



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, December 15, 2016 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works
Barrow Emerson, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works and Planning Proxy

RTC STAFF PRESENT: Grace Blakeslee, George Dondero, Ginger Dykaar, Rachel Moriconi

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Wiesner called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
3. **Oral Communications:** Steve Wiesner reported that at the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) annual meeting he learned that transportation is a priority for state leaders and counties statewide are struggling to maintain local roads.
4. **Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the September 15, 2016 ITAC meeting** (*Fontes/Buika*). *The motion passed with Buika, Emerson, Fliesler, Fontes, Friedrich, Jesberg, and Wiesner voting yes. Members Schneider and Rasmussen abstained.*

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Santa Cruz – Chris Schneider reported that council approved design schematics for Segment 7 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) and an agreement with RTC regarding trail maintenance and liability. The Highway 1/9 intersection project is at 65% design, with right-of-way to begin in 2017. Claire Fliesler reported that 21 signalized

intersection pedestrian safety upgrades were approved for HSIP funds; and other pedestrian-head upgrades are done.

Regional Transportation Commission (RTC): Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Highway 9 Corridor Plan and awarded a contract for environmental review of the Highway 1/Mar Vista bike/pedestrian crossing.

METRO – Pete Rasmussen and Barrow Emerson reported that new service changes went into effect on December 15, adding in 5 new trips. Ridership has dropped 7%, as compared to the 12-15% service reductions. METRO has had some challenges due to driver shortages, buses breaking down, and Highway 17 buses being full. Mr. Emerson reported that METRO plans to evaluate options for Measure D funds January – March. METRO is also evaluating options for the Pacific Station renovation, given current funding shortfalls. METRO and City of Santa Cruz will also be evaluating commuter benefit/transportation demand management/trip reduction ordinance options for downtown Santa Cruz. METRO is also evaluating bus on shoulders, articulated buses; and working with RTC on several planning efforts; and working on administrative policies for bus stops.

Capitola – Steve Jesberg reported that the city has finished several roadway rehabilitation projects; and widening sidewalks along Park Ave, Kennedy, and Monterey Avenue. The city is also working on signal synchronization on 41st Avenue from Jade St/Brommer to Clares; and a complete streets project on Clares from Wharf Road to 41st Ave.

UCSC – Teresa Buika reported that bus schedules have been modified due to shifting class schedules and growing enrollment. UCSC is also looking at EV charging for Level 1 and Level 2 facilities; and possible new bike share and TDM programs with the City of Santa Cruz.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that the Freedom Boulevard reconstruction project is finishing up; Main Street pedestrian improvements, including wider sidewalks are under development.

County of Santa Cruz – Steve Wiesner reported on El Rancho Road, Highland Way, Granite Creek Road, Glen Haven Drive, and other storm damage and bridge scourer projects. The county is seeking a Caltrans grant to develop a Complete Streets/Active Transportation plan. Noting challenges in securing funds from the state Active Transportation Program (ATP), committee members discussed meeting to identify opportunities to collaborate on and seek modifications to future grant applications. Mr. Wiesner noted that construction continues on the Twin Lakes/East Cliff Dr. beach front project; a contract has been awarded for the Aptos Village project, which includes traffic signals and other multimodal components; and green bike lanes near Paul Sweet Road/Highway 1 on Soquel Drive.

7. Unified Corridor Investment Study - Draft Goals, Performance Measures and Projects for Scenario Analysis

Ginger Dykaar provided an overview of the Unified Corridor Investment Study for three parallel routes between Aptos and Santa Cruz: Highway 1, Soquel Avenue/Drive, and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The project will include scenario analysis of how different groups of projects meet a range of performance measures. Public outreach will include online surveys, stakeholder meetings, and a public workshop on January 12. Grace Blakeslee

solicited input on draft goals, performance measures and projects for the scenario analysis. A consultant is being hired to conduct the technical analysis. Committee members provided comments and suggestions, including suggestions that the study look at quality of life criteria, the range of uses of the rail corridor, Highway 1 San Lorenzo River Bridge and Mission St/Chestnut St intersection improvements, the impact lane reductions have on parallel roadways and throughput, Santa Cruz METRO's priority project list, including automated vehicle location (AVL), the economic impact of proposals, including removal of parking, policy-level projects – such as no parking or left turns during certain hours, new technology and TNCs, and congestion near schools.

8. Draft 2017 RTC Legislative Program

Rachel Moriconi solicited input on the draft 2017 state and federal legislative programs for the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC). Committee members emphasized the need for a fix to the diminishing gas tax and transportation funding overall and the need for better coordination and funding for electrification infrastructure. Barrow Emerson suggested that ITAC member agencies meet in the early fall each year to discuss legislative priorities and develop consistent legislative programs countywide.

9. Measure D – Transportation Improvement Plan (TRIP) Update

Rachel Moriconi reported on the passage of Measure D, highlighted requirements in the Ordinance, and the general timeline for implementing Measure D. Committee members suggested that the 5-Year Program of Projects for recipient agencies (cities, county, and transit) might be developed in the spring, with annual reports on prior year expenditures provided in the fall after the close of each fiscal year. Recipient agencies requested that RTC provide revenue estimates and direction on use of the funds as soon as possible.

10. Regional Transportation Plan - Preliminary Local Revenues Financial Projections

Rachel Moriconi reported that the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and the RTC are developing the Financial Element for the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), which estimates how much revenue will be available to operate, maintain, and improve the multimodal transportation system. She requested that local agencies review and provide updates for local revenue sources.

11. Options for Use of the Rail Corridor – *Item presented and discussed after Item 7*

George Dondero provided information on possible uses of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, including a rail with trail, rail transit, trail-only, and bus rapid transit. Committee members mentioned challenges with bridges, importance of transit options, range of responses to locomotive-driven holiday trains, right-of-way needs for bus rapid transit, Express BRT possibilities to the University from Bay/California and Delaware/Western, the need for mass transit analysis of cost and ridership for BRT. Committee members suggested that the RTC start with a screening process for different options, rather than conducting California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental review of the range of options. In response to questions from the committee, Director Dondero reported that the Unified Corridor Study will inform the evaluation of rail corridor options, that the rail corridor analysis will cover the

entire rail line. The detailed analysis, including CEQA, is expected to take two to three years. Work on sections of the trail now in progress should continue as planned.

- 12.** Next meeting: The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for January 19, 2017 at 1:30pm in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA. *That meeting was subsequently cancelled.*

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

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