



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

FINAL MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2018, 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)
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Paul Hierling, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Jessica Kahn, Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

RTC Staff Present: Cory Caletti, Ginger Dykaar, Rachel Moriconi, Anais Schenk

Others:

Brett Garrett, public
Joe Jordan, Ecology Action
Ian Crueldad, Government Affairs Director, Santa Cruz County Realtors Association
Jennifer Calate and Kelly McClendon, Caltrans Planning (*by phone*)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Fontes called the meeting to order.
2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
3. **Oral Communications:** The chair requested that comments during the meeting be kept to 2 minutes or less.

Cory Caletti announced that Chris Schneider has been chosen as the Person of the Year by the American Public Works Association Monterey Bay Chapter, noting he has worked in public works for nearly 40 years.

Rachel Moriconi reminded public works departments to submit information on the condition of existing infrastructure for the 2018 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment. Information can be submitted online at www.savecaliforniastreet.org

4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Fliesler/Buika) approving the consent agenda, with Wiesner, Schneider, Kahn, Fontes, Fliesler, Hierling, and Buika voting "yes".

5. **Approved Minutes of the November 16, 2017 ITAC meeting.**
6. **Received 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Program of Projects list approved by RTC 12/7/17**

REGULAR AGENDA

7. **Status of ongoing transportation projects, program, studies and planning documents**

Scotts Valley: Jessica Kahn reported that Mt. Hermon Rd./Scotts Valley Dr./Whispering Pines intersection construction will start in mid-February. The city is also preparing to bid the Glen Canyon Rd/Green Hills Rd bike corridor and roadway preservation project, with construction in the spring.

UCSC: Teresa Buika reported that UCSC and METRO have been testing leased articulated buses which increase capacity by 30%. Student feedback has been positive.

RTC: Ginger Dykaar reported that the Unified Corridor Study is ongoing and she requested that agencies share any input they receive about the study. Anais Schenk reported that she has been working with local agencies to complete the Santa Cruz County Bicycle Signage implementation plan, with construction expected to begin later this year. She also noted that phase 1 of the Visualization project wrapped up and that RTC is partnering on Watsonville's complete streets plan for phase 2. Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC is considering proposals for a new operator on the rail line. Cory Caletti reported that the North Coast Rail Trail Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is expected to be available this spring.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Wiesner reported that construction continues on the Twin Lakes beach project, with the project expected to be completed in April or May. Several storm damage repair projects are nearly completed, including Valencia Road, Trout Gulch Road, and Soquel Drive near Aptos Creek Drive in Aptos. Over 30 storm damage repair projects have been completed over the past year. The Trout Gulch Road/Soquel Drive/railroad crossing work is almost complete. The new Aptos Creek Road/Soquel Drive signal is expected to begin construction this spring. The County will also be constructing 6.5 miles of Measure D-funded roadway resurfacing this spring. The bridge on Redwood Road near Brown Valley Road in Corralitos is going to be replaced. The Planning Department has been working with the community to develop future complete street plan lines for Portola Drive.

Santa Cruz: Chris Schneider reported that the Upper Park Road project near DeLaveaga Park is out to bid. Several pavement projects, as well as more protected bicycle lanes projects, are underway. Segment 7 of the Rail Trail will also be going to bid. Claire Fliesler reported that the new Bike Share program, which is part of the city's "Go Santa Cruz" transportation demand management program, is expected to launch in May 2018 and will include an all-electric fleet.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that construction will begin on Airport Boulevard this spring, the city is partnering with Ecology Action and the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) on a “complete streets to school” plan, and the city will be developing a Vision Zero action plan to reduce fatalities.

Santa Cruz Metro: Pete Rasmussen reported on articulated buses to UCSC. Metro and UCSC will also be hosting the American Public Transportation Association University conference in June 2018.

8. Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Ginger Dykaar presented the draft 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and requested that agencies provide any input or updates for the final document by February 5, 2018. The RTP identifies goals, policies and targets that guide transportation funding decision (Policy Element); estimates the amount of funding that will be available over the next 22 years (the Financial Element) and identifies planned transportation projects through 2040 (the Action Element). This is considered a “minor” update to the plan, which is updated every four years. Committee members indicated that updated cost estimates are available for some projects and that the project lists are sometimes used as a guide when considering impacts of new development.

9. Draft 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and Draft Environmental Impact Report

Paul Hierling from the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) presented an overview of the 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), which incorporates projects and funding information from the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and plans for Monterey and San Benito counties. He encouraged participation in the January 30 workshop and public hearing at Simpkins Swim Center. The MTP and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are available online at www.ambag.org. Any official comments should be submitted in writing.

10. Draft Regional Disadvantaged Communities (DAC) definition

Rachel Moriconi reported that some state funding is restricted to or targeted to areas that are considered “disadvantaged communities.” While some programs restrict grant funds to state-defined disadvantaged communities, some programs allow a regional definition to be used. Staff reviewed the regional definition included in the draft 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), as well as maps of areas meeting the proposed regional and state definitions. The proposed regional definition is census tract areas where: 1. Greater than 65% of the total population is non-white; 2. Greater than 65% of households are low-income; or 3. Greater than 20% of households have incomes that are at or below the poverty-level. In response to questions, staff confirmed that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will accept the regional definition adopted in the 2040 RTP or MTP for the Cycle 4 Active Transportation Program (ATP) grants. **The committee unanimously approved a motion (Fliesler/Buika) supporting the regional definition.**

11. Transportation Performance Management and Target Setting

Paul Hierling, AMBAG, reported that transportation performance measures and targets are

required by the federal transportation acts (MAP-21 and FAST). Metropolitan Planning Organizations (AMBAG) can adopt measures developed by Caltrans or may adopt their own framework. AMBAG staff has participated in development of the Caltrans safety measures and thinks they are reasonable. Rachel Moriconi noted that these measures and targets will likely influence which projects receive federal grants, including the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP). Murray Fontes noted that federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) is performance based and requires agencies to demonstrate that projects will improve safety. Measures for bridges, pavement, and travel time reliability will be available this spring. In the future AMBAG will prepare information that shows what progress the region has made towards meeting adopted targets. Most of the safety data is from statewide databases.

12. Draft Legislative Program

Rachel Moriconi provided the RTC's draft 2018 State and Federal Legislative Programs. **The ITAC unanimously approved a motion (Fliesler/Kahn) supporting the draft legislative program.**

13. Caltrans Updates

Jennifer Calate and Kelly McClendon reported that Highway 35 storm damage repairs have been completed and the road has been reopened. The call for planning grant applications has been released, soliciting adaptation planning, strategic partnership, and sustainable communities planning projects. Committee members were encouraged to attend the January 31 workshop. Several agencies reported that they are considering submitting applications which may include: an adaptation plan for West Cliff Drive in Santa Cruz, transportation performance measures for the region (AMBAG), evaluation of first/last mile and microtransit options for San Lorenzo Valley, an active transportation plan for Scotts Valley, and Cruz511 outreach to Spanish-speaking households. Caltrans staff encouraged agencies to work with District 5 staff on their applications.

Brett Garrett announced that the Santa Cruz PRT group is interested in partnering with a public agency on developing a Personal Rapid Transit plan (PRT).

14. State Funding Opportunities and Updates

Staff provided updates on the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and Local Partnership Program (LPP). Agencies interested in applying to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for competitive LPP funds agreed to meet to discuss possible projects. Murray Fontes reported that the City of Watsonville has received a grant from the Coastal Conservancy for environmental review and design of a trail over the slough from Lee Road at the railroad tracks to Harkins Slough Road.

- 15. Next meeting:** The next ITAC meeting scheduled for February 15 was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for March 15, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 3:22 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner