



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

MINUTES

Thursday, May 17, 2018, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Paul Hierling, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans
Kailash Mozumder, City of Capitola Public Works
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

RTC Staff Present: Cory Caletti, Sarah Christensen, George Dondero, Anais Schenk

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Fontes called the meeting to order.
2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
3. **Oral Communications:** Anais Schenk reminded members that an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant workshop will be held at the RTC office on May 24. Cory Caletti announced that Anais Schenk is now staffing the RTC's Bicycle Committee. Anais reported that the RTC is recruiting members for the Bicycle Committee, especially from South County.
4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Schneider/Canin) approving the consent agenda, with all members present voting "yes".

5. **Approved Minutes of the March 15, 2018 ITAC meeting.**

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported that Ecology Action completed the 31st annual Spring Bike Week with seven bike activities including bike to work and school day. The month kicked

off with an online Bike Month Challenge with eight local employers. Work began on the recently awarded Caltrans Planning grant for a Scotts Valley Active Transportation Plan. Ecology Action hired Amelia Conlen to lead three Caltrans Planning grants for the production of active transportation plans for the County of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Scotts Valley, Marina and Seaside. Ecology Action and Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) are available to partner with agencies on ATP grant applications. Ecology Action did an electric vehicle and e-bike event with the City of Santa Cruz in May.

RTC: Anais Schenk reported that the RTC may apply for funds for a program that would support employers in providing commute benefits and assistance to employees. Sarah Christensen reported that there are eight storm damage repair projects on the rail corridor, construction for the raiiling repair over Highway 1 is planned for this summer, and grade crossing replacement at the Laurel/Chestnut intersected is expected in late summer. Structure inspections and load ratings on the entire branch line are planned. Cory Caletti reported that the RTC expects to release the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the North Coast section of the Rail Trail this summer. FHWA is the lead for NEPA and design of the project.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Wiesner reported that the County continues to address storm damage and is using SB1 gas tax funds to repair roadways and leverage federal and state funds from FEMA. The County is working with California State Association of Counties (CSAC) and the County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) to educate about the importance of SB1. He shared a map of County SB1-funded projects. Agencies are working to create a countywide SB1 map. The County's Measure D-SB1 funded roadway repairs projects are expected to begin construction in June. He noted that if SB1 is repealed it will set back the County by a decade. Full depth recycle project on Granite Creek Road and some of Branciforte is expected to begin construction in July. Storm damage repairs have been completed on Soquel Drive and Valencia Road in Aptos. The County's signalized intersection project at Trout Gulch/Soquel Drive is almost completed, with minor signal adjustments ongoing. Three storm damage projects are under construction on Bear Creek Road. Several new sink holes have recently been discovered, with more anticipated due to storms and aging infrastructure. Currently these repairs are unfunded. 10 bridge replacement projects are under design, with construction on the Redwood Road Bridge off Browns Valley in Corralitos expected to begin this summer. HSIP-funded guardrail and striping projects are also going to construction this summer. The County also plans to partner with Ecology Action to seek a grant for a countywide Active Transportation Plan that includes mapping existing bicycle and pedestrian facilities and prioritizing future projects. New public works director, Matt Machado, will begin in June. Also plan to seek an AB2766 grant for an adaptive signal system.

Capitola: Kailash Mozumder the new Public Works Project Manager for the City of Capitola provided updates on several projects. Working on a small section of the Rail Trail crossing Monterey Avenue, geotech studies expected later this year. Slurry seal project going out to bid this summer on several local roads. The city plans to use SB1 funds to repave roadways. Engineering work is underway for sidewalks on 38th Avenue, with construction expected Fall 2018. Engineering contract awarded for the Park Avenue Storm Damage Repair, with construction expected Spring 2019. Park Avenue Sidewalks – Engineering underway, construction expected Spring 2019. The city plans to submit an AB2766 grant application for an adaptive signal system on 41st Ave.

Santa Cruz: Chris Schneider reported that the Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funded Bay/King Left-Turns and Streetlights project and the Bay Street Sidewalk project between Escalona and King St are going out to bid. The city will also be repaving Cedar St. downtown, in combination with CDBG-funded sidewalks and ramps. It includes pulling up some of the concrete. The San Lorenzo River (SLR) Trestle Walkway Widening (part of Trail Segment 8) Initial Study/Mitigation Negative Declaration (IS/MND) 30 day review period starts May 18. The design is 90% complete. Phase 1 of the Segment 7 Rail Trail project (Natural Bridges to California Ave) will be out to bid in June, with construction expected to begin late summer. The Phase 2 Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) is expected to be released for review once federal agencies complete their review. Upper Park Road storm damage repair construction will begin at the end of May. Several other storm damage repair projects are also going out to bid. Claire Fliesler reported that the new bike share program has launched in Santa Cruz, with a ribbon cutting event on May 22. The city has begun work on its Caltrans' funded adaptation plan. City of Santa Cruz plans to apply for Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds for three projects: construction of Segments 8/9 of the Rail Trail, Westside Safe Routes to School (SRTS) and Gap Closure project, and Market Street Bike/Ped improvements to fill in gaps. The City may be applying to HSIP for pedestrian crossing or auto-safety projects, and may seek an AB2766 grant for a replacement downtown trolley. Chris Schneider is getting honored by City Council for his APWA person-of-the-year award.

AMBAG: Paul Hierling updated the group that the AMBAG Board is scheduled to approve the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and associated Environmental Impact Report (EIR) at its June 13 meeting. AMBAG will be going to Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Central Coast Highway 1 Climate Resiliency Study near Moss Landing. He reported that TAMC received a Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant for Gilroy to Salinas rail service, with the service expected to be active in 2020 if there are no unexpected delays.

Caltrans: Kelly McCleandon made announcements about the federal BUILD program (formerly TIGER), including upcoming webinars, with applications due July 19; ATP Cycle 4 call for projects was released, with Caltrans workshops at the RTC offices and in Monterey on May 24 and a headquarters webinar on May 21. He urged agencies to work with Caltrans staff early if any projects are proposed on the state highway system. He said that Caltrans is looking at incorporating bicycle and pedestrian projects along Highway 9 into SHOPP projects. Caltrans is soliciting members to participate in the statewide bicycle and walk technical advisory committee. District 5 is going to prepare district-wide bicycle and pedestrian plan. U.S. Bike Route designation along the coast is also being evaluated, with Caltrans to coordinate with local agencies. He also reported that Caltrans is updating its 3-year workplan for Project Initiation Documents (PID) for projects that local agencies plan to implement on the state highway system. The California Transportation Plan 2050 planning effort has kicked off and is in the early stages of development. The California Freight Mobility Plan is also being updated, which will include prioritization of infrastructure improvements.

Watsonville: Due to time constraints, Watsonville staff did not provide updates at the meeting. *Murray Fontes subsequently provided the following updates after the meeting - Construction is underway on Airport Blvd from Freedom to City limits. At its May 17, 2018 meeting, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds for construction phases of Airport Blvd Westgate/Larkin Valley to Hanger and Green Valley Rd from*

Struve Slough to Freedom Blvd projects, as well as allocating Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds for Lincoln St. Safety Improvements design and non-infrastructure work. A kickoff meeting is being held on May 29 for the Caltrans Planning Grant - Complete Streets to Schools plan. Public outreach being done for the Caltrans Planning Grant-funded Downtown Complete Streets Plan. The Lee Rd Trail project from the Rail Trail to Harkins Slough Rd as awarded a Coastal Conservancy grant for design and environmental review. Rail Trail Lee Rd & Walker St – Completed survey, geotech, and environmental studies, with construction delayed 16 months.

7. Measure D: Five-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects

Sarah Christensen presented the draft 5-Year programs of projects for the Highway Corridors, Rail Corridor, San Lorenzo Valley-Highway 9 Corridor, and Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing. Cory Caletti presented the plan for Measure D funds allocated to the Active Transportation/Rail-Trail category. Chris Schneiter requested additional funds for maintenance due to monitoring and vegetation management required. The city is also considering requesting Measure D funds for other highway projects. The committee also discussed bonding options for local projects. Steve Wiesner appreciated RTC staff for reaching out for input on the 5-year plans.

8. State Funding Updates

Sarah Christensen reported that the RTC has decided to be the implementing agency for the design phase of the Highway 1 41st Avenue/Soquel Auxiliary Lanes project. The RTC evaluated a range of implementation options, with the goal of expediting project delivery and increase the ability to leverage Measure D funds to compete for other grants.

9. Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Preventative Maintenance Program

Sarah Christensen reported on the RTC's preventative maintenance program. She noted that while the RTC conducts regular inspections, the RTC also urges the community and local jurisdictions to report areas in need of maintenance via the RTC's main phone line and info@sccrtc.org email. She also reported that any entity or individual that has access needs on the rail line, that a right-of-entry agreement is needed each time. She also reported that encroachment/utility agreements can take several months to process and are needed for any work going in or across the corridor. Sarah is also the point person for utility crossing agreements and encroachment requests. George Dondero emphasized that RTC staff wants to work with agencies to address needs as quickly as possible and welcomed suggestions on the process. Sarah also introduced RTC staff Tommy Travers who is working on rail corridor.

10. Santa Cruz County Bicycle Signage Project

Anais Schenk reported that design work, based on input from local agencies, has been completed. Installation of the signs is expected to begin later this year.

11. SB743 Transportation Impact Analysis Implementation Updates

Claire Fliesler reported that a working group has been formed to discuss local implementation options for SB743. Local agencies are reviewing SB743 requirements and VMT-standards implemented in other areas. The group will consider if region-wide or city-by-city standards are more appropriate. She urged agencies to actively participate. George Dondero reported

that agencies statewide are requesting pragmatism from the California Air Resources Board on implementation of SB743.

- 12. Next meeting:** The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for June 21, 2018. Murray Fontes suggested that SB1 be discussed at the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner

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