



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

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, March 23, 2017, 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)  
Piet Canin, Ecology Action Transportation Program  
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)  
Jessica Kahn, Scotts Valley Public Works  
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans District 5 Planning  
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)  
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works  
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works and Planning Proxy

**RTC STAFF PRESENT:** Grace Blakeslee, Ginger Dykaar, Rachel Moriconi, Karena Pushnik

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Norm Hagen, RTC board; Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works (by phone); Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County and RTC board; Ron Nance, resident.

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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:** None.
4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** Item 12: Election of 2017-18 Chair and Vice Chair was moved after Item 6. Item 10: Legislative Updates was moved after Item 7.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

5. **Approved Minutes of the December 15, 2016, 2016 ITAC meeting** (*Fliesler/Schneider*).  
*The motion passed unanimously with Buika, Canin, Emerson, Fliesler, Fontes, Friedrich, Kahn, McClendon, Rasmussen, Schneider, and Wiesner voting yes.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

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

*Caltrans* – Kelly McCleandon reported that Caltrans is finishing up the SR152 Transportation Concept Report, integrating comments received. Most construction projects have been on winter suspension, with Caltrans focused on emergency storm damage projects instead.

*METRO* –Barrow Emerson reported that METRO plans to use Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds to purchase another electric bus. METRO is working on their upcoming budget, with no service re-growth planned in the next few years. He noted ridership dropped significantly recently, due to service changes, weather, and related driver shortages. METRO is working with the City of Santa Cruz and UCSC to lease articulated buses as soon as fall. Pete Rasmussen continues to work to formalize the process for development review with local jurisdictions and is participating on several RTC planning projects. METRO bus stops now have stop identification numbers, which riders can use to access bus schedule information.

*Santa Cruz* – Chris Schneider reported that several projects are under or going to construction, including Fern Street near the Roaring Camp railroad crossing, which will require a several day road closure. Several Measure H funded paving projects will begin in April, including cape seals and overlays. The Branciforte Creek Bike/Pedestrian bridge/connection and Broadway pedestrian crossing between Branciforte and Seabright Avenue will be starting soon. Claire Fliesler reported that the city's Active Transportation Plan was adopted by City Council. She reported that the city is also now requiring EV charging infrastructure with new developments.

*AMBAG*: Erich Friedrich noted that work continues on the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Implementation Plan is nearly complete, including the web-based tool kit.

*Scotts Valley* – Jessica Kahn reported that the Scotts Valley Dr./Mount Hermon Rd./Whispering Pines intersection project will go to bid soon. The Green Hills/Glen Canyon Roads pavement/bicycle improvement project design is starting soon.

*Ecology Action* – Piet Canin reported that EA is working with Scotts Valley on safe routes to schools programs, including a group bicycle ride with 30 children to Vine Hill School in March. EA's ATP-funded safe routes to schools programs are also underway. The 30<sup>th</sup> annual Bike Week is May 5-12.

*Watsonville* – Murray Fontes reported that the Freedom Boulevard reconstruction completion was postponed due to winter storms. Work continues for Main Street pedestrian improvements. The city will be releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Freedom Blvd. plan line project. He appreciated Caltrans work on the SR 152 concept report.

*County of Santa Cruz* – Supervisor Bruce McPherson reported that the County is working to repair storm damage, including on major roads such as Valencia, Glenwood Dr., San Jose-Soquel, and Bear Creek. The County just approved small business loans to help people address storm damage. He is excited about the Highway 9 Corridor Plan. Steve Wiesner reported that work on some projects has been postponed, as the county has been focused on address severe storm damage, including permanent damage at over 190 sites totaling nearly \$100 million. Getting garbage trucks, propane tanks, and emergency services into areas has been a challenge. He noted that the state and federal emergency declarations and associated

funding will help, but that the County is still challenged to cover some costs. Construction continues on the Twin Lakes/East Cliff Dr. beach front project.

*UCSC* – Teresa Buika reported that more EV charging sites will be installed this summer.

**6a. (formerly Item 12): Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

**The committee unanimously approved the nomination (Schneider/Buika) of Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works, as the new chair of the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC). The committee unanimously approved the nomination (Schneider/Fontes) of Claire Fliesler, City of Santa Cruz Planning, as the new vice chair.** The committee appreciated outgoing chair Steve Wiesner's service and leadership. The new term begins after the close of the March ITAC meeting.

**7. User Oriented Transit Planning Project/Cruz511 In Your Neighborhood**

Grace Blakeslee provided an update on the User Oriented Transit Planning/Cruz511 in Your Neighborhood project. This demonstration project includes targeted outreach to residents in two neighborhoods, focused on encouraging solo-drivers to switch transportation modes. The program includes surveying individuals about their travel patterns, providing customized travel resources and assistance, neighborhood events, tracking behavior and attitude changes, and developing a tool kit for how the program could be implemented in other areas.

