



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday June 17, 2010
1:00 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Aitken, SCMTD
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5
Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Sandra Coley, PVTMA
Linda Meckel, AMBAG
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Cory Caletti
Ginger Dykaar
Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Donn Miyahara, Caltrans District 5

1. Call to Order – Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m.
2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
3. Oral communications – Rachel Moriconi announced that today is “Dump the Pump Day” aimed at increasing transit ridership and reducing gasoline use; Safe Routes to Schools (SRTS) grant applications are due to Caltrans on July 15; Architect and Engineering Surveys are due to Caltrans June 30; and the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is in the process of developing the 2010 Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP).

Donn Miyahara announced that project sponsors need to submit a special form if they will have construction underway on federally-funded projects at the end of July.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – None

CONSENT AGENDA (Schneider/Buika) approved unanimously

5. Approved minutes of the March 18, 2010 meeting.
6. Received Highlights of Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) meetings.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Project sponsors gave updates on their projects.

UCSC - Teresa Buika reported that the signal at the West Entrance is under construction.

City of Santa Cruz – Chris Schneider reported that construction of the Highway 1 Bicycle/Pedestrian Underpass at San Lorenzo River and the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-funded road repairs on Pacific Ave., 2nd and 3rd Streets are done. The City's SRTS-funded Mission Street alternative route project is underway. Work on Bay Street emergency repairs above Escalona, Roundabouts near Pacific Ave/Center Street, West Cliff Path repairs, and LED streetlight retrofit projects will be going to construction this summer and fall. He reported that the Coastal Commission is reviewing additional information on the Broadway-Brommer Bicycle/Pedestrian path which may be presented in August.

Ecology Action - Piet Canin reported that over 6,500 people participated in the May Bike to Work/School Day. Ecology Action is also working on several bike safety programs, an OTS-funded truck/bicycle safety education program – targeting truck drivers on Mission Street, and that its joint SRTS project with Health Services Agency is to be completed in the fall.

City of Scotts Valley – Majid Yamin reported that the ARRA paving project on Whispering Pines was awarded the first week in March. Bids came in higher than for their last paving project on Blue Bonnet. He noted that construction of the Bean Creek Road sidewalk and bicycle lane projects is temporarily on hold.

PVTMA - Sandra Coley reported that the PVTMA continues its Commuter Club program, bus pass program, two websites, and several other ongoing programs. The PVTMA is partnering with Ecology Action and others to seek a grant targeting high school students.

SCMTD - Angela Aitken reported that SCMTD has been promoting the "Dump the Pump Day". SCMTD is working on bus replacement projects and seeking grants for its operations building. Following several public meetings, a 10% service cut is expected effective September 16, 2010 due to decreased revenues and increased expenses, including new CalPERS insurance rates. New fare boxes, which allow use of swipe cards, are to be installed by September and new ParaCruz vehicles are arriving. She noted bus passes can now be purchased online. A new intern is working on a bus stop improvement database to identify where repairs or new shelters, benches, and pads are needed. Chris Schneider requested a copy of the list of locations when available. Cory Caletti suggested the inventory also consider the condition of bicycle racks at the bus stops. In response to a question from Piet Canin regarding which routes are being cut, Ms. Aitken noted that the full list is available online at www.scmtd.com. Several factors were considered when determining cuts, including ridership levels and duplicative coverage of an area. Ms. Aitken also announced that Tove Beatty has been hired as permanent staff.

Caltrans – Jennifer Calate reported that Safe Routes to School grant applications are due July 15. She noted a community meeting was held on the Auxiliary Lanes project. She also reported that Caltrans is working with the American Chemistry Council on recycling programs at roadside rest areas.

Watsonville – Maria Rodriguez reported that final invoices are being processed on the City's 2009 ARRA lump sum road repair project. A contract for the ARRA-funded Green Valley Road Rehabilitation project has been awarded, with construction to begin later this summer. The Freedom Boulevard Rehab project will go out to bid this fall. The City has completed its SRTS project. The Proposition 1B Traffic Light Synchronization project, which includes Airport Blvd, Freedom Blvd, and Green Valley Road, is going out to bid next week and design work on the Freedom Blvd/Main St. Roundabout continues.

SCCRTC - Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC adopted the 2010 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) at its Policy Workshop, approved signing onto the regional early mitigation plan Memorandum of Understanding, and distributed the Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee Pedestrian Safety Work Group's Sidewalk Maintenance Report. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will consider the Proposition 116 application for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line acquisition on June 30, 2010. Cory Caletti noted that she is working with Caltrans to reroute the Pacific Coast Bike Route from Mission St. to the coast.

8. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Delivery and Cost Savings

Rachel Moriconi reported that the federal deadline for California to obligate American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funds, including cost savings from previously obligated projects, is September 30, 2010. In order to ensure all funds are used and no funds are lost, Caltrans is requiring project sponsors to request to shift any (including potential) cost savings to other projects by July 1, 2010. She reviewed with the committee the list of ARRA projects and cost savings being shifted to previously approved back-up projects. Chris Schneiter asked that \$250,000 from the Pacific Ave/Center St. Roundabout and \$50,000 from the Pacific Ave, 2nd and 3rd Street road repair project be shifted to West Cliff Dr. road repairs.

9. SB 375 and Regional Blueprint Update

Linda Meckel, AMBAG Planner, provided an update on the Blueprint planning process and Senate Bill 375 implementation. AMBAG has hosted several community workshops on the Blueprint, developed an online survey, and released a working draft of the plan to the Blueprint policy group for review. A second round of interactive surveys will be available to community groups this summer. The Blueprint is an advisory, learning exercise identifying smart growth principles. The Blueprint will provide information for the SB375-required Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) scheduled for completion in 2012 which will influence the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and local housing element updates. She also reported that SB375 greenhouse gas (GHG) reduction targets are scheduled for release by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in September.

In response to questions from committee members, Ms. Meckel noted that grants may be available for local agencies to implement Blueprint principles, that the Sustainable Communities Strategy could affect General Plan housing elements, including how much housing is required, where it should go, and zoning. The committee also discussed the AMBAG model and post processing to be used for the Blueprint. Committee members noted there are several different, and sometimes conflicting, methods to model GHG and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). Ms. Meckel noted that GHG emissions calculations are done as part of the post processing.

10. Criteria Used for Prioritizing Projects

Rachel Moriconi requested ITAC members share information on criteria used by their agencies to prioritize different types of projects for limited funds. Many agencies reported using similar criteria, while others were based on the focus of their agencies. Committee members noted using point-systems to rank projects did not work. Members also noted that it can be a challenge to prioritize specific locations especially when there is a huge backlog of needs (ex. large number of roads in poor condition). Things ITAC member agencies consider when prioritizing projects include the following:

- Safety/collision data; A significant collision
- Congestion hot spots; capacity needs
- Priorities identified in adopted plans (Bike Plans, specific area plans, studies)
- Requirements (from LRDP, EIRs, development review, mitigation plans)
- Geographic balance
- Demographics, population being served
- Number of potential users
- Popularity/past success of a program
- Identified needs
- Council, public feedback --- including for streetscaping, sidewalks, etc.
- Public input via surveys, committees
- Age of facility/equipment--replacement needs; System preservation, Pavement Management Systems
- Timing of other projects (ability to consolidate/piggyback, even if one project might otherwise on its own be constructed in a later year)
 - Ex. timed utility upgrades, new developments/construction
- Ability to complete project/deliverability/full funding/financing
- Grant eligibility criteria (projects that fit)
- Overall goals: Sustainability focus, reducing number of subsidies
- Address environmental concerns
- Level of GHG emissions reduced

11. 2010 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Update

Rachel Moriconi reported that the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) has been amended to reflect California Transportation Commission (CTC) decisions regarding the RTC's State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding requests. In response to questions from committee members, she noted that Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds may be required for cost increases on Highway 1 projects since STIP funds were not approved by the CTC. In response to a question from Angela Aitken, Ms. Moriconi noted that project sponsors must request an allocation for STIP funds in the fiscal year the funds are programmed.

12. 2010 Draft Santa Cruz County Bikeways Map

Cory Caletti reported that the RTC is in the process of updating the Countywide Bicycle Map. She appreciated agencies for the time they have spent reviewing and providing updates for the map. She requested final comments and updates on the agencies. Committee members provided some specific updates at the meeting. Ms. Caletti also recognized RTC-staffer Ginger Dykaar for the extensive work she has done updating the map and putting it into GIS.

NEXT MEETING: The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for **August 19, 2010** at **1:00 PM** in the RTC's Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Minutes Prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, SCCRTC

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