



JOINT MEETING OF  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS SYSTEMS (TOS) OVERSIGHT  
COMMITTEE  
AND  
SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, March 15, 2017  
10:00am-12:00pm

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

**Meeting Participants**

Jacques van Zeventer, Caltrans D5  
Ramin Bolourchian, Caltrans D4 TMC  
Domingo Candelas, Representing Senator Jim Beall  
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans D5 Planning  
Earl Sherman, Caltrans D4 Maintenance  
Angela Gile, Representing Assemblymember Mark Stone  
Marshall Ballard, Valley Transit Authority  
Devin Porr, Caltrans D5  
Lt Lance Hedricks, San Jose CHP  
Lt Shaun Crosswhite, San Jose CHP  
Sergeant Grant Boles, Santa Cruz CHP  
Suwanna Kerdkaew, Santa Clara County Fire  
Kieran Kelly, Representing Santa Clara County Supervisor Ken Yeager  
Bernie Walik, D4 Public Information Officer  
Jeff Bates, Redwood Estates Services Association  
Kevin Korth, FHWA CA Division  
Rubin Herrera, Caltrans D4 Maintenance  
Art De La Corda, Caltrans D4  
Stephen Terrin, MTC (teleconference)  
Gary Richards, San Jose Mercury News (teleconference)  
Ginger Dykaar, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

**1. Introductions** – Introductions were made.

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

**3. Oral Communications** –Gary Richards requested information from Caltrans on how a memorial could be erected for Bobby Gill at site where he died while working on emergency work on Highway 17 this winter. Jacques said that it would likely require legislation for a memorial to be erected.



- 4. Minutes of the September 14, 2016 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting were reviewed and accepted** with the condition to add Angela Gile to the list of meeting participants.
- 5. Received Information Items** - Ginger Dykaar discussed Measure D passing in Santa Cruz County election in November 2016. Some of the funds from Measure D will be used for projects on Hwy 17, for example, \$5 million for wildlife crossing under Hwy 17 near Laurel Curve, matching funds for Freeway Service Patrol (FSP), and Cruz511 traveler information. Ginger Dykaar stated that the RTC SAFE approved entering into an agreement with Ladd's Towing for FSP service on Highway 1 and Highway 17 for the next contract period from July 8, 2017 – June 30, 2021. During winter of 2016-2017, the traffic on the RTC traveler information website "Cruz511.org" increased significantly to provide real-time traveler information, including information about traffic conditions, road closures, detour routes, highway maintenance activities, carpool options and more.
- 6. Received Update on California Highway Patrol Safe on 17 Program Statistics and Public Information Efforts** – Lt Lance Hedrick from San Jose CHP stated that there was a fatality in August 2016. The month to month collision data was not available yet because of a change in how CHP and the RTC will be tracking the data in the future. The number of regular citations increased from last year and the over time citations were consistent with previous years. Sergeant Grant Boles from Santa Cruz CHP stated that the total number of collisions on the Santa Cruz County side has increased from previous years as shown in the handout provided at the meeting. Kelly McClendon discussed that motorists have expressed appreciation for efforts from Caltrans and CHP during the many emergencies this past winter.
- 7. Emergency Repair Work on Hwy 17** – Devin Porr from Caltrans presented information on the Highway 17 emergency work on the District 5 (Santa Cruz County) side. The majority of emergency work took place north of Vine Hill Rd at the "Jarvis" slide where mudslides repeatedly occurred over the period of January 9 – February 10. Lanes on Highway 17 were closed on and off through February 21. Downed trees also closed lanes on Hwy 17 in a number of locations. Additional road repair will need to be done over the next few months which may cause some lane closures. Hwy 1, 9, 35, 129 and 152 were all affected by severe weather this winter.  
  
Marshall Ballard discussed the running water on Hwy 17 near Moody Curve. Caltrans plans to improve the drainage to keep water off the road.
- 8. Automated Speed Enforcement (ASE)** – Laura Wells, Deputy Director of Transportation from City of San Jose presented the benefits of automated speed



enforcement to reduce the increase in fatalities that has been occurring in San Jose and elsewhere. Other areas that allow ASE have seen significant improvements in safety. The City of San Jose and San Francisco are working together to pass legislation (AB 342) that would allow automated speed enforcement to be used in these cities as a pilot program. CHP expressed concerns over ASE stating that police enforcement is much more comprehensive and concerned that funds would be diverted from CHP to automated speed enforcement programs.

- 9. Santa Clara County Fire Department's Redwood Station Engages Caltrans – Responder/Public Improvements on Santa Clara County portion of Hwy 17** – Kevin Korth from FHWA discussed how 80% of Santa Clara County Fire Dept work is responding to incidents on Hwy 17. There are a number of projects recommended for the Santa Clara County side to improve safety including edge line rumble strips, intersection and curve illuminations, curve warning signs, route markers, extended guardrail and high friction surface treatments at a few locations.
- 10. Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update** - Devin Porr from CT D5 discussed the Hwy 17 Shoulder Widening and Concrete Guardrail project near Scotts Valley. The project runs from 0.4 miles south of Sugarloaf to 0.1 mile south of Laurel Rd. The project is planned to be completed by Summer 2017. Caltrans has a project to construct storm water mitigation improvements south of Sims Rd that is scheduled to be completed in Spring 2017. Caltrans also plans to grind and repave all of Highway 17 in 2 to 3 years but this may take longer due to all the weather related work this winter.
- 11. Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update** - There are no significant projects for construction in D4. Maintenance will be performing vegetation control, removing downed trees and earthen debris.
- 12. Received Traffic Operations Systems Updates** - Traffic Management Center (TMC) Update - Ramin Bolourchian stated that if anyone sees any problems with the changeable message signs (CMSs), to please contact the TMC. Jacques van Zeventer discussed the work of D5 to keep QuickMaps accurate. He also mentioned that there was a traffic camera not operating near Freedom Blvd.
- 13. Received Additional Items** – Jeff Bates from Redwood Estates asked CHP if the bumper stickers that are provided to mountain residents could provide more benefit when emergencies occur on Highway 17. CHP responded that the emergencies this winter were so challenging, it was hard to assess how they could better help the mountain residents in these situations. Jeff Bates also expressed concern over motorists using the private roads at Redwood Estates as an alternate route to avoid traffic on Hwy 17.



**14. Approved Next Meeting Date** – Next Joint Safe on 17  
Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 13, 2017  
10:00 to 12:00 at Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, 1523  
Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectively submitted by

  
Ginger Dykaar