



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

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, March 17, 2011  
1:00 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room  
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

**ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Teresa Buika, UCSC  
Randy DeShazo, AMBAG  
Dan Herron, Caltrans District 5  
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works and Community Development Proxy  
Michelle King, City of Santa Cruz Planning  
David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works  
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Community Development Proxy  
Russell Chen, County Planning Proxy  
Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Public Works  
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

**STAFF PRESENT**

Rachel Moriconi  
Grace Blakeslee

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works  
Steve Schnaar, People Power and Bike Church

1. Call to Order – Chair Chris Schneider called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m.
2. Introductions – Self introductions were made
3. Oral communications – Rachel Moriconi reminded members that Bicycle Transportation Account grant applications are due Friday 3/18/11.
4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – A revised version of page 33 - Item 9 on Bicycle Licensing Ordinance Coordination was distributed.

**CONSENT AGENDA (Rodriguez/Jesberg) approved unanimously**

5. Approved minutes of the January 27, 2011 ITAC meeting.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

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

*City of Watsonville* – Maria Rodriguez reported that construction of the Green Valley Road project is wrapping up; the Freedom Blvd rehabilitation project is going out to bid in May; a Traffic Signal Synchronization project will move forward in coordination with the Freedom Blvd. project; the City

received a safety (HSIP) grant to add pedestrian countdown equipment at all signalized intersections; the City is using a Safe Routes to Schools grant to install sidewalks and traffic calming on Front Street and Holm Road; and the City is making crosswalk enhancements at three locations.

*County of Santa Cruz* – Steve Wiesner reported that vegetation removal is underway as part of the Graham Hill Road safety project, with additional construction work to begin after April 15; what could be the last Redevelopment Agency (RDA)-funded overlay is underway; a new sidewalk is being installed on Soquel near the City of Capitola; Soquel Ave/17<sup>th</sup> Ave curb, gutter, and sidewalk construction will be finalized within four weeks; construction on Eaton Street had been set for award, but is on hold pending finalization of the RDA project list; and the East Cliff path project was set to go to bid, but is on hold because of RDA-funding uncertainties.

*AMBAG* – Randy DeShazo reminded members that Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) information updates are due March 18. He announced that AMBAG is working with FHWA to host a model peer review meeting on March 28-29; Rachel Moriconi emailed information on the meeting to the ITAC. He also reported that the first formal Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) amendment was approved and that the next formal amendment will take place May 11. Project sponsors should inform Rachel Moriconi of any necessary amendments to federally-funded projects.

*UCSC* – Teresa Buika reported that UCSC is starting work on its federal New Freedoms grant project.

*City of Santa Cruz* – Chris Schneider reported that the roundabout at Depot Park will be completed this spring; the West Cliff Drive rehabilitation project is out to bid, with construction scheduled to start in April/May; and the City is working on a Safe Routes to School project near Gault Elementary School.

*Caltrans*: Dan Herron reminded members that applications for Caltrans planning grants are due March 30. Detours around the Highway 1/Salinas Road Interchange project will start in April.

*SCCRTC* – Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC is working on closing escrow for the Rail Line and an RTC board member requested that the RTC place an item on a future agenda to discuss the possibility of merging with Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (SCMTD). Cory Caletti reported that the RTC is issuing a notice to proceed to RRM Design for work on the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Master Plan. Data collection and stakeholder meeting will be starting soon.

## 7. Regional Transportation Plan Update: Overview and Work Plan

Grace Blakeslee provided an overview of plans for the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) update. The plan will address SB375 requirements, including coordination with the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Greenhouse Gas (GHG) targets; a complete streets analysis/needs assessment for priority growth areas; and development of more quantifiable goals and policies focused on sustainability using STARS. She requested input on what other planning efforts are underway that should be included in the RTP.

Michelle King suggested that the RTP consider the objectives being developed for the City of Santa Cruz General Plan and Climate Action Plan, and noted that the General Plan EIR includes a lot of data that could be used. Randy DeShazo stated that AMBAG will be providing micro-grants to help local jurisdictions work on aligning the Regional Housing Needs Allocations (RHNA) and General Plans with the SCS. This includes identifying infill opportunities and will complement the complete streets analysis. Chris Schneider requested that the RTC minimize the amount of information requested from local jurisdictions, given staffing shortfalls. Mark Dettle suggested that if guidelines

are established to prioritize projects that have the biggest benefit, then local agencies will be able to identify projects that meet those criteria up front, rather than using time consuming scoring criteria that may not result in the most beneficial projects being funded. Grace Blakeslee responded that it will be an iterative process with project sponsors to determine what information is need and to establish priorities. In response to a question from Dan Herron, Ms. Blakeslee stated that via STARS measures such as access, economic, and environmental sustainability would be looked at collectively for evaluating projects and the plan. Teresa Buika suggested that the RTP take into consideration information from the UCSC Sustainability Plan and Climate Action Plan. She noted that it will be important to include how the RTC is defining "sustainability". Randy DeShazo stated that the 0% per capita GHG target set by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) for the Monterey Bay Area is partially due to limited growth anticipated in the region, given constraints to building housing in coastal areas.

#### 8. Draft Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan (PPP)

Rachel Moriconi requested the ITAC review and comment on the Draft Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan. The plan has been updated based on SB375 and federal requirements. Comments are due to the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) on March 30, 2011. She also requested that members provide suggestions for expanding public involvement in development of the next Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

Dan Herron stated that it is important to get input from the Spanish-speaking populations. Randy DeShazo noted that agencies that receive federal transportation funds must follow the plan. Steve Wiesner stated that the plan should be consistent with what FHWA and Caltrans mandates agencies do when implementing projects. Those public participation requirements may be identified in the Local Assistance Procedures Manual, Master Agreements with Caltrans, and other grant agreements. Teresa Buika said that the plan goes beyond what is federally-mandated.

#### 9. Bicycle Licensing Ordinance Coordination

Cory Caletti provided information regarding bicycle licensing ordinances and requested that local jurisdictions consider establishing uniform practices. Bicycle licenses are not required in the unincorporated areas of the County or City of Scotts Valley. Bicycle licenses are required in the Cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, and Watsonville. The Bicycle Committee is asking those jurisdictions to eliminate the requirement, and instead make bicycle licensing voluntary. She provided information on some of the benefits and issues with bicycle licensing.

Members noted that bicycle license requirements are rarely enforced, that bicycle license requirements come from California Vehicle Code, and that if current licensing is not meeting needs it could maybe be modified, rather than eliminated, in order to make it a more robust program that has clear benefits.

Steve Schnaar, People Power and Bike Church, stated that the bicycle licensing requirements are being used by police to target certain people. He also reported that People Power is working with Santa Cruz police to focus on using serial numbers to find stolen bicycles.

Teresa Buika reported that TAPS staff and the UCSC Police Sergeant discussed their bicycle license requirements and that their priority is to use the program to help bicyclists. If it is not helping they would be willing to change it, especially since it is staff intensive to administer.

10. State Legislative Update

Rachel Moriconi recommended that the ITAC review and provide input on the list of state legislative bills the RTC is tracking and inform staff of any additional bills the RTC should be monitoring. She also reported that the State Legislature approved reenactment of the gas tax swap, which allows continuation of some funding for transit, State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Local Street and Road, and SHOPP projects. In response to a question from Steve Wiesner, she stated that with reenactment of the gas tax swap, HUTA funds should be protected under the provisions of Proposition 22. This was one of the reasons why Truck Weight Fees are being used to provide State General Fund relief for bond debt service.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m. The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for **April 21, 2011** at **1:00 PM** in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

*Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi*

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