



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, January 21, 2010
1:30 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Aitken, SCMTD
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Sandra Coley, PVTMA
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Public Works
April Warnock, SCMTD
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works and Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5
Russell Chen, County Public Works
Donn Miyahara, Caltrans District 5

1. Call to Order – Vice Chair Chris Schneider called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
3. Oral communications –

Chris Schneider announced that the APWA local chapter gave the San Lorenzo Valley Bike /Pedestrian bridge project the award for the best transportation project under \$5 million. The local chapter needs new people on board. Planners and engineers from Santa Cruz County are encouraged to participate. Also at the APWA meeting, Deanna Sessums from League of Cities distributed petitions to put a measure to protect local funds on the November state ballot.

Rachel Moriconi said that the meeting is being recorded. She also said that members cannot participate remotely unless their location is publicly noticed. Members discussed that the ITAC is a committee subject to the Brown Act because it advises the Commission.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – Item 9 was moved after Item 6. Handouts for items 8 and 9 were distributed.

CONSENT AGENDA (Aitken/Koch) approved unanimously

5. Approved minutes of the December 17, 2009 meeting
6. Received Approved *2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Project List*

REGULAR AGENDA

9. Programming Potential Federal Jobs Bill Funds

Rachel Moriconi provided information on the federal Jobs for Main Street Act, approved by the House of Representatives in December which requires fifty-percent (50%) of the funds to be awarded (under contract) within 90-days. If funds are distributed by the state and federal governments using the same formulas as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), the region could receive \$5.8 million directly and \$6.3 million through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). The California Transportation Commission (CTC) would determine how STIP funds are ultimately distributed. She reviewed options for distributing potential funds from the bill and requested Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) input and recommendations for programming the funds. Options and issues discussed included the following:

- o Immediately select projects to receive 50% of RTC share (\$2.6 of \$5.8M) – subject to 90 day award;
- o Only select projects to receive funds from STIP \$6.3M;
- o Seek more than \$6.3M from the STIP, though it would count against future county shares;
- o Distribute funds by formula to local jurisdictions;
- o Assume maximum funding and distribute according to a formula. Allow agencies to be flexible and tailor projects to meet actual funding if lower than requested;
- o Use local funds as backup if projects not approved by CTC;
- o Submit for \$12 million worth of projects for the CTC to choose from, if overprogramming does not count against the region in the future
- o Consider switching ARRA funds for new stimulus funds if allowed by FHWA, since ARRA deadlines to award are less stringent;
- o FHWA may not allow new funds to be added to ARRA projects if they have already been advertised;
- o FHWA wants awards made within 90 days after funds obligated although this is not a rule;
- o ARRA funding needs to be re-obligated by September 1 if cost savings are realized on projects, so projects should be awarded by June, in order to redirect cost savings if needed.

***Action:* The ITAC unanimously approved a motion (Koch/Dettle) to recommend that the RTC:**

1. Program the maximum potential federal funds to local jurisdictions by population formula for projects that could be awarded (under contract) within 90 days of enactment of a federal jobs bill, contingent on provisions of the final bill, including back-up projects in the event that additional funds are available or projects experience delays;
2. Include SCMTD's projects on the backup list;
3. Reevaluate the project list if the final bill makes a different level of funding available to the region or includes less stringent deadlines for award of funds to ensure the most appropriate projects in the region receive these new funds;

4. Authorize staff, in consultation with project sponsors, to redirect funds to backup projects, if projects are at risk of missing deadlines established in the bill or by Caltrans; and
5. Require project sponsors to add bicycle lanes, cross-walk striping, curbcuts, and other accessibility improvements as part of projects, where appropriate and feasible.

2:30pm- Teresa Buika, Sandra Coley, and David Koch left. Quorum was no longer available and the meeting was adjourned. Remaining participants discussed the following:

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

Project sponsors gave updates on their projects.

City of Santa Cruz - Chris Schneider reported that construction of the Highway 1 Bicycle/Pedestrian Underpass at San Lorenzo River has been suspended due to the weather/flooding in the area. The city is awarding contracts for a Safe Route to Schools project around Mission Street and for left turns on Soquel at Hageman. The city will go out to bid on its second round of ARRA road repair projects next week.

Ecology Action - Piet Canin reported on the Go Green program at Cabrillo College. He noted that the school is struggling paying subsidies for bus passes due to the significant increase in bus ridership as a result of the program.

County of Santa Cruz - Steve Wiesner reported that construction of the East Cliff Bluff Stabilization project, sanitation projects, and retaining wall extension on Soquel-San Jose Road continues. He noted that the only storm damage sustained as of the meeting was on Bear Creek Road. County Public Works roadway information is available online at: www.sccroadclosure.org.

SCMTD - Angela Aitken reported that SCMTD will learn in the next few weeks if it receives grant funds from several federal and state programs.

8. Update on the State Budget

Rachel Moriconi provided a summary of the Governor's State Budget proposal (hand-out distributed at the beginning of the meeting), outlining potential impacts to transportation entities in Santa Cruz County. The group discussed the devastating effect the Governor's proposal would have on public transit, as well as the potential impact to local streets and roads and the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in the future.

NEXT MEETING: The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for **February 18, 2010** at 1:30 PM in the RTC's Conference Room.

Minutes Prepared by: Gini Pineda and Rachel Moriconi, SCCRTC

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