



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, October 18, 2018, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Tim Bailey, County Public Works and Planning Proxy
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 and Planning Proxy
Kailash Mozumder, City of Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning and Public Works Proxy
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz METRO

RTC Staff Present: Grace Blakeslee, Ginger Dykaar, Joanna Edmonds, Rachel Moriconi

Others Present: Daryl Jordan, Scotts Valley Public Works; Lee Otter, California Coastal Commission (CCC); Stanley Sokolow; Fredrick Venter and Darryl dePencier, Kimley-Horn; Matt Marquez, METRO

By Phone - Caltrans District 5 staff: Richard Rosales, Garin Schneider, Kelly McClendon and Jennifer Calate

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1. **Call to Order:** Chair Fontes called the meeting to order.
 2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made. The Committee welcomed Daryl Jordan, the new public works Director for the City of Scotts Valley.
 3. **Oral Communications:** Rachel Moriconi announced that the 2018 Statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessment report is now available at www.savecaliforniastreet.org. Committee members discussed presenting the report on roadway conditions at a future RTC meeting. She also appreciated agencies for providing updates on how they have used Senate Bill 1 funds to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and Caltrans. The expenditure reports are posted on the CTC website: www.catc.ca.gov. Paul Hierling reported that the state is expected to increase housing requirements statewide, but is also looking at ground water sustainability. Kelly McClendon reported that the 2019 California Transportation Planning Conference will be held February 25-27 in San Diego, where merging trends will be a focus area. He also reminded members that Caltrans Planning Grant applications are due November 30. A workshop on the application will be held in District 5 on October 19.
 4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** Items 8 and 9 were moved after Item 5. Item 6 was moved to the end of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5. Approved Minutes of the June 21, 2018 ITAC meeting**, with one modification from Lee Otter to clarify under Item 9-Early Mitigation for Transportation Improvements - that Tami Grove referenced the importance of agricultural lands for mitigations, including for greenhouse gas reduction.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 6. Status of Ongoing Transportation Projects** – *item moved to the end of the agenda*
- 8. Update on Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)** - *item moved after Item 5*

Richard Rosales, Caltrans District 5, provided information about SHOPP projects currently programmed in the SHOPP and candidates for the 2020 SHOPP. He encouraged agencies to identify any local projects that Caltrans should be aware of to discuss proposed scope, funding, timing, potential state highway impacts, and opportunities for coordination. He noted that for some projects it might be possible to incorporate striping, bicycle facilities, and other components into the scope, especially if there are developments planned in the area or additional funding to partner on projects. Claire Fliesler requested that retrofitting pedestrian crossings on Mission Street be incorporated. Garin Schneider noted that Caltrans is developing a GIS web viewer of all the projects.

- 9. Transportation Funding Updates**

Rachel Moriconi reported that the CTC received requests for \$2.23 billion in Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds. Only \$446 million is available this cycle. CTC and Caltrans staff are reviewing the applications and CTC staff recommendations will be available by the end of the year. Caltrans received \$420 million in requests for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds, which is significantly higher than available funding amounts. It is anticipated that if Proposition 6 passes, many projects will be deleted from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). Many projects previously approved for funds in the 2018 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) could be impacted.

Committee members noted that possible applications for the Caltrans Planning grants include a Watsonville downtown specific plan, enhanced Cruz511 program, and an Active Transportation Plan for unincorporated areas of Santa Cruz County.

- 7. Unified Corridor Investment Study – Draft Step 2 Scenario Analysis**

RTC staff Ginger Dykaar and Grace Blakeslee and Kimley-Horn consultants Fredrick Venter and Darryl dePencier presented the results of the Unified Corridor Investment Study – Draft Step 2 Scenario Analysis (UCS). Staff requested committee input, which will be considered for the staff recommended preferred scenario. The RTC adopted preferred scenario will be used to inform future transportation investments in the study area.

