JOINT MEETING OF SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS SYSTEMS (TOS) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE

DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, March 13, 2019
10:00am-12:00pm

California Highway Patrol – San Jose
2020 Junction Ave, San Jose, CA 95131

Meeting Participants
Paul Hierling AMBAG (teleconference)
Laura Wishart Assemblyman Mark Stone (teleconference)
Ed Orre CAL Fire
Ruben Magallanes Caltrans D4 Maintenance
Paul Salaiz Caltrans D4 Maintenance
Chinda Teas Caltrans D4 Maintenance
Ramin Bolourchian Caltrans D4 TMC
Jennifer Wilson Caltrans D5 Construction
Gus Alfaro Caltrans D5 Planning
Tom Byington CHP San Jose
Moe Edwards CHP San Jose
James Reardon CHP San Jose
Mike Romino CHP San Jose
Stephen Busath CHP Santa Cruz
Craig Kunzler CHP Santa Cruz
Eugene Marshack CHP Senior Volunteer
Chris Hughes Pacific Gas & Electric
Jeffrey L. Bates Redwood Estates Service Association
Juana Carter Resident
Larry Carter Resident
Chris Dietel Resident
Laura Giorgi Resident
Jim Helmer Resident
Bill Ross Resident
Gary Richards San Jose Mercury News (teleconference)
Ian Larkin Santa Clara County Fire Department
Luisa Rapport Santa Clara County Fire Department
Brian Winterhalder Santa Clara County Fire Department
Patty Ciesla Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.

2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – None were made.

3. **Oral Communications** – Former Safe on 17 Task Force member Jim Helmer advocated for greater use of road and crash avoidance technology to improve safety on Highway 17. Redwood Estates Service Association member Jeff Bates invited CHP and Caltrans representatives to attend mountain resident community meetings. Mountain resident Laura Giorgi asked about ways local residents can get involved and support safety efforts on Highway 17. Lt. Moe Edwards, CHP San Jose, said engineering, enforcement, and education all contribute to improving safety on Highway 17. Citizens can participate in the education/public awareness component by driving the speed limit, allowing more time to get to desired destination, checking traffic conditions prior to travel (Cruz511.org, Quickmap, Waze, CARR, etc), and sharing safety campaigns, events, or driving tips on social media. Luisa Rapport, Santa Clara County Fire Department, offered “Safe on 17” bumper stickers and decals for those interested.

4. **Minutes of the September 19, 2018 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting** were reviewed and accepted.

5. **Received Information Items** – Amy Naranjo from SCCRTC staff provided a program update for the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program and shared news articles about recent collisions on Highway 17, SB 1236 - “Daniels Law”, and Santa Clara Fire Department’s “Safe on 17” education campaign. Summit resident Bill Ross presented information about collision ‘hot spots’ and offered suggestions for roadway improvements. CHP volunteer Gene Marshack shared examples of speed deterrents.

6. **Received Update on California Highway Patrol Safe on 17 Program Statistics and Public Information Efforts** – Captain Jason Reardon is the new captain for the San Jose Area office. Sgt. Tom Byington, CHP San Jose, noted that changes were made to officer deployment schedules to put extra officers on Highway 17 between 5am – 10:30pm, focusing enforcement at ‘hot spots’. CHP San Jose will evaluate the changes and make any necessary adjustment. Captain Craig Kunzler noted that during inclement weather,
more officers were deployed on Highway 17 not just for extra enforcement but to increase visibility and run traffic breaks to slow down traffic. CHP Santa Cruz and San Jose continue to share safety messaging and send traffic alerts using social media, local radio stations, Caltrans CMS signs, etc. and have increased education efforts, particularly for inexperienced drivers. Start Smart is a program/education course aimed at helping newly licensed- or soon to be licensed- teenage drivers (15-19) become more aware of the responsibilities that accompany the privilege of being a licensed California driver.

7. **Received Santa Clara County FireSafe Council Project Update** – Ed Orre (CAL FIRE) and Patty Ciesla (FireSafe Council) shared information about an upcoming grant to implement wildfire prevention and fuel reduction project on highway 17 between summit road and Lexington reservoir. The project is scheduled for completion by end of 2019.

8. **Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update** – Gus Alfaro (Planning) provided information Caltrans Ten Year Book for the SHOPP fix it first, assets management driven program and encouraged collaboration with Caltrans. More information about the program is provided on Caltrans website at [https://dot.ca.gov/programs/asset-management](https://dot.ca.gov/programs/asset-management). Jennifer Wilson shared information about the repaving project from Santa’s Village Rd to the county line that will begin in March 2019. The project is expected to take between 1-2 years, beginning with the southbound lanes. Caltrans will also begin a construction project at Pasatiempo in April 2019 along the southbound lanes to put in retaining walls and make shoulder and drainage. Work continues at the Wedding Chapel, Jarvis Rd, and other locations impacted by storm damage.

9. **Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update** – Paul Salaiz, D4 Superintendent, provided an update for Tony Tavares, District Director. Caltrans has expedited a project enhance traffic safety on a 3.3-mile segment of SR 17 from Santa Cruz County line to Alma College Road. The project will provide Pavement restoration in both directions including high friction surface treatment to improve traction on wet pavement; Dynamic Speed Feedback signs to increase motorists’ awareness of speed limits and their approach speeds; Curve Ahead warning signs with flashing beacons in both directions to increase motorists' awareness of the highway alignment; An electronic variable message sign in the northbound direction just before the Summit Road overcrossing. This sign will be used to alert northbound traffic of traffic conditions ahead when needed; Enhanced striping and right edgeline rumble strip in both directions for the first 2.8 miles, including the subject curve; and Safety lighting, overhead warning signs with flashing beacons, guardrail system, and channelizing devices, at various locations within the project limits. Maintenance crews will also perform vegetation
control Construction will begin January 2021 and anticipated to be completed by October 2021.

10. **Received Traffic Operations Systems Updates** - Traffic Management Center (TMC) Update - Ramin Bolourchian stated changeable message signs (CMS) are very effective tools for providing real-time motorist information and the TMC relies on CHP and feedback from the public to ensure the CMS’s are working properly. Jeff Bates, Redwood Estates, said the built-in dimmers on the CMS located near The Cats was not dimming at night.

11. **Other Discussion Items** – Luisa Rapport, Santa Clara Fire Department PIO, shared information about “Safe on 17” campaign and offered to provide decals and access to the digital files to share on social media and websites. PG&E representative Chris Hughes suggested working together with Caltrans maintenance crews when performing vegetative work near power lines to avoid multiple lane closures.

12. **Approved Next Meeting Date** – Next Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 18, 2019 10:00 to 12:00 at Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission.

Respectively submitted by: ______________________________

Amy Naranjo