



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

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, April 20, 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)  
Mark Dettle, 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)  
Jessica Kahn, Scotts Valley Public Works  
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans District 5 Planning

RTC Staff Present: Rachel Moriconi

Others Present: Maura Twomey, AMBAG

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1. **Call to Order:** Chair Fontes called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
3. **Oral Communications:** Murray Fontes appreciated all of the work that Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) members do to serve the community and improve transportation in Santa Cruz County, sharing a short story about recent storm damage which has especially impacted the County of Santa Cruz and the workload of former ITAC Chair Steve Wiesner.
4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

5. **Approved Minutes of the March 23, 2017 ITAC meeting** (*Fliesler/McClendon*). *The motion passed unanimously with Buika, Emerson, Fliesler, Fontes, Friedrich, Kahn, and McClendon voting yes. Dettle abstained.*

**REGULAR AGENDA**

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

*UCSC* – Teresa Buika reported that UCSC is interested in working with local jurisdictions to coordinate expansion of carshare programs. Links to current Zipcar carshare programs is on

the [Cruz511.org](http://Cruz511.org) website.

*METRO* –Barrow Emerson reported that METRO continues to work with the City of Santa Cruz and UCSC to lease articulated buses to serve UCSC. METRO is also working with the City of Santa Cruz on developing a Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program for downtown.

*Santa Cruz* – Mark Dettle reported that the city is finishing up Measure H bond-funded paving projects this spring and summer. Many paving projects include striping for bicycle and pedestrian facilities. The Branciforte Creek bike/pedestrian bridge/connection started construction, with a portion of the San Lorenzo River path closed until July. Claire Fliesler reported that the city council will consider a contract with Social Bicycles to set up bike share stations for 250 bicycles. The city is also seeking an Urban Greening grant for the Swanton Boulevard multi-use path connecting Natural Bridges State Park and the Mission Street Extension-Wilder Ranch trail. The city is continues work with METRO on the downtown TDM and Pacific Station projects.

*Caltrans* – Kelly McClendon reported that the Highway [129 curve realignment project](#) is underway, with a full road closure expected April 30 to May 5, with construction scheduled to be complete in June. Fish and Wildlife and Caltrans are expected to sign an agreement for advance mitigation credits, as part of the Highway 17 wildlife crossing project. Caltrans will be announcing planning grants very soon [*the City of Watsonville Complete Streets Plan was subsequently approved for funding*]. He noted that SB1 includes additional funding for planning. Murray Fontes requested that information be shared as guidelines are developed for this and other SB1 funding programs. Mr. McClendon also reported that the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5339 Bus and Bus Facilities program call for projects will be released soon. Several [construction projects](#) are restarting countywide after winter suspension.

*Maura Twomey arrived.*

*SCCRTC:* Rachel Moriconi reported that the “Cruz511 in Your Neighborhood” individualized transportation information public outreach effort is starting, including community events in the cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville. In April, the RTC approved the financially constrained 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project list, as recommended by project sponsors. The RTC also approved a staff recommendation to conduct environmental review of the North Coast rail trail segment of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) in order to provide the information necessary for the RTC to select a preferred alignment. A community meeting on the Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Corridor plan is scheduled for May 31.

*AMBAG:* Erich Friedrich reported that AMBAG is seeking consultants for a Central Coast supra-region activity-based model and is seeking funding to prepare a regional transportation performance measure plan. AMBAG is working on updating financial estimates for the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)/Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) based on new Senate Bill 1 funding estimates. AMBAG is also releasing its rural transit study which identifies strategies for rural areas.

*Scotts Valley* – Jessica Kahn reported that the city council approved the final design for the

Scotts Valley Dr./Mount Hermon Rd./Whispering Pines intersection project, incorporating many comments submitted by the RTC's Bicycle Committee. The project is expected to go to construction this summer. The city is also preparing a new pavement management plan.

*Watsonville* – Murray Fontes reported that the city is starting the Freedom Blvd. plan line project. The city is also requesting State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) allocations for funds previously programmed for Airport Boulevard from Freedom Blvd to the city limits and sidewalk infill on Main Street and Harkins Slough Road.

## 7. Recommended RTC Approval of Measure D: Five-year plans for regional projects

Rachel Moriconi presented the five-year program of projects for each of the Measure D regional investment categories.

**The committee approved a motion (Fliesler/Buika) recommending that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the staff recommended 5-year program of projects for the Highway Corridors, Active Transportation and Rail Corridor investment categories and for the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Highway 9 Corridor and Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing.** *The motion passed unanimously with Buika, Dettle, Emerson, Fliesler, Fontes, Friedrich, Kahn, and McClendon voting yes.*

## 8. Received agency updates on Senate Bill 1 and Measure D formula allocations

Rachel Moriconi presented information on Senate Bill 1 and Measure D allocations which will be distributed by formula to cities, the County of Santa Cruz and Santa Cruz METRO and requested that agencies provide updates on how they plan to use these new local and state revenues. She noted that recent California Department of Finance estimates for cities and counties are lower than previous Caltrans estimates that were included in the staff report. She also provided updated guidance on meeting the Measure D maintenance of effort requirement, based on input received at the March 2017 ITAC meeting. She noted that once maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements for SB 1 are established, there will hopefully be opportunities to coordinate MOE reports required by the state with those submitted for Measure D.

Agencies reported the following updates:

- Watsonville – City council approved its Measure D 5-year program of projects on March 28 and has identified some reconstruction projects to fund with SB1 revenues.
- UCSC – Teresa Buika suggested that some of the increased State Transit Assistance (STA) funds be used to increase bus service to UCSC.
- METRO –At least some SB 1 funds are expected to be used for replacement buses. Measure D expenditures, proposed to be used for operations in the first five years, will be considered as part of METRO's annual budget. METRO is also hiring drivers needed to maintain existing service.
- Santa Cruz – City council will consider the Measure D 5-year program of projects at its May 9 meeting. The list includes a combination of paving, bicycle, pedestrian and trail projects. In future years, some Measure D revenues will be used to serve as a local match to leverage other grants. SB 1 funds will help address ongoing operations and maintenance, including storm water, street lighting, and pavement repairs.
- Scotts Valley – City council is expected to approve Measure D and SB1 uses as part of

the city budget, following a public hearing on June 7.

- County – RTC staff noted that the County is soliciting public input through an online survey and plans to approve projects to receive Measure D funds through its June budget process.
- Caltrans: SB 1 includes a significant increase in funds for the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP).
- Regional – RTC and AMBAG staff do not anticipate significant new regional funding opportunities from SB 1. Any new State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds will be incorporated into the RTC's 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) development process. However, the amount of projected new STIP funds for Santa Cruz County over ten years is less than the amount that was deleted by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) in 2016.

## **9. Received State and Federal freight program updates**

Kelly McClendon presented information on freight in Santa Cruz County and the central coast, including information on major freight corridors, maps of freight-dependent industries, trucking hubs, and commercial flows, noting that the region exports more goods than are imported. He highlighted key freight routes in Santa Cruz County, especially Highway 1, Highway 129, and Highway 17. He noted that freight stakeholders have identified improving speeds on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, safety on Highway 129 and Highway 17, and congestion on Highway 1 as significant issues. He also provided an overview of the California Freight Mobility Plan, which includes a project list that Caltrans will be updating.

Maura Twomey presented information on the California Freight Investment Program (CFIP), which will be used to distribute formula freight funds from the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act's National Highway Freight Program. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is finishing draft guidelines for the program and will be soliciting applications for \$582 million in funds soon. Based on comments from regional agencies, \$7-10 million is targeted for the Central Coast. Projects will need to be ready to start construction by 2020. This and other state and national freight programs will be very competitive, especially since most guidelines look at annualized numbers, whereas peak season freight volumes are more significant in the Monterey Bay Area. A first step is identifying projects that are on Critical Urban and Critical Rural freight corridors.

- 10. Next meeting:** The ITAC agreed to hold the meeting on May 25, 2017 at 1:30pm in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA. This is one week later than the typical meeting date.

**The meeting adjourned at 3:12 p.m.**

*Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner*