



JOINT MEETING OF
 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS SYSTEMS (TOS) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
 AND
 SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE
DRAFT MINUTES
 Wednesday, March 13, 2013
 10:00-12:00

**San Jose California Highway Patrol
 2020 Junction Ave
 San Jose, CA 95131**

TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Task Force Meeting Participants

- Captain Joe Lundy, San Jose CHP
- Ramin Bolourchian, Caltrans District 4 TMC
- Lt Scott Wood, Santa Cruz CHP
- Officer Cliff Inman, Santa Cruz CHP
- Susana Cruz, Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs
- Russell Ellingworth, Caltrans District 5 Maintenance
- Sarah Jackson, Santa Cruz CHP
- Marshall Ballard, Valley Transit Authority
- Siobhan Saunders, Caltrans District 5 Construction
- Tom Barnett, Caltrans District 5 Maintenance
- Lt. Les Bishop, San Jose CHP
- Officer John Darling, San Jose CHP
- Joanna Fox, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Anika Jesi, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Deb Larson, Caltrans District 5, Traffic Safety
- Mark Ballentine, Caltrans District 5, Traffic Safety
- Jacques Van Zeventer, Caltrans District 5
- Ramona Turner, Santa Cruz Sentinel
- Jarret Winter, Santa Clara County Fire Department
- Frances Herbert, representing Senator Beall, 15th District
- Susan Lowery, County of Santa Clara Public Health, Traffic Safe Communities Network
- Cliff Barber, American Civil Constructors West Coast
- Tegan Speiser, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
- Ginger Dykaar, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made

2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – none.

3. **Reviewed and Accepted Minutes of the September 12, 2012 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting**



Ginger Dykaar reported an email sent from Jim Richardson (Caltrans D4 TMC) regarding an item in the minutes that a sigalert should not be issued for a 30 minute delay as written in the minutes but should be sent out if a lane is anticipated to be blocked for more than 30 minutes. He stressed the importance of CHP field units getting the information out to TMC when a sigalert is needed as soon as possible so the motoring public is informed.

Lt Wood has encouraged Officers in Santa Cruz to issue sigalerts even if incident may not end up having lane blocked for 30 minutes or more. Lt Wood voiced concern over not being able to provide sigalerts for feeder roads into the highways. One example is Old San Jose Rd. Lt Wood would like to revisit this decision with TMC.

4. Received Information Items

Ginger Dykaar presented the following items.

Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Program Update – Funding has been secured for FSP for Hwy 1 and 17 for FY 12/13. A new procurement process has begun to contract tow operators for FSP service on Highway 17 and on Highway 1 for the next contract period. Potential bidders can bid on providing FSP service for either Highway 1 or Highway 17 or both. Staff will release a request for proposals (RFP) for FSP service on Highway 1 and 17 this month. An Evaluation Committee will be reviewing the proposals and recommending a bidder to our board at the June 2013 RTC meeting.

Monterey Bay Area 511 Planning Study Update – An Implementation Plan for 511 Traveler Information will use the Caltrans QuickMap for the traffic map page in addition to multimodal traveler information such as rideshare, transit trip planning, bike/ped resources and emergency information. A 511 system can be a central location to get information out to the public about the travel resources that are available in Santa Cruz County including static, real time and emergency information. The SCPD memorial procession was a timely example of how our agencies can partner together to provide traveler information to the public.

Articles/Public Feedback – There were not many articles this past 6 months. There were a couple of letters from the public that have been addressed by Caltrans.

5. Received Update on California Highway Patrol Safe on 17 Program Statistics and Public Information Efforts

Lt. Bishop stated that overall for the year, total collisions were down but there was one fatality. June was the busiest month for collisions and citations; therefore, June will be the focus of enforcement efforts. San Jose CHP continues to provide safety information on Hwy 17 at public affair events.



Officer Jackson discussed the collision and citation statistics for the Santa Cruz County side of Hwy 17. There was one fatality on the Santa Cruz side in March, 2012. Collisions were higher in comparison to 2011 during summer and rainy months. There was a 77% reduction in collisions in the Laurel Curve area after the improvements were put in place (median barrier, HFST and dynamic curve warning sign) from March thru December 2012 as compared to prior years. There have been no reported collisions from u-turns anywhere on Hwy 17 on the Santa Cruz County side.

Ginger Dykaar reviewed how much funding is left for extra enforcement for Hwy 17 for both Santa Cruz CHP and San Jose CHP. There was \$32k for San Jose and \$66k for Santa Cruz at the end of 2012. By now it is likely that San Jose is down to about \$20k and Santa Cruz down to \$53k for remaining quarter, if a similar enforcement schedule to the previous part of the year has been maintained. Santa Cruz can carry over funds into the next fiscal year but San Jose cannot. Officer Darling stated that San Jose is on target to spend the \$50,000 for extra enforcement by the end of the fiscal year.

6. Received Major Incident Review

Sarah Jackson discussed how CHP was in charge of arranging the memorial procession for the 2 Santa Cruz Police Department Officers that were killed in the line of duty. CHP provided information to the community through twitter feeds of the procession. CHP coordinated with RTC to help get information out to the public about the traffic impacts and where to go to get additional information about the procession.

Tegan Speiser discussed how RTC supported the CHP in providing information to the public in preparation for and during the memorial procession through website and Facebook posts, and eNews. RTC can work with partner agencies to provide best information to public such as traffic impacts, alternative modes, alternative routes, and where to get real time information (Caltrans Quickmap, MTC 511, Nixle Alerts, Twitter, Facebook etc...). Methods RTC currently has available in getting information out to the public are Email news, posts on RTC website and Commute Solutions website, RTC Facebook and Twitter.

Lt Wood wondered what we can learn from this event. He suggested that it would be best to get information out 4 to 5 days ahead of time for events when possible. Lt Bishop stated that if information goes out 2 days prior, people are more likely to remember the information. Tegan spoke of the need for a protocol for such events and the need to better understand the role that RTC can play to support partner agencies.

7. Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update

Siobhan reviewed Caltrans projects on Hwy 17. The Guardrail Improvement Project will be re-advertised this summer as the first contractor went bankrupt. The Hwy 17 Summit Slide Repair project will start up again this month as it was suspended over the winter.



Laurel Curve Update – Deb Larson and Mark Ballentine stated that the number of collisions on the SB side of the highway on Laurel Curve has reduced substantially since Spring 2012 when the median barrier, high friction surface treatment (HFST), and dynamic curve warning sign were added. The southbound collisions in the vicinity of Laurel Curve have reduced from approximately 90 plus collisions in prior 3 years to 1 collision this past winter. They showed a video of the HFST installation on Hwy 17 near Laurel Rd. The video showed the application process as well as the methods for measuring the amount of friction on this surface that will be evaluated over time. FHWA tested the HFST at 20 locations nationwide and will be putting out a report that shows the results of their testing. It is unknown when the report will be available.

Guardrail/Drainage Projects – Siobhan Saunders discussed the safety projects on Hwy 17. The Santa's Village Road project has been completed. Vine Hill Wet Weather project has been completed except for fixing lane markings and other minor issues. Hwy 17 Summit Rd slide repair work will start this fall to put in a retaining wall but should not require lane closures. The Guardrail Improvement Project will be re-advertised this fall as the previous contractor went bankrupt.

Hwy 17 Access Management Plan – Brandy Rider was unable to attend the meeting to provide update.

8. Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update

Wet Pavement Project – Ginger Dykaar representing Shawn Enjily stated that all the roadway work for the Wet Pavement Project has been completed. The only remaining work is to line the culverts that are under the roadway for water quality purposes. The work will be performed in June of 2013. There may be minimal lane closures to set up equipment for the lining of the pipes.

9. Received Traffic Operations Systems Updates

TMC Update - Ramin Bolourchian asked if anyone sees any changeable message signs that are malfunctioning to please let him know. He stated that the communication software installation at the TMC has been finalized for the changeable message signs. It has not yet been finalized for all equipment but that this will not affect the transportation system operations in Santa Cruz County.

Communications Update – Nicole Stewart was not able to attend meeting to provide an update.

QuickMap Update - Jacques Van Zeverter from Caltrans District 5 discussed "QuickMap", the Caltrans traffic map page that contains real-time traffic speed data, lane closures, CHP incidents, CCTV images and CMS sign messages. He reported that there are many traffic detectors (primarily on Hwy 1 due to reliable DSL connections) that are reporting to PeMS and



a less expensive provider. QuickMap will be using google maps data and will not incorporate data from Caltrans detectors during this time.

TOS Equipment Update - There are 6 cameras on the Caltrans public web page for viewing traffic in Santa Cruz County including a camera at Laurel Curve. CCTVs cannot be viewed other than real time as data is not being stored. CMSs are operated by D4 since they are there 24/7.

Bear Creek Ramp Meter Update – Marshall Ballard presented results of a study on the Bear Creek on Ramp to Hwy 17 in order to get feedback from the group on operational improvements that could be made to ramp meters. Existing conditions show that the travel time doubles between Scotts Valley and Los Gatos on Hwy 17 from 6 am at 18 minutes to 7:30 am at 35 minutes. Highway capacity for Hwy 17 is likely about 1700 - 1800 passenger cars/hour. Capacity is exceeded during peak period up to a maximum of over 4000 passenger cars/hour. Northbound 17 tourist traffic on Saturday and Sunday evenings can also reach volumes similar to peak period.

10. Received Additional Items

Russ Ellingworth stated that he would like the CMSs during wet weather to state “Wipers On, Headlights On, It’s the Law”. Ramin stated that guidelines define what can be used. CMS use is not intended to remind people of laws that they should already know. CHP says it is a safety issue so other people can see you. Jacques will bring up to Caltrans HQ to see if CMSs can include this message along with others that remind people to drive safely during wet weather conditions. Possibly this message can be part of a new Caltrans campaign.

Jarret Winter expressed his concern to Caltrans about the trees that are growing back after being cleared on the Santa Clara County side of the summit in the Valley Surprise area. Motorists are used to driving faster due to a larger sight distance and now that the trees are growing back and the sight distance is shorter, he is concerned there will be more collisions.

11. Approved Next Meeting Date: Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 11, 2013 10:00 to 12:30 at Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, 1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Respectively submitted by 
Ginger Dykaar