



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, May 25, 2017, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Bailey, County Public Works
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Scott Hamby, Scotts Valley Public Works
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Josh Spangrud, Santa Cruz Public Works

RTC Staff Present: Ginger Dykaar, Rachel Moriconi, Kim Shultz

Others Present:

Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5 Planning – via telephone
Ilan Zun, Chamber of Commerce;
Luis Duazo, Caltrans District 5
Peter New, Caltrans District 5

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1. **Call to Order:** Chair Fontes called the meeting to order.
 2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made. The Committee welcomed Tom Bailey as a new ITAC member representing County of Santa Cruz Public Works.
 3. **Oral Communications:** None.
 4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** It was noted that pages 22-24 were inadvertently included in the packet and should be ignored. Item 10 was moved after Item 7.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the April 20, 2017 ITAC meeting** (*Fliesler/Fontes*). *The motion passed unanimously with Bailey, Fliesler, Fontes, Hamby and Spangrud voting yes. Rasmussen abstained.*

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported that the 30th Annual Bike Week was very successful with over 10,000 participants in 8 days of activities and events. Safe routes to schools safety education programs continue, with work that was funded by the Cycle 1 Active Transportation Program finishing up.

Scotts Valley: Scott Hamby reported that City Council is scheduled to consider its 5-year plan for Measure D revenues on June 21. Bean Creek Road and Glenwood Drive, which sustained significant damage, are high priorities. FEMA has given approval to start work on Glenwood Dr. repairs. The city is also updating its pavement management system (PMS), which will help prioritize specific pavement projects for Measure D and other funds in the future. The city is soliciting bids for the Scotts Valley Dr./Mt. Hermon Rd./Whispering Pines intersection project.

METRO: Pete Rasmussen reported that the Measure D 5-year plan is part of METRO's budget. METRO is recruiting and training bus operators and partnering with RTC and other agencies on implementing several planning projects.

County of Santa Cruz: Tim Bailey reported that the County Board of Supervisors will consider its Measure D 5-year plan on June 27. He noted that over 230 sites were damaged during the winter storms. The County is seeking funding from FEMA and FHWA to help cover the cost of repairs. Temporary bridges are planned on Valencia Road and Soquel-San Jose Road. Construction on Glenwood, Highland, and Eureka Canyon is all underway. Construction on Casserly Road is expected to start next month.

Santa Cruz: Josh Spangrud reported that City Council is scheduled to approve its 5-year plan for Measure D revenues on June 13. \$5 million in roadway preservation contracts have been completed thus far this year, with an additional \$5 million in work to go out to bid soon. The city is including complete streets components in many pavement projects. The Branciforte Creek bicycle/pedestrian bridge is under construction. Right-of-way work continues on the Highway 1/9 Intersection project.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the city recently received the "Bike Friendly Community" Bronze Award from the League of American Bicyclists. The city also received a planning grant from Caltrans to develop a City of Watsonville Complete Streets Plan. He appreciated the assistance of RTC staff in preparing the application. He noted work continues on the Main Street Improvement Project, including improved pedestrian facilities and trees. The City Council approved its Measure D 5-year plan in March and will consider the Measure D Master Agreement in June. He noted that an Open Streets event was held earlier this month.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC approved the Master Agreement for Measure D formulas funds which are designated for cities, the County, Santa Cruz METRO, and Community Bridges. Cruz511 in Your Neighborhood events were held in central Watsonville and the eastside of Santa Cruz in May. The program provides customized travel information to residents in these neighborhoods. As part of the Visualizing Sustainable Transportation planning project, focus groups have been held in several areas of the county soliciting information which is being used to develop graphics showing what sustainable transportation infrastructure scenarios might look like at several locations. A community meeting is being held on May 31 in Felton for the Highway 9 Complete Streets Corridor Plan.

7. Highway 1/17 Interchange Aesthetic Treatments

Peter New, Caltrans District 5 Landscape Architect, and Luis Duazo, Caltrans Project Manager, solicited input from ITAC members on possible retaining wall aesthetic treatments for Caltrans projects on Highway 17 near Pasatiempo and the design of bridge rails replacements along the Highway 1/17 interchange. Mr. New highlighted that options are usually context-based. Kim Shultz noted that the style of retaining walls selected for the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project was based on community input. **ITAC discussed various design options, considering ongoing maintenance, contractor skill, urban versus rural character and continuity with other facilities in the area.** Caltrans suggested that for future projects along Highway 1 it would be helpful to have a long range aesthetics plan for corridor bridges, walls, and other features. This typically takes place during the design phase of project implementation.

Piet Canin left the meeting.

10. 3-Year State Highway Project Initiation Document Priorities

Rachel Moriconi reported that Caltrans is developing its 3-year work plan for Project Initiation Documents (PID) that are required in advance of seeking and securing funds for state highway projects. A PID identifies preliminary scope, schedule and cost information and is required for State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects. Staff recommended that ITAC members identify highway projects that they intend to pursue in the next few years and to confirm if previously identified projects remain near-term priorities. She noted that Highway 1 projects which are being evaluated as part of the Highway 1 Corridor-Tier 1 environmental document do not require a new PID and that the Highway 1 San Lorenzo River Bridge Widening project has a completed PID.

Meeting attendees provided input on priority highway projects that may need a PID in the near future. City of Santa Cruz staff confirmed that intersection improvements on Mission Street at Bay Street and Chestnut/King Street are priorities for the city and University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC). Watsonville's Highway 152/Main Street/Freedom Boulevard roundabout proposal is on hold. Implementation of complete streets designs on Highway 152/Main Street from Rodriguez St. to Lake Ave. is a high priority for Watsonville. Scotts Valley staff suggested that the project initiation document for the SR 17 at Mt. Hermon Road southbound off-ramp interchange begin in FY19/20. Adding a bicycle/pedestrian bridge at the north end of Scotts Valley near Vine Hill Road was identified in the Highway 17 Access Management Plan.

8. Provided input on Unified Corridor Study Scenarios

Ginger Dykaar provided an update on the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) for three parallel routes: Highway 1, Soquel Ave/Drive and Freedom Blvd., and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. She noted that a scenario analysis will be performed to identify a package of transportation projects that will provide the greatest benefit, advancing sustainability goals. Staff requested that the ITAC provide input on the draft list of scenarios to be evaluated in the study.

Members requested clarification and provided input on specific projects and groupings. Members suggested access to highway onramps and the impact of ramp metering on local streets be considered. Staff requested that committee members provide any additional comments by May 30. The RTC is scheduled to finalize scenarios to be evaluated by the consultant team at its June 15 meeting.

9. Received Updates on State Funding Programs – Senate Bill 1 (SB1) Implementation

Rachel Moriconi provided updates on the state's implementation plans for the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017 (SB1). She noted that since SB1 provides considerably more stability to the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) than the price-based excise tax has in recent years, staff is optimistic that the region will be able to access at least some of its over \$9 million unprogrammed balance, which includes funds deleted in the 2016 STIP. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will consider programming additional funds made available to the Active Transportation Program (ATP) to previously approved projects that can be advanced into FY17/18 and FY18/19 and to projects that previously applied for ATP funds, but were not funded. She noted that the CTC will be working with the League of Cities and California State Association of Counties (CSAC) to develop guidelines for funds to cities and counties.

- 11. Next meeting:** The next ITAC meeting scheduled for June 15, 2017 was subsequently canceled.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner