



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, January 27, 2011
1:00 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Taylor Bateman, City of Scotts Valley Planning
Tove Beatty, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (Metro)
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Piet Canin, Ecology Action - Transportation
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works
Dan Herron, Caltrans District 5
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works
Robert Nunes, MBUAPCD
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Public Works
Todd Sexauer, County Planning
Majid Yamin, City of Scotts Valley Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Moriconi
Kim Shultz
George Dondero

OTHERS PRESENT

Donn Miyahara, 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 – None
4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – Item 7 was moved ahead of Item 6.

CONSENT AGENDA (Buika/Rodriguez) approved unanimously

5. Approved minutes of the November 18, 2010 ITAC meeting with the following changes:
 - i. Item 6, SCMTD update was corrected to reflect that Metro's new ticket vending machines include rolling 31 day passes.
 - ii. The last sentence in Item 8 was modified, "Mr. Patel noted that unemployment and gas price fluctuations were indirectly factored into the model..."

REGULAR AGENDA

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

MBUAPCD – Bob Nunes reported that the Air District is working on the job description to recruit a replacement for David Fairchild who recently retired. The Air District will be doing more work on AB32 and SB375 implementation. He also announced that there will be trainings for the CalEEMod land use emissions model software.

City of Santa Cruz – Mark Dettle reported that the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA)-funded roundabout at Depot Park is under construction and work on a concept plan for a roundabout at the Bay/High Street intersection is underway. The City also has instituted variable parking rates and “Park Mobile” options to pay for parking by cell phone.

Caltrans: Dan Herron reported that several guardrail, median barrier, and other State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects are currently being planned and/or under construction. He noted that construction of the Highway 1/Salinas Road Interchange project continues. Also, Caltrans’ will be programming two years’ funds, totaling \$25 million statewide for elderly/disabled transit vehicle purchases.

Santa Cruz Metro – Tove Beatty reported that Metro is starting its Watsonville Transit Study, which includes public interviews. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated \$500,000 in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for Metro’s Bus Stop Improvement project, with locations throughout the county. Mark Dettle requested the list and map of bus stop locations. Metro is also starting to work with the County of Santa Cruz on moving the Emeline bus stop. On December 20 the purchase of the Greyhound station was finalized and the ticket agent is moving into the Metro Center building. ARRA-funded vehicles, which include a raised-top design, more room for mobility devices, and fire suppression systems, are in operation. New fare boxes are also in operation. In a response to a question from Taylor Bateman, she noted that there is no ticket vending machine currently in Scotts Valley. Mark Dettle suggested looking at locating a vending machine in the Scotts Valley Library.

Capitola - Steve Jesberg reported that the lighted pedestrian crosswalk/traffic calming project on Capitola Road is nearly completed; parking structure plans are under review; electric vehicle charging stations are being installed; and pay stations for parking along the Esplanade will be installed by the end of April 2011.

Scotts Valley – Taylor Bateman reported that the library project will be completed this spring or early summer. Council also recently approved the Woodside planned development, which includes 50 units and commercial space.

Ecology Action – Piet Canin reported that plans to expand Zipcar availability are underway; Ecology Action is working with the Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Alliance to implement grants to install electric vehicle chargers throughout the Monterey Bay area; and Ecology Action moved into its new LEED-certified building which includes extensive bicycle parking and electric vehicle chargers.

SCCRTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that the California Transportation Commission allocated funds to purchase the Santa Cruz Branch rail line, with close of escrow anticipated this spring. She noted the CTC did not approve \$650,000 of the requested funds; Union Pacific agreed to cover \$400,000 of the shortfall and staff is recommending using \$250,000 in RSTPX. She reported that work has begun with AMBAG on the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), and that staff will work with project sponsors on expanding the transportation needs assessment to ensure “complete streets” within priority growth areas. She also reported that the RTC is accepting applications for a transportation planning technician. Kim Shultz reported that the Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project design and right-of-way is nearing completion. The HOV

lanes project architectural study was recently submitted to FHWA. Remaining technical studies include air quality and noise. Once technical review is completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) will be released for public review, estimated in late 2011/early 2012.

City of Watsonville – Maria Rodriguez reported that construction of the Green Valley Road project is expected to be completed within the next four weeks; the Freedom Blvd project is going out to bid soon; and the City is finalizing the concept report for a roundabout at Main St/Hwy 152/Freedom Blvd. in response to comments from Caltrans.

7. Sustainable Transportation Access Rating System (STARS) Update

George Dondero provided an overview of STARS, including a summary of the credits developed for the STARS Pilot Project Manual and planned application of STARS to the Highway 1 corridor.

Dan Herron noted that the Caltrans cost/benefit model is a tool that could be used to do some of the analysis. Todd Sexauer noted that STARS might be helpful with Climate Action Plan development. In response to a question from Teresa Buika, Mr. Dondero noted that some of the recommendations for the HOV lanes project could be implemented in the near term, with others to be implemented over time. In response to a question from Piet Canin, Mr. Dondero noted that STARS for the HOV lanes project may show how expansion of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies would help achieve the project goal to reduce the number of people driving alone. He noted that STARS identifies/clarifies project goals and then identifies specific objectives/projects to achieve those goals. Kim Shultz said that STARS essentially results in a program of projects that could be implemented individually or integrated with other recommendations that public agencies and others have for meeting overall goals.

Mr. Dondero noted that the RTC is also considering applying STARS to the Regional Transportation Plan, using a programmatic approach that would establish guiding principles for transportation projects. Mark Dettle stated that evaluating sustainability of transportation projects and programs is becoming more common, reporting that the City's Public Works Commission has requested that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) be evaluated from a climate action standpoint.

8. State Budget Update

Rachel Moriconi provided a summary of transportation funding proposals in the Governor's budget. She encouraged members to support the proposal to reenact the Gas Tax Swap in order to ensure funding remains available for transportation. She requested input from members on how state budget proposals would impact their transportation projects and what transportation projects have been/are being funded by local Redevelopment Agencies.

Ms. Moriconi noted that several local projects could also be delayed if there is no bond sale until the fall, including the Auxiliary Lanes project. Tove Beatty noted that Metro is waiting on Proposition 1B bond revenues to move forward with purchasing additional vehicles needed to fully convert the fleet to CNG. Mark Dettle noted that the Murray Street bridge project is dependent on bond revenues to provide the match to federal funds. Ms. Beatty added that there is an \$854 million backlog in transit projects statewide waiting for Proposition 1B funds.

Ms. Moriconi also reported that agencies are now expected to reimburse Caltrans for oversight on project initiation documents (PID) for local lead projects on the State Route System.

Teresa Buika reported that if the number of students gets capped, the amount of funds available for

transportation will be reduced. Mark Dettle said that the proposal to eliminate RDAs will impact transportation and that the RDA funds upgrades, enhancements, capacity, and rehabilitation projects (not repairs). Maria Rodriguez noted that the City of Watsonville is looking at designating additional RDA funds for transportation projects. Steve Jesberg and Taylor Bateman said their councils are not immediately designating additional RDA funds for transportation projects.

9. Caltrans Planning Grants Overview

Dan Herron reported that Caltrans is currently soliciting applications for Caltrans Planning Grants. \$10.5 million is available statewide. He provided an overview of the variety of categories. Eligible applicants include cities, counties, RDA, non-profits, transit agencies, RTPAs. Mr. Herron provided examples of some of the plans that have been funded in the past, including Salinas Chinatown revitalization plan, Bicycle Plans, and corridor plans. Applications are due March 31, 2011.

Tove Beatty reported that Metro is considering a plan that looks at transit needs if unincorporated areas grow. She noted that there are several planning efforts underway (such as Climate Action Plans) that depend heavily on transit to achieve their goals, however there needs to be a plan to address the sustainability of transit service to address those needs. Mark Dettle suggested reevaluating the fundamental funding model for transit. Dan Herron noted that Santa Barbara had looked at developer fees for transit service.

In addition to planning grants, Rachel Moriconi reminded members that applications for Caltrans' Bicycle Transportation Account (BTA) grants are due March 18.

10. State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Projects Update

Rachel Moriconi recommended that ITAC members review the list of State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects planned for the State Route System and inform Caltrans project managers if there are concerns or questions about specific projects, including opportunities to coordinate SHOPP and local projects.

Mark Dettle expressed frustration coordinating with Caltrans on a water main replacement project. He requested assistance from Dan Herron.

11. Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment

Rachel Moriconi reported that the 2010 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment report will be released in February. Future updates may be funded in part from contributions from regions, cities, and counties. If regions contribute, it is likely that the RTC's share would come from its Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds.

12. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

The ITAC unanimously elected Chris Schneider (City of Santa Cruz Public Works) as Chair and Steve Jesberg (Capitola Public Works) as Vice Chair (Dettle/Buika).

The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m. The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for **March 17, 2011 at 1:00 PM** in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

\\rtcserver2\Shared\ITAC\2011\Jan2011\Jan11ITACminutes.doc