



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

MINUTES

Thursday, June 21, 2018, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Bailey, County Public Works
Teresa Buika, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Paul Hierling, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Jessica Kahn, Scotts Valley Public Works
Kailash Mozumder, City of Capitola Public Works
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy

RTC Staff Present: Grace Blakeslee, Sarah Christensen, George Dondero, Rachel Moriconi

Others Present: Lisa Lurie, Resource Conservation District-Santa Cruz County (RCD); Tami Grove, California Coastal Commission (CCC); Jennifer Calate, Caltrans Planning *(by phone)*

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:** Item 7 was moved after Item 9. Item 10 – Coastal Commission update was tabled to a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

5. **Approved Minutes of the May 17, 2018 ITAC meeting**, with one modification from Kailash Mozumder to clarify that "The city plans to use SB1 funds to repave ~~major arterials~~ next year 42nd Avenue and other roadways."
6. **Received FY18/19 Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) Budgeted Projects**

REGULAR AGENDA

7. North Coast Rail Trail Project Update – *item moved after Item 9*

8. Transportation Performance Management and Target Setting – Page 17

Paul Hierling, AMBAG provided an update regarding federal requirements for transportation performance management and target setting. He highlighted FHWA and FTA performance measures and statewide targets for safety, pavement and bridge condition, and National Highway System and freight movement on interstate highways. He noted that if Senate Bill 1 gas taxes are repealed in November 2018, California will not be able to meet the performance targets. Because the AMBAG region contains less than 1% of the statewide highway miles, the state is expected to limit the amount of data, reporting, and targets required of the region.

9. Early Mitigation for Transportation Improvements in Santa Cruz County

George Dondero (RTC), Lisa Lurie (RCD), and Tami Grove (CCC) reported on the recently completed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between local, state, and federal agencies responsible for coordinating resource conservation with early mitigation planning for transportation projects in Santa Cruz County. The MOU provides a mechanism to implement quality mitigations that are more valuable and cost effective than piecemeal mitigations. It also provides early buy-in among resource agencies and project sponsors, building trust among agencies, limiting blockades to projects, and expediting implementation of mitigations. Lisa Lurie noted that the group is working to identify priority mitigation sites and projects that may require mitigations. RCD and Fish and Wildlife are also looking into in lieu fee programs to sell mitigation credits in order to preserve certain wildlife habitats. The MOU provides the institutional framework. Tami Grove noted that Senate Bill 1 includes funding for advance mitigations. She emphasized the importance of agricultural lands and identifying other key resource areas for advance mitigation. In response to questions from ITAC members, Lisa and Tami summarized the process for implementing advance mitigations as:

1. Project sponsors identify transportation projects with potential impacts that may require mitigations and identify the types of mitigations required (e.g. species, habitat impacted; possible habitat restoration/preservation, tree replanting, etc) and inform RCD about projects. Typically this happens by the end of the environmental review phase, but good to share information earlier.
2. RCD and other resource agencies identify sites that would be a good fit to meet the mitigations. They might be located within the area of potential impact or in-kind, in-watershed or ecoregion.
3. Ideally, forecast projects and possible mitigations 10 years ahead in order to get mitigation sites up and running. Quality sites could reduce ratios required to address the mitigation.

The possibility of using wetland restoration for carbon capture and conservation of agricultural land in order to meet greenhouse gas reduction and Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) reduction targets is still under discussion.

7. North Coast Rail Trail Project Update

Grace Blakeslee reported that the RTC is preparing a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a 7.5-mile rail trail project on the north coast between Wilder Ranch and Davenport. RTC staff anticipates releasing the Draft EIR this summer, with a 45-day public review period. Two public meetings will be held on the Draft EIR during the review period.

10. Coastal Commission updates - *Tabled to a future meeting*

11. Senate Bill 1 and Other Transportation Funding Updates

Rachel Moriconi and committee members discussed opportunities to share information about Measure D and gas tax funded projects. Committee members emphasized that Measure D has been critical to leverage other state and federal grants and that Senate Bill 1 funds are allowing agencies to address some of the backlog of local road maintenance and other transportation needs.

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

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the city is soliciting bids for STIP-funded Airport Boulevard improvements from Highway 1 to Holm Road this month and for Green Valley Road pavement preservation in August. Bids have been received for the Hazelwood Park path. The city is also working on two complete street and safe routes to schools plans.

Capitola: Kailash Mozumder reported that the city plans to construct sidewalks on 38th Avenue near Capitola Road this fall, construct Park Avenue storm damage repairs and sidewalks in 2019, and construct 2018 Slurry Seal projects this summer. The city is submitting an AB2766 grant application for an adaptive signal system on 41st Ave. Geotechnical studies are being done for the Rail Trail crossing at Monterey Avenue.

County of Santa Cruz: Tim Bailey reported that the County opened bids on the Main Street curb/gutter project in Soquel Village. Bids for the bridge replacement on Redwood Road came in nearly double engineer's estimates. Construction is starting on storm damage repairs on Felton Empire Road and Glenwood Drive. Construction contracts have also been awarded for pavement projects on Branciforte Drive and Granite Creek Road.

UCSC: Teresa Buika reported that UCSC is working on an Active Transportation Program (ATP) application for Phase 2 of its bicycle path project.

Santa Cruz: Chris Schneiter reported that several projects are out to bid, with construction planned for the Rail Trail Segment 7, Chestnut Street and Bay Street. The new bike share program is also up and running.

Scotts Valley: Jessica Kahn reported that the Scotts Valley Drive/Mt. Hermon Road intersection project is almost completed and includes bicycle boxes and landscaping. Construction of the Green Hills Road bicycle project starts this month. The Kings Village Road/Blue Bonnet sidewalks projects are also out to bid. The city is working on a planning

grant for an active transportation plan. The city also received a Senate Bill 1 Local Partnership Program (LPP) grant for trails in the Glenwood Preserve, and bicycle lanes and roadway rehabilitation along Glenwood Drive.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that at its June 14 meeting, the RTC adopted the Measure D 5-year program of projects for regional projects; approved an agreement with Progressive Rail for rail operations on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line; and adopted the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

- 13. Next meeting:** The committee **rescheduled the next ITAC meeting to August 23, 2018**, one week later than the usual meeting time.

The meeting adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner