



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

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**MINUTES**

Thursday, March 21, 2019, 1:30 p.m.  
SCCRTC Conference Room  
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

**ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gus Alfaro, Caltrans District 5 Planning  
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)  
Kimarie Jones, Scotts Valley Public Works  
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz METRO  
Josh Spangrud, Santa Cruz Public Works  
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works and Planning proxy

**Excused Absences:** Teresa Buika, UCSC; Kailash Mozumder, Capitola Public Works

**RTC Staff Present:** Sarah Christensen, Rachel Moriconi, Guy Preston, Anais Schenk; Grace Blakeslee (by phone) for Item 9

**Others Present:** Darron Hill and Garin Schneider, Caltrans District 5;  
Matt Machado, County DPW; Lee Otter, California Coastal Commission

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- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Fontes called the meeting to order.
  - 2. Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
  - 3. Oral Communications:** Rachel Moriconi announced that staff will be seeking input on AB1012 Obligation Plan reports showing which projects agencies anticipate obligating federal funds for before the end of FFY18/19. Caltrans is hosting State Highway Safety Plan workshops around the state and soliciting input on that next plan update which could influence future grant programs. Janneke Strauss reported on and shared pictures of the planned temporary bike barrier "popup" on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue between Brommer St and Felt St this summer/fall. She also announced that Bike Santa Cruz County will be hiring a new Executive Director. Paul Hierling announced the State will be issuing a call for projects for SB2 planning housing development grants.
  - 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** Handouts were provided for Item 9 and Item 10. The agenda order was modified to take Item 11 in advance of Item 10.

## CONSENT AGENDA

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

5. **Approved Minutes of the January 17, 2019 ITAC meeting** with corrections to Item 7 related to METRO and County status reports: Metro is developing its computer aided dispatch/automatic vehicle location (CAD/AVL) project which includes real-time bus arrival information. Metro is also acquiring 14 buses, including 4 articulated buses to be used for UCSC routes and 10 commuter buses for Highway 17 Express Bus service. Steve Wiesner clarified that storm damage repairs on Bear Creek Road at PM 0.2 are nearly complete and repairs on Blue Ridge Road in Boulder Creek were just starting.
6. **Accepted status report on Measure revenues and distribution**
7. **Received Caltrans Announcements**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 8. **Status of Ongoing Transportation Projects**

County – Steve Wiesner reported that the County is out to bid for two storm damage repair projects and will be replacing sections of sanitation lines through Soquel.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that the AMBAG board approved the timeline and work plan for the 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

METRO – Pete Rasmussen reported that Metro is working with RTC staff on the scope for a transit alternatives analysis.

Ecology Action – Piet Canin reported EA is working on safety education programs for 2<sup>nd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders, safe route to schools plans, the Scotts Valley Active Transportation Plan, Earth Day event on April 20 – with electric vehicle demonstrations, May Bike Month – including May 9 Bike to Work/School Day, a bicycle challenge – including incentives for several employer sites, and the Go Santa Cruz downtown Transportation Demand Management (TDM) program.

Santa Cruz – Josh Spangrud reported that several components of the Cedar Street project were completed but some components, including final paving, were on hold due to rain. The San Lorenzo River trestle bridge project construction continues. The city will go to bid for its citywide cape seal project, which is part of a \$4-5 million paving program. Claire Fliesler reported on the city's Go Santa Cruz program, which includes Jump Bike and bus pass incentives and various other TDM elements to encourage people to not drive to downtown.

Watsonville - Murray Fontes reported that construction continues on Airport Boulevard. This spring the city will begin work on its green bike lanes program and Green Valley Road reconstruction project (Struve Slough-Freedom Blvd).

Bike Santa Cruz County – Janneke Strauss reported that a "light-up-the-night" event is planned for March 29 and Open Streets Watsonville is scheduled for June 2.

Coastal Commission - Lee Otter reported that the Commission's April meeting is in Salinas. He noted that Tami Grove is the agency's statewide Transportation Program Manager.

RTC - Anais Schenk reported that RTC will be working with other agencies to implement a new trip planner platform. Rachel Moriconi reported on the RTC's presentation to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) on rail projects the previous week, at which CTC staff clarified the RTC is meeting Proposition 116 requirements as long as there are rail services on the line and the tracks are not removed. CTC commissioners requested a business plan for rail transit services. The RTC is scheduled to approve its FY19/20 budget, which includes Transportation Development Act (TDA) and Measure D estimates for recipient agencies. The RTC unanimously approved the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the north coast section of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) on 3/7/19. The RTC's Measure D 5-year plans for regional projects are currently under development. The Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee is reviewing recipient agency audits and expenditure reports for FY17/18 revenues. Staff will be presenting a 30-year Measure D implementation plan later this year.

Scotts Valley – Glenwood Drive and Glenwood Preserve projects are going to construction this summer.

Capitola – On behalf of Capitola, Rachel Moriconi reported the city is finishing design and expects to construct its Brommer St. complete streets infill project (38th Ave to 41st Ave) this summer.

## **9. Santa Cruz County Early Mitigation for Transportation Projects**

Grace Blakeslee provided an update about implementation of the Memorandum of Understanding for Early Mitigation Planning for Transportation Projects in Santa Cruz County and solicited input on assessment of potential mitigation needs of transportation projects. A preliminary map of Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) projects that may require mitigations was distributed. **Agencies were asked to inform Grace before early May of any projects that should be shown on the map/have significant mitigation needs. She also requested that agencies identify representatives to participate in the effort, including a meeting on May 30.** It was noted that environmental planning staff may be the most appropriate participants and Committee members requested an excel list of projects.

## **11. Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program - *taken ahead of Item 10***

Sarah Christensen provided updates on Auxiliary Lane and Bus on Shoulder project development. RTC is accelerating pre-construction work and plans to apply for the next cycle of Senate Bill 1 competitive grants for these and other projects included in the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) preferred scenario. She noted that design work is also moving forward for the Chanticleer bicycle/pedestrian bridge, as part of the 41<sup>st</sup> Ave-Soquel Auxiliary Lane project.

## **10. Caltrans Asset Management and State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Updates and Partnering**

Darron Hill provided an overview of Caltrans' Asset Management Plan and 10-year Project Book, which is focused on addressing certain performance measures. Garin Schneider presented and distributed information on the Caltrans Project Initiation process. He noted some partner projects may be integrated into SHOPP projects, while others could be implemented as stand-alone projects that may need encroachment permits, Permit Engineering Evaluation Report (PEER) or a project initiation document (PID) depending on the cost and complexity of the project. **Agencies should review the Project Book (<http://www.dot.ca.gov/assetmgmt/ccp.html>) to see what projects Caltrans has planned, contact Caltrans if an agency has projects planned on the State Highway System to determine if there is a compatibility of scope that could be maximized to integrate projects into planned Caltrans projects, and discuss partnering opportunities.**

## **12. SB743 Implementation**

Anais Schenk and Claire Fliesler reported that by July 1, 2020 agencies are required to use vehicle miles traveled (VMT) metrics to determine transportation impacts of projects under California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Screenline maps are under development for Santa Cruz County and the County Regional Travel Demand Model is being used, but each local jurisdiction needs to provide data and prepare their own GIS map. They suggested that a countywide approach to determine trip generation rates and thresholds may make the most sense. Staff requested a point of contact at each local jurisdiction (likely planning staff). Claire will set up another meeting for interested agencies.

*3:00 pm - Guy Preston arrived and introduced himself*

## **13. Route Designation Endorsement for United States Bicycle Route System**

Anais Schenk reported on the nation-wide U.S. Bicycle Route System (USBR). **Staff recommends agencies participate in the designation process, recommends use of the existing state-designated Pacific Coast Route through Santa Cruz County for USBR 95, and requested a point of contact from each jurisdiction to work directly with the Adventure Cycling Association (ACA) on USBR designation and endorsement.** Murray Fontes noted the route skips Watsonville and Scotts Valley.

## **14. Legislative updates**

Rachel Moriconi provided updates on the Governor's proposal to link local street and road funds and housing requirements and legislation related to the Active Transportation Program (ATP). She noted that initial SB152 proposals could significantly reduce the amount of ATP funding accessible to local agencies in Santa Cruz County from 60% to only 25% of the program.

## **15. Transportation Funding Updates**

Rachel Moriconi provided updates and reminders regarding various state, federal and local funding programs. She reminded local jurisdictions that SB1-Local Streets & Roads formula fund project lists and resolutions are due to the CTC on May 1, 2019 via the CalSMART database. An SB1 workforce development webinar is being held on April 10. The CTC has

started updating guidelines for the next cycle of SB1-Local Partnership Program (LPP), Solutions for Congested Corridors, and trade corridor grant programs, with applications expected to be due in early 2020. Measure D recipient agencies are preparing 5-year plan updates for FY19/20-23/24 and requests for funds from the Active transportation/Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) category are due now to RTC staff. Staff will prepare a doodle to schedule a local workshop/debrief on the Active Transportation Program (ATP). ATP progress reports for January 1-March 31, 2019 are due April 15 through the state's CalSMART database. The RTC approved Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds for LiftLine and METRO electric vehicle replacements and infrastructure at its March 2019 meeting. The RTC will be selecting transit and community transportation projects for 15% of the RTC's shares of State Transit Assistance (STA) and SB1-State of Good Repair later this year. The RTC approved Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) amendments for several projects at its March 7 meeting and will be programming regional shares of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), and formula-Local Partnership Program (LPP) this year. Steve Wiesner suggested STBG funds be distributed by population formula because writing grant applications is challenging for the county. Piet Canin expressed preference for a competitive process to fund a diverse range of projects, including projects that are not implemented by local jurisdictions. Steve Wiesner requested that the committee discuss the process and options for STBG fund distribution at the next ITAC meeting.

#### **16. Election of Committee Chair and Vice Chair**

Chair Fontes opened the floor for nominations of the next chair and vice chair. The committee unanimously approved a motion (Canin/Spangrud) approving Claire Fliesler as chair of the ITAC. The committee unanimously approved a motion (Wiesner/Canin) approving Kailash Mozumder as vice chair of the ITAC.

#### **17. The meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m. The next meeting will start 30 minutes early, at 1:00pm, on April 18, 2019.**

*Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner*  
*Minutes approved by ITAC: April 18, 2019*

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