



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

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**DRAFT MINUTES**  
**Thursday, August 15, 2019**

RTC Conference Room  
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA

**ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Gus Alfaro, Caltrans District 5 Planning	Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works
Tim Bailey, County Public Works	and Watsonville Planning proxy
Teresa Buika, UCSC	Darrell Jordan, Scotts Valley Public Works
Piet Canin, Ecology Action	Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz METRO
Barrow Emerson, Santa Cruz METRO	Anais Schenk, County Planning
Clair Fliesler (Chair), Santa Cruz Planning	Chris Schneiter, Santa Cruz Public Works
Paul Hierling, AMBAG	

**Excused Absences:** Kailash Mozumder, Capitola Public Works

**RTC Staff Present:** Sarah Christensen, Ginger Dykaar, Joanna Edmonds, Brianna Goodman, Rachel Moriconi, Luis Mendez, Tracy New, Guy Preston, Jason Thompson

**Others Present:** Matt Machado, County Public Works; Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz METRO; Gina Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County

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1. **Call to Order:** Chair Fliesler called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.
  2. **Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
  3. **Oral communications:** Piet Canin announced that the 2019 National Drive Electric Week will be taking place Downtown Santa Cruz from September 14-22.
  4. **Additions, deletions, or other changes to consent and regular agendas:** Letters from Ecology Action and Bike Santa Cruz County were handed out for Item 10. The agenda was modified to take Item 10 in advance of Item 8. Item 9 was tabled to a future meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

5. **Approved Minutes of the April 18, 2019 ITAC meeting**
6. **Received Caltrans Updates**
7. **Received Article: "Senate EPW Committee Unanimously Advances Five-Year Surface Transportation Bill" AASHTO Journal, August 2, 2019**

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 10. RTC Transportation Funding Updates and Recommendations – *Item moved ahead of Item 8 by Chair Fliesler*

Rachel Moriconi discussed the different RTC discretionary funding sources and reported that at the June 06, 2019 RTC meeting the Commission indicated its intent to distribute the current cycle of Surface Transportation Block Grant Program/Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (STBG/RSTPX) funds by formula to local jurisdictions, directed staff to work with cities and the County to determine the formula for STBG/RSTPX funds, and directed staff to discuss options for other RTC discretionary funds with stakeholders. Ms. Moriconi provided an overview of proposals discussed by representatives of public works departments and city managers, Santa Cruz METRO, and others on how to distribute RTC discretionary funds and the proposal allocation formula for the region's share of STBG/RSTPX funds this programming cycle. She asked that ITAC members provide input into the proposals to:

- a. Program the region's shares of FY18/19-FY20/21 Surface Transportation Block Grant Program/Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (STBG/RSTPX) funding (approximately \$10 million total) by population formula to cities and the County of Santa Cruz, with a minimum of 5% of revenues to each jurisdiction;
- b. Program up to \$350,000 of STBG/RSTPX funds (estimated pre-FY18/19 RSTPX balances) for transportation projects identified by non-governmental community organizations, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), and others through a competitive process;
- c. In order to leverage potential state grants, continue to implement regional priorities in the preferred scenario of the Unified Corridor Investment Study, program the RTC's formula shares of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Local Partnership Program (LPP), and one-time Highway Improvement Program (HIP) funds to the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes/Bus on Shoulders and Chanticleer Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing regional projects;
- d. Hold in abeyance for three years a 2017 RTC decision that gradually reduces the allocations of the region's population shares (PUC 99313) of STA and SGR funds to METRO from 100% in FY18/19, 85% in FY19/20, 80% in FY20/21, and 75% in FY21/22, with the balance (approximately \$1.5 million over 3 years) available through a competitive process; and instead pass through all but \$100,000 in STA funds per year (FY19/20-21/22) to METRO; and
- e. Allocate \$100,000 per year of the RTC's 99313 shares of FY19/20-FY21/22 State Transit Assistance (STA) funds to Community Bridges Lift Line. Program the balance of the RTC's share of FY19/20 State Transit Assistance (STA) and 100% of the region's FY19/20 SB1-transit State of Good Repair funds to Santa Cruz METRO.

