for Freedom Boulevard between Green Valley Road and Buena Vista Drive.	\$160,000	\$135,000	Vehicle, bicycle, pedestrian and transit facilities within the project area are inconsistent, incomplete, outdated and/or in need of reconstruction. Some parcels are undeveloped. Preparation of a plan line that delineates the improvements supported and needed by the community would aid in City efforts to improve and develop this segment of Freedom Boulevard. Traffic volumes are 10,500 on Airport and over 20k on Green Valley Road.
SCCRTC	Freeway Service Patrol: Highway 1 and Highway 17	Peak period tow trucks dedicated to patrolling highways and assisting disabled vehicles, removing incidents/collisions with CHP, and clearing obstacles impeding traffic flow.	\$300K/year	\$250,000	Reduce non-recurrent congestion, which is estimated to cause 30-50% of congestion; reduce emissions caused by idling; improve safety by reducing likelihood of secondary collisions; reduce delay. Benefits all drivers on Highways 1 and 17 during peak periods.
SCCRTC	Cruz511 TDM and Traveler Information Program	Cruz511 provides services and information about availability and benefits of alternative transportation modes, including sharing rides, transit, walking, bicycling, telecommuting, alternative work schedules, alternative fuel vehicles, park-n-ride lots and trip planning using various modes, and also provides traveler information services on traffic conditions, incidents, road and lane closures, etc. Information provided via website and traveler help desk available for personalized assistance by email or phone (429-POOL). Funding to be focused on electronic resources and outreach.	\$313k/year; 2 years \$626k	\$300,000	Reduce traffic congestion, trips, VMT, greenhouse gases and improve health and air quality. Make more efficient use of the existing transportation system by shifting SOV trips to carpool, vanpool, transit, bike and walk. Provide real-time traveler information (traffic), and info on transit, carpool, bicycle and walkways. Services available to all travelers in Santa Cruz County. Website has over 3500 unique visitors each month.
Caltrans/ SCCRTC	Hwy 1 Corridor/HOV and Soquel-41st Aux Tiered Environmental Document	Funds for the Tier 1 (HOV) program-level and Tier 2 Soquel- 41st Ave Aux Lanes environmental document. Additional funds will be used to update technical studies & respond to comments on Draft EIR	Enviro: \$13.2M; \$600M total project cost	\$830,000	Analysis of options, impacts and benefits of modifying Highway 1 corridor. Reduce delay and congestion; improve travel times - especially for transit, carpools; improve pedestrian/bike access across highway. This is the most heavily used transportation facility in Santa Cruz County - over 100,000 vehicles per day. Daily congestion results in by-pass traffic on local arterials.
County of SC with RTC & FHWA-CFL	Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail - North Coast Rail Trail Phase 2 - (environmental and preliminary engineering)	Develop the preliminary engineering and environmental compliance for 2.1 miles of Class 1, 8 to 12 foot wide multi-use bicycle/pedestrian paved path with decomposed granite shoulders within the rail line right of way along the north coast of Santa Cruz County from Yellowbank Beach to Davenport.  Project also includes preliminary engineering and environmental compliance for parking lots at Yellowbank Beach and Davenport Beach and a path from the Bonny Doon parking lot to the rail trail.	\$1M for environmental and design phase	\$300,000	Provide active transportation access along the north coast of Santa Cruz County to and from Davenport, San Vicente Redwoods and BLM Coast Dairies. The benefits of this project are to improve safety of bicyclists and pedestrians by providing a safe path off of Hwy 1, reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve health by providing a safe alternative to driving, and improve bicycling and pedestrian access to schools, community centers, beaches, parks, and other recreation areas. Many residents and visitors already visit this beautiful area of the north coast with access to beaches, surfing, tidepooling, hiking and birding and this will only increase as San Vicente Redwoods and BLM Coast Dairies are open to the public. 800 bikes and pedestrians per day are expected to use the new path. STBG funds will leverage \$700k in private funds and result in \$400k in cost savings for environmental analysis and preliminary design.

Agency	Project Name	Description	Total Cost	Approved Funds	Summary of Benefits
Ecology Action (RTC sponsor)	Ecology Action Countywide SRTS Youth Pedestrian and Bicycle Safety Education	EA will serve approximately 34 second grade classrooms with 'feet on the ground' pedestrian safety education and 24 fifth grade classrooms with bike safety education and 'rodeos' serving a total of 58 classrooms at 11 local schools.	\$65,735	\$50,000	Reduce bicycle and pedestrian crash rates; increase helmet use; reduce 'distracted' pedestrian incidents. Will serve up over 1500 students.
Bike Santa Cruz County (County HSA sponsor)	Open Streets Event – Watsonville*	Free public event that temporarily transforms roadways into parks for people to bike, walk, skate and play in a safe and festive environment by temporarily blocking automobile traffic.  Exact location in Watsonvill to be determined.	\$35,000	\$10,000	Help communities achieve key sustainable transportation goals; reduce SOV trips, mitigate traffic congestion, reduce carbon emissions, and increase access and safety. Approximately 5000 people expected to attend each event.
Santa Cruz METRO	1 CNG Replacement Bus	Replace a 1998, 40' low-floor diesel buses with 40' low-floor CNG bus.	\$1,650,000	\$500,000	Diesel bus is beyond its useful lifespan of 12 years, and the new CNG replacement will reduce GhG emissions, be more reliable, safer and have lower maintenance costs than the diesel buses being replaced. The bus system serves the entire county, each METRO bus carries 575 riders per day on average.
Total					