**7a. (formerly Item 10): Legislative Updates**

Rachel Moriconi provided an update on state and federal legislative activities that could impact transportation projects and programs in Santa Cruz County. Committee members emphasized the need for a fix to the diminishing gas tax and transportation funding and **approved a staff recommendation (Wiesner/Schneider) to work with member agencies and stakeholders to submit input to state legislative leaders and the Governor regarding a proposed state transportation funding package that increase funds for Santa Cruz County local roads, the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and transit.** Steve Wiesner noted that the County has been encouraging residents to send "greeting" cards with pictures of recent storm damage to legislative leaders.

**8. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Constrained Project List and Metropolitan and Regional Transportation Plans (MTP/RTP) Update**

Ginger Dykaar requested that the Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) review and provide final comments on the proposed financially constrained project list for inclusion in the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The RTC-board approved list will undergo review in the program-level Environmental Impact Report. She noted that the list included in the ITAC packet reflects changes previously provided by project sponsors. Steve Wiesner noted the significant gap between revenues available and identified needs. Ms. Dykaar shared lists of projects identified by the public. Attendees did not recommend adding or moving projects between the constrained and unconstrained lists. She also provided information about public workshops on the Metropolitan

Transportation Plan (MTP), including a workshop at the Watsonville Civic Center on April 10 from 6:00-7:30 p.m.

## 9. Measure D Implementation Updates

Rachel Moriconi reported that each agency receiving Measure D revenues is in the process of developing a 5-year program of projects. Agencies reported the following schedule for approval of their 5-year program of projects:

- Watsonville – City council review on March 28; list reflects input received through an online survey.
- Santa Cruz – Draft list reviewed by city Transportation and Public Works Commission; final list being taken to city council in May as part of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) study session. Outreach will be done through city webpage and other online methods.
- Scotts Valley – City council will first see the list in April, with final approval as part of the city budget in late May.
- Capitola – City council reviewing as part of their CIP in April and May, including review by the Planning Commission.
- METRO – Board will consider Measure D expenditures through its annual budget, scheduled for adoption at the end of June. METRO plans to use the first 5-years of Measure D to sustain operations that would have otherwise been cut. First review was at the March 24 meeting.
- County – Public Works submitted a plan to the board last fall, which included paving and complete streets upgrades to many roadways; however given recent storm damage, the county will consider using the first five years of revenues to restore roadways and match emergency repair grants. Attendees confirmed the major impact storm damage had on local roads and travel times, and appreciated roadway information on Cruz511.org.
- RTC – Highway, rail, and trail 5-year plans will be reviewed by advisory committees in April and May, with RTC board approval in June.

Rachel Moriconi highlighted sections of the Measure D Master Agreement and Guidelines for direct recipients and solicited input on maintenance of effort (MOE), performance measures, and timely use of funds sections. ITAC members discussed options for determining baseline maintenance of effort figures, noting that state gas tax, local and grant revenues can vary from year to year. Suggestions included: focusing on regular local discretionary revenues, such as the general fund and recurring local tax revenues; looking at average past revenues and expenditures; tracking how gas tax and other revenues have been spent, to ensure ongoing commitment to operations and maintenance. Maintaining expenditures for ongoing operations and special capital programs could occur if past expenditures included carryover revenues. Given unique situations for each agency, committee members suggested each agency report baseline numbers, showing revenue and expenditure figures from the past three years and explaining if special circumstances warrant baseline MOE variances from the three year average.

Committee members discussed timely-use-of funds options, including suggestions that agencies be required to expend a minimum amount of Measure revenues each year or be limited as to how long revenues can be carried forward. ITAC members discussed the range of issues where it may be most cost-effective to concentrate measure funds on a few large

projects or to leverage other funds, situations that may delay use of funds on a major project, and small projects where funds could be spent each year, such as complete streets components, green lanes and restriping for bicycle lanes. Committee members generally agreed that agencies could ensure that Measure revenues are spent cost effectively without being required to spend a minimum amount of Measure revenues each year, but agreed to limit banking funds to a maximum of 5 years for a large project, unless an exception is approved by the RTC.

RTC will develop a Measure D logo and work with recipient agencies and Caltrans to develop sign specifications in the coming months. Chris Schneiter noted that Santa Cruz produced magnetic signs that contractors place on their trucks during construction of measure projects.

Agencies noted that the agreement will require review by legal counsels and indicated that the final agreement is not needed until they begin work that will be funded by Measure D. The signed agreements will go into effect on July 1, 2017.

**10. Legislative Updates** – *Item presented and discussed after Item 7*

**11. Active Transportation Program (ATP) Update**

Rachel Moriconi reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans have begun identifying possible changes to the state's Active Transportation Program (ATP) guidelines and application, with new guidelines anticipated in early 2018 and applications for the next grant cycle due in Spring 2018. A local group of past and future ATP applicants, led by Claire Fliesler is being formed to strategize, coordinate, and provide input on the state Active Transportation Program (ATP) guidelines and applications. The first meeting will be held immediately following the April 20, 2017 ITAC meeting.

**12. Chair and Vice Chair Elections** – *Item presented and discussed after Item 6*

**13. Next meeting:** The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for April 20, 2017 at 1:30pm in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.**

*Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner*