



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday August 19, 2010
1:00 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Aitken, Santa Cruz Metro
Tove Beatty, Santa Cruz Metro
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5
Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Russell Chen, County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy
Dave Fairchild, MBUAPCD
David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Planning Proxy
Steve Wiesner, County of Santa Cruz Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Moriconi
Kim Shultz

OTHERS PRESENT

Adam Fukushima, Caltrans District 5
Dan Herron, Caltrans District 5
David Murray, Caltrans District 5
Brandy Rider, Caltrans District 5

1. Call to Order – Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
3. Oral communications

Jennifer Calate announced that Caltrans will be closed on Fridays due to furloughs; Brandy Rider will take over as the District 5 Planning Branch Chief with Dave Murray's retirement; Jennifer Calate will be moving to Systems Planning, with Dan Herron taking over as the new regional planner for Santa Cruz County.

On behalf of Garin Schneiter (District 5 Local Assistance Engineer), Rachel Moriconi reminded members that Local Assistance Procedures Manual Exhibit 9-C –“Local Agency ADA Annual Certification Form” must be on file with District 5 by October 1, 2010 in order to access federal funds in FFY10/11. Members noted that the annual Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) forms and forms for projects under construction that will continue past October 1 also need to be submitted.

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

CONSENT AGENDA (Buika/Rodriguez) approved.

5. Approved minutes of the June 17, 2010 meeting. - *Attendees not present June 17, 2010 abstained*

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Project sponsors gave updates on their projects.

Caltrans – Jennifer Calate reported that the Highway 1 Transportation Management System and Highway 9 Guardrails construction projects are complete. A microsurfacing project in Ben Lomond area will be done in September. Highway 129 pavement rehabilitation is underway, with one-way traffic control. Highway 9 repairs are expected to be completed and the road reopened by October. County Public Works staff stated that the closure has significantly impacted Graham Hill and Mt. Hermon Roads. At the request of Piet Canin, Jennifer Calate agreed to investigate if bicyclists could be allowed through the construction zone on Highway 9.

Ecology Action - Piet Canin reported that Ecology Action is preparing for Fall Bike to Work/School events and working on a new program called "Boltage" that counts the number of bike and walk trips taken by elementary school students and incentivizes more trips by bike and walking, with kickoff of the program planned at Gault School in October.

SCMTD - Angela Aitken reported that SCMTD has completed its maintenance building, with the operations building on hold until the state budget is passed, at which point the Request for Proposals (RFP) for construction will be issued. New fare boxes are expected to arrive in September/October and new paratransit vehicles will arrive in September. Metro has developed a preliminary list of bus stop improvements to be funded with State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds and will share the list with the ITAC once it is refined. She noted that Tove Beatty will be working on legislation and grants at Metro and serve as the representative to the ITAC. Tove noted that Metro will be starting a Transit Planning Study in Watsonville, using funds from a Caltrans Planning Grant. Dan Herron suggested the Bus Stop Improvement project be coordinated with the Safe Paths to Transit project.

Watsonville – Maria Rodriguez reported that the ARRA-funded Green Valley Road Rehabilitation project is under construction. Design of the RSTPX-funded Freedom Boulevard Rehab project is nearing completion with construction scheduled for early 2011. A Safe Routes to Schools-funded project targeting pedestrian improvements at three locations is under design. The Proposition 1B Traffic Light Synchronization construction project, which includes Airport Blvd, Freedom Blvd, and Green Valley Road, will be awarded next month. Work on the Report of Conceptual Approval for the Freedom Blvd/Main St.-SR152 Roundabout is nearing completion. Once a cooperative agreement between Caltrans and the City is completed, the City will determine the next steps for the Harkins Slough Road/Highway 1 Interchange project.

County of Santa Cruz – Steve Wiesner reported that construction began on the second round of ARRA road repairs on roadways throughout the county, including Freedom Blvd, Holohan, Mt. Hermon, Jamison Creek. Construction is also underway as part of the countywide pavement management program which includes chip seals on more than ten roadways, RDA-funded overlays in Live Oak, and CSA slurry seal projects. Work continues on storm damage repairs from 2006 including repairs on East Zayante, Eureka Canyon, Kings Creek, Redwood Lodge Road, and Glenwood Drive. The East Cliff Bluff project is 90% done and expected to reopen in September, with the parkway project along East Cliff expected to begin next summer. Road repairs on Soquel Avenue near 17th Ave, including curb, gutter, and sidewalks, will begin soon. The Green Valley/Holohan/Airport Blvd intersection project is scheduled to start construction after the County Fair. The County plans to go out to bid for construction of the Graham Hill Safety Project in October, with award in December. The Calabasas Road Improvements project, including curb, gutter, and sidewalks, is scheduled for construction next summer. Information on County roadways under construction is on the County Public Works website (<http://www.sccroadclosure.org/>).

City of Santa Cruz – Mark Dettle reported that the Roundabouts project is scheduled to start construction in September. The Coastal Commission is expected to consider additional information on the Broadway-Brommer Bicycle/Pedestrian path this fall.

7. Update on Highway 1 Projects

Kim Shultz reported that at the Policy Workshop the RTC approved a cooperative agreement with Caltrans which will make the RTC the lead agency for managing construction of the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project. He noted that experience gained from managing the Auxiliary Lanes project will benefit future rail and trail projects. He reported that the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Highway 1 HOV Lanes project is scheduled for release in the summer of 2011. Work continues for the STARS analysis of the HOV Lanes project, including development of a list of credits/measures to be used to evaluate the project.

8. Highway 1 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) Update

Dave Murray reported that District 5 is finishing work on a Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP) for Highway 1 aimed at maximizing mobility and safety, and reducing congestion between Highway 1/Mission St at King Street in Santa Cruz through Highway 68W and along Highway 183 in Monterey County. He noted that five scenarios are being analyzed in the plan – including ITS/TDM/Ramp metering, HOV lanes, and alternative mode analysis. Caltrans is scheduled to present the draft plan to the ITAC in September, with review by the RTC in October.

Due to limited data, model microsimituations were constrained. In the future, with additional real-time data/better vehicle detection equipment for Highway 1, parallel and adjacent local roadways, additional modeling could be done. The PEMS website includes examples of similar data available in other areas. Data from new Highway 1 detection equipment should be available online soon. Additional data will be collected through the SHOPP program. Corridor system management information is likely to be incorporated into future Route Concept Reports. Mark Dettle requested that local roads be considered in corridor studies, including the impact of ramp meters on local streets and roads.

9. 511 Traveler Information System Survey

Tegan Speiser reported that the RTC and Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) received a Caltrans Planning grant to prepare a Feasibility and Implementation Plan for a Monterey Bay Area 511 Traveler Information System. The plan is scheduled for completion in November 2011. The committee watched videos on 511 and reviewed a survey prepared for the public outreach phase of the project to better assess the type of information people would like to have available through a 511 system. The survey will be available soon online at: www.511montereybay.org.

In response to questions from ITAC members, Ms. Speiser confirmed that the system will cover Highway 17 and the plan will evaluate options for integrating with 511 systems in the Bay Area, San Luis Obispo County, and the San Joaquin Valley. ITAC members and Ms. Speiser discussed methods for seeking input on the 511 system including Public Service Announcements; outreach to First Responders, the trucking industry, monolingual Spanish-speakers and people without internet access; playing the videos on community TV before city council and other board meetings; providing surveys at the County planning department; postcards inviting people to take the survey; information at public libraries; reaching out to resources centers used by transit riders; having information at gas stations; and adding links to the survey from the RTC, Caltrans, and Metro websites.

10. 2010 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Project List

Rachel Moriconi encouraged ITAC members to review the list of programmed SHOPP construction projects on the State Route system and to inform Caltrans project managers if there are concerns or questions about specific projects, including opportunities to coordinate local projects.

11. 2010 Regional Surface Transportation Exchange Program (RSTPX)

Rachel Moriconi reported that as a relatively small county, the RTC is allowed to exchange its annual apportionment of federal Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds for state funds (RSTPX). The state RSTPX funds are then made available for use by projects previously approved for federal RSTP funds that will be implemented within the next year. It was noted that the annual amount of RSTPX funds changes depending on the number of projects that use federal RSTP funds and the Federal Appropriations bill. She provided a recommended list of projects for this year's RSTPX program. She also provided a list of projects approved for RSTPX funds in prior years that have not yet submitted invoices for their RSTPX funds.

The ITAC unanimously approved a motion (Dettle/Koch) recommending the RTC exchange federal RSTP for state RSTPX for \$377,000 in projects that will be implemented within the next 12 months.

Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 2:23 p.m. The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for **September 16, 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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