<sup>\*\$10,000</sup> for Open Streets is contingent on Bike SC County securing additional funds needed for the event. If not, \$5k would be redirected to the Freedom Blvd Plan and \$5k to Water Street projects

**AGENDA:** September 15, 2016

**TO:** Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

**FROM:** Ginger Dykaar, Transportation Planner

**RE:** Coastal Resilience Mapping Tool

#### RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) receive information on regional Monterey Bay climate change initiatives including the Coastal Resilience Mapping Tool developed by the Nature Conservancy which has projected and mapped affects of sea level rise and coastal hazards in coastal areas.

#### BACKGROUND

The impacts from sea level rise, coastal hazards, extreme weather events, higher temperatures and heat waves, precipitation changes, and other climatic conditions are affecting the reliability and capacity of the transportation system in many ways. Sea level rise, coupled with coastal hazards, will continue to increase the risk of major coastal impacts on transportation infrastructure, including both temporary and permanent flooding and erosion of roads, rail lines, tunnels, and bridges. Extreme weather events currently disrupt transportation networks in all areas of the country and projections indicate that such disruptions will increase. Climate change impacts will increase the total costs to the nation's transportation systems and their users, but by understanding the transportation infrastructure that is most vulnerable, these impacts can be reduced through rerouting, mode change, and a wide range of adaptive actions. Executive Order B-30-15 requires agencies to give priority to actions that both reduce GHG emissions and build climate resilience.

#### DISCUSSION

The Nature Conservancy has worked with local and federal partners to develop a tool to map coastal hazards risks from climate change such as sea level rise, increased storm wave events, and coastal erosion and make the information available via a webmap platform on the internet. This came out of a strong need among elected officials and local planners for access to data visualization tools, a decision support framework and resources for informing stakeholders. The Coastal Resilience tool now includes 12 U.S. coastal states including California as well as countries in Latin America and islands in the Caribbean.

Dr. David Revell (now with Revell Coastal, LLC) was part of the team at Environmental Science Associates (ESA) that developed the climate resilience tool for the Nature Conservancy. This tool provides a mechanism to assess the transportation infrastructure that is most vulnerable to climate change. Dr. Revell will present this tool to ITAC and discuss the climate vulnerability and adaptation initiatives that are ongoing in our region. The tool can be accessed at the following link -

http://maps.coastalresilience.org/california/. RTC staff recommends that the ITAC receive information on the Climate Resilience Mapping Tool that is available for our region.

#### **SUMMARY**

A climate resilience mapping tool is available on the web for assessing effects of sea level rise, storm wave events, coastal erosion, and flooding in our region.

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#### ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

#### **MEMORANDUM**

TO: SCCRTC Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

FROM: Erich Friedrich, AMBAG Associate Planner

**SUBJECT:** Sustainable Communities Strategy Implementation

**Project: Draft Toolkits** 

**MEETING DATE:** September 15, 2016

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

AMBAG staff will provide an update Sustainable Communities Strategy Implementation Project including the draft toolkits under development. ITAC members are asked to provide feedback on the draft toolkits.

#### **BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The goal of the Sustainable Communities Strategy Implementation Project (SCSIP) is to implement the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) by making it possible for sustainable development to be realized in the region. In order to achieve this goal, the project will develop toolkits that focus on infill housing, transportation strategies and measures and economic development. AMBAG will collaborate with cities to create policies for their general plans and regulations to incorporate into ordinances that would implement the vision of the MTP/SCS.

The land use envisioned in the SCS emphasizes compact mixed use infill development along high quality transit corridors. This kind of development strategy is key to reducing greenhouse gases, protecting agricultural lands and open space as well as providing opportunities for affordable housing. AMBAG, in collaboration with local jurisdictions and transportation partners, have developed a draft toolkit to provide policies, strategies, and case studies related to housing, transportation and economic development for use by local jurisdictions. This project benefits local jurisdictions by developing policies that can be customized to each jurisdiction.

Additionally, AMBAG is further refining the Opportunity Areas and high quality transit projects, or Transit Priority Projects (TPPs). This work is still underway and will be presented at a future TAC meeting.

A sample of the draft toolkit cut sheets is available on AMBAG's website (<a href="http://www.ambag.org/programs-services/planning/metro-transport-plan/sustainable-communities-strategy-implementation">http://www.ambag.org/programs-services/planning/metro-transport-plan/sustainable-communities-strategy-implementation</a>) for review and comment. Ultimately, this information will be incorporated into an interactive web site that will be able to be used as an online resource for local jurisdictions.