Committee members discussed average speeds and travel times between destinations; transit travel times; and the benefit to businesses of adding HOV lanes. Stanley Sokolow suggested that the analysis should consider the range of uncertainty (Monte Carlo Method) of different findings. Lee Otter applauded use of performance standards to evaluate the scenarios. He noted that projects in the Coastal Zone will likely require coastal permits and that the Local Coastal Programs may need to be updated.

Claire Fliesler stated that City of Santa Cruz staff recommend Scenario B, with the addition of widening the San Lorenzo River Bridge and intersection improvements for autos on Soquel Ave/Drive and Freedom Boulevard corridor. She noted that Scenario A is inconsistent with city policies and goals. Daryl Jordan recommended Scenario B, as is. Pete Rasmussen noted that METRO staff has no preferred scenario, but support inclusion of transit in the rail right-of-way. Paul Hierling stated AMBAG's support of transit and scenarios that help the region achieve its greenhouse gas reduction goals. Teresa Buika noted that UCSC is one of the highest transit users, with a large transit-dependent population; increasing transit access to university facilities, including those on Delaware and the coastal science areas, is supported by transit on the rail line. She noted that equity and transit user benefits should be considered in the preferred scenario. Murray Fontes noted that Watsonville supports rail with trail and retaining existing freight service in Watsonville.

The committee approved a motion (Fliesler/Fontes) supporting transit service on the rail line, and at a minimum maintaining freight service on the rail line in Watsonville, with 4 yes votes from Fliesler and Fontes on behalf of Santa Cruz and Watsonville city public works and planning departments, 0 no votes, and 10 abstaining (Capitola (2), Scotts Valley (2), County (2), METRO (2), UCSC, AMBAG).

The committee approved a motion (Fliesler/Buika) supporting inclusion of buffered/protected bike lanes in the preferred scenario, if they do not negatively impact METRO's ability to access bus stops (friendly amendment from Pete Rasmussen), with Fliesler, Rasmussen, Fontes, Kahn, Hierling, Bailey, and Buika voting yes, 0 no votes, and Mozumder abstaining. Several committee members noted that buffered/protected bicycle lanes are supported by their agencies' planning documents. Murray Fontes noted that they would require a road diet or right-of-way on Freedom Boulevard and that it is important to ensure local agency autonomy on implementation.

The committee approved a motion (Fliesler/Buika) supporting scenarios that implement the adopted Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Master Plan, with Fliesler, Fontes, Kahn, Hierling, and Bailey voting yes, 0 no votes. Buika, Rasmussen, and Mozumder abstained. Several agencies noted local jurisdictions have adopted positions supporting the MBSST Master Plan. Lee Otter stated that the Coastal Commission supports implementation of the MBSST Master Plan and rail transit to increase access to the coast.

Murray Fontes noted that Watsonville supports any improvements to the Highway 1 corridor. Claire Fliesler noted that Santa Cruz supports adding lanes on the Highway 1 bridge over San Lorenzo River and Mission Street intersection improvements. Paul Hierling stated that if projects impact the region's ability to meet SCS/MTP greenhouse gas reduction goals or increase greenhouse gas emissions that AMBAG would be concerned. Tim Bailey stated County public works staff supports improvements to Highway 1. Pete Rasmussen stated that

METRO staff supports scenarios that enhance transit service, and facilitate faster service in the three corridors. Teresa Buika stated support for transit, bike access and a multimodal approach. She stated UCSC does not currently have a position on highway projects, but noted that Mission Street and the San Lorenzo River Bridge provide access to UCSC.

Ginger Dykaar appreciated the committee input and requested that members submit any additional comments by November 2 in order for them to be considered for the staff recommended preferred scenario.

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

Agencies agreed to email updates on Measure D-funded projects to Rachel Moriconi and to continue to inform members of the public of projects funded by the SB1 gas tax. Reports on FY17/18 expenditures of Measure D revenues are due to RTC by December 31, 2018.

Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC is going out to bid for the Bicycle Signage project this month and appreciated the work local agencies have done to assist with the project.

Teresa Buika reported UCSC is considering green pavement markings for bikes. Claire Fliesler noted that FHWA has provided interim approval for bike boxes.

10. Next meeting: The next meeting is scheduled for November 15, 2018.

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner