



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 18, 2010
1:00 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Angela Aitken, SCMTD
Taylor Bateman, City of Scotts Valley Planning
Tove Beatty, SCMTD
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works
David Fairchild, MBUAPCD
Dan Herron, Caltrans District 5
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works
Bhupendra Patel, AMBAG
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Public Works
Todd Sexauer, County Planning
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works
Majid Yamin, City of Scotts Valley Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Moriconi
Kim Shultz
Gini Pineda
George Dondero

OTHERS PRESENT

Russell Chen, County Public Works
Donn Miyahara, Caltrans District 5
Adam Fukushima, Caltrans District 5
Alan Romero, MBUAPCD
David Murray, Caltrans District 5

1. Call to Order – Chair Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.
2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
3. Oral communications -None
4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas - None

CONSENT AGENDA (Dettle/Rodriguez) approved unanimously

5. Approved minutes of the August 19, 2010 ITAC meeting

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents - Verbal updates from project sponsors

Project sponsors gave updates on their projects.

City of Scotts Valley – Majid Yamin reported that the city's two ARRA projects were finished. Caltrans conducted an informal audit of their ARRA projects in October.

MBUAPCD – Dave Fairchild reported that the agency is updating CEQA guidelines to include GHG emissions and set thresholds that will allow projects to stay within targets. Changes will mainly affect larger projects that may be considered for an Environmental Impact Report.

County of Santa Cruz – Steve Wiesner reported that ARRA- and RSTP-funded road repair projects are near completion. A chip seal repair project using Proposition 1B funds is done. The Live Oak overlay project is finishing this week. Several storm damage repair projects are completed, with the Glenwood Drive project still outstanding. He said that the East Cliff bluff protection project is finished and the parkway improvement project is slated for construction in spring 2011. A curb, gutter and drainage project on Soquel/17th Avenue is 50% complete as is construction on the Green Valley Rd/Holohan/Airport Blvd project. The County is still working on the Calabazas Rd project design and is planning to award a construction contract for the Graham Hill Rd improvement project by the end of the year.

SCMTD – Tove Beatty reported that SCMTD is installing new fareboxes and ticket vending machines that will allow more ticket options, including rolling 30 day passes. SCMTD is about 50% finished with scheduling/dispatching software updates. SCMTD recently received a Caltrans grant to fund the Watsonville Transit Planning Study. A decision on the Greyhound property adjacent to the Metro Center will be made soon. Three ARRA funded paratransit vehicles are due to arrive soon.

SCCRTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that the California Transportation Commission is expected to allocate funds to purchase the Santa Cruz Branch rail line in January. The RTC has finished negotiating an agreement with a shortline operator. The Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project design is nearing completion and the project is expected to go out to bid Spring 2011.

Caltrans – Dan Herron reported that although Caltrans will continue to have furloughs, they will not be closed on Fridays. He announced that Safe Routes to School grant funds were recently awarded to the Cities of Watsonville and Santa Cruz. He said that March 30 is the deadline to apply for next round of transportation planning funds.

City of Santa Cruz – Mark Dettle reported that the City of Santa Cruz is asking the Coastal Commission for permission to resubmit the Arana Gulch project for approval. The Depot Park roundabouts are under construction and should be completed by spring break 2011. The City's draft Climate Action Plan is available for review and comment. Transportation is a key component of the plan, with increasing transit use and reducing single occupancy vehicle trips by 30% recommended. Sidewalk improvements on Soquel Ave in front of Staff of Life are finished; the Park Ave turn on Soquel Drive is in design; and the Water St sewer project will be completed this month.

AMBAG – Bhupendra Patel reported that the Blueprint plan is now available for public review, with comments due December 15. MTIP amendment #1 will be on the January AMBAG agenda. New JARC/New Freedom projects and any other changes to federally-funded projects should be submitted to AMBAG for the MTIP by early December. Rachel Moriconi will send links to the documents and deadlines to the ITAC.

USCS – Teresa Buika reported that the signal light at the west campus entrance is complete. Three

ARRA funded disability vans arrived in late September. The Ecology Action administered ZipCar program is expanding with more cars available in Santa Cruz at Laurel and Blackburn Streets, Mission Street at the CVS, and in the parking lot behind the RTC offices. Mark Dettle asked for an update to be given to the Downtown Commission.

City of Capitola – Steve Jesberg reported that the city is redesigning improvements at Capitola Rd and 41st Ave. Right-of-way work at 38th Ave is underway. This project will have sidewalks and bike lanes.

City of Watsonville – Maria Rodriguez reported that Green Valley Rd is under construction for at least six weeks. Preparations are being made for spring construction on Freedom Blvd. The Safe Routes to School grant funds will be used for sidewalks, traffic calming and school pick up sites.

Rachel Moriconi reminded everyone that HSIP (safety) grant applications are due December 9th. Donn Miyahara added that there will be tight timelines to construct projects and you cannot have delayed older projects.

7. Draft Highway 1 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP)

Dave Murray reported on the CSMP saying it was designed to be a tool to manage the corridor and describing the boundaries of the corridor. He acknowledged that the corridor is too long to be truly analyzed without additional real time data collection and that they were unable to use the microsimulation model to analyze different scenarios for the corridor.

Mark Dettle suggested that the northern boundary of the corridor be changed from King St to Bay Avenue to more fully incorporate the traffic to and from UCSC.

Mr. Murray said that future plans would be designed for smaller segments of the corridor.

Members discussed shortening and widening the corridor description to factor parallel arterials and cross streets into the equation and the need for better detection equipment on and off the highway. Caltrans will make a presentation on PeMS data website at a future meeting.

Comments on the draft plan are due to Caltrans 11/24/10.

8. Draft State and Federal Legislative Program

Rachel Moriconi gave an overview of key legislative issues for 2011. She noted the possible impacts that Proposition 26 could have on transportation funding, especially related to the "gas tax swap". She said that while SB 1418 to increase the vehicle registration fee to support the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program did not make it through the legislature in 2010, staff recommends again making it a priority for the RTC in 2011. She also reported that Caltrans' budget for oversight and planning was cut and there is a push to pass the cost of oversight for highway projects implemented by local agencies along to local agencies.

On the federal front, it is unclear when the federal transportation act will be approved as it requires additional funding, but there is little political interest to increase gas and other taxes.

Ms. Moriconi asked for comments on the legislative program to be submitted by Friday in order to be presented to the RTC at its next meeting.

Dan Herron said that he would like to see federal transit funding become more flexible to be used on operations, as well as capital.

9. Overview of the AMBAG Regional Travel Demand Model Improvement Plan

Bhupendra Patel provided an overview of the Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM) and Implementation Plan for the next model update. He said that Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) is required to update the model every five years. Any capacity project in the region must be included in the model.

Angela Aiken asked how data that was relevant in 2005 was updated for the model to reflect SCMTD's decrease in service due to budget cuts, saying that the supposition in the model is an increase in service and growth. Discussion ensued about the accuracy of scenarios if the base year is 2005.

Mr. Patel said it was up to local jurisdictions to inform AMBAG of changes before running future updates. He said that the 2010 base year model would incorporate census data, parcel level land use data, the California Household Travel Survey and traffic counts. It was suggested that local jurisdictions provide funding for Household Travel Surveys.

Ms. Aiken asked AMBAG to solicit information annually from each entity using the model to ensure that AMBAG has the correct information to share with all the other entities.

In response to questions, Mr. Patel noted that unemployment and gas price fluctuations were factored into the model and agencies noted how they use the model.

10. American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Status Report

Rachel Moriconi said that most ARRA projects have outstanding balances and that invoices must be submitted for reimbursement at least every six months.

11. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD) Bus Stop Improvement Project

Tove Beatty reported that \$500,000 in STIP funding was programmed for bus stop repairs. SCMTD will add some funding to make sure that improvements are equitable throughout the county. Members received a list of planned improvements.

Rachel Moriconi suggested that local jurisdictions review the list and coordinate with SCMTD if they intend on making improvements in the same areas. Ms. Beatty will send a map of planned bus stop improvements to local jurisdictions.

Mark Dettle noted that SCMTD may need a use permit for projects within the city.

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 pm.

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for **January 27, 2011** at **1:00 PM** in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA. There is no meeting planned for December.

Minutes prepared by: Gini Pineda