Ms. Moriconi noted that additional proposals have included allocating some STBG/RSTPX funds off the top to METRO, allocating additional Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds off the top for bicycle and pedestrian encouragement and safety programs, having a consolidated competitive process focused on regionally significant projects, prioritizing cost increases or

additional funding needs on previously programmed projects for all funding sources, and programming \$100,000 in Measure D funds included in the Highway 5-year plan for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) as part of a competitive process. Guy Preston requested that the committee consider proposals to allocate \$350,000 of STBG/RSTPX funds to community groups on a competitive basis and \$100,000 per year to METRO. He noted METRO is an eligible recipient for STBG/RSTPX funds, has previously received these funds, and that an allocation of \$200,000 to METRO would be a decrease from an earlier suggestion which would have redirected \$400,000 of TDA funds currently allocated to cities and the County to METRO instead. Mr. Preston suggested that allocating some STBG/RSTPX funds directly to METRO, in addition to the proposals outlined in the staff report, is a holistic way to try to ensure that everyone has funding.

ITAC members discussed the proposals outlined in the staff report, as well as the potential to bypass a competitive process and instead program \$150,000 to Ecology Action, \$50,000 to Bike Santa Cruz County, and \$100,000 to METRO per year for FY19/20 and FY20/21 (\$600,000 total). Matt Machado suggested continuing discussions on providing longer term certainty of funding amounts for all entities and proposed a \$200,000 competitive pot for non-profit organizations, comprised of \$100,000 in TDA funds currently allocated to cities and the County and \$100,000 from the Measure D Highway-TDM fund. Chris Schneider stated that the City of Santa Cruz would not want to lose any TDA funds and uses its TDA allocations on bicycle educational, infrastructure, and maintenance programs; he wondered how regional infrastructure projects like the Highway 1/9 intersection and project on Highway 1/Mission St. would be funded in the future. Piet Canin provided an overview of Ecology Action's programs and services and discussed how accessibility to RTC funding sources has been pivotal to support Ecology Action's efforts. Barrow Emerson noted criteria for any competition would influence which projects receive funds, expressed concern that a few agencies would be required to compete for a small amount of funding and stated that METRO staff vehemently opposes any proposal that does not include STBG/RSTPX funds for METRO. Mr. Emerson suggested that METRO be apportioned \$100,000 a year of RSTPX funds, and recommended that the RTC hold in abeyance its 2017 policy to gradually reduce direct allocations of STA and SGR funds to METRO, and instead allocate \$300,000 STA to Lift Line over the next three years (\$100,000 per year) and the balance to METRO, and supported allocating other discretionary funds towards RTC's Highway 1 projects. Teresa Buika stated that while UCSC does not anticipate applying for funds this cycle, she asked to ensure that UCSC remain eligible and not be cut out of funding opportunities in future STBG/RSTPX cycles. Chair Fliesler brought up the RTC's commitment to backfill \$6.4 million to the Harkins Slough Rd Bike/Pedestrian Overcrossing with STBG/RSTPX or STIP if the project is not awarded Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds by the California Transportation Commission (CTC). This commitment is one of the reasons why formula distribution of RSTPX should not be set in perpetuity. Ms. Fliesler noted that the proposed distribution of funds proportionally reflects historical distribution of funds. Rachel Moriconi noted that available STBG/RSTPX amounts assume \$1,574 total taken off the top for the League of Cities/California State Association of Counties (CSAC)/RTPA 2020 and 2022 statewide Local Streets and Roads Needs Assessments. Murray Fontes expressed concern that some entities would be excluded from funding, noting suggestions have been made to provide some funding to Ecology Action and Bike Santa Cruz County.

**The ITAC approved a motion (Fontes/Fliesler on a vote of 9 "yes", 2 "no", and 2**

**“abstentions”) to accept the recommendations outlined in the staff report, with Item b. revised as follows: Set aside \$350,000 of RSTPX funds and \$100,000 in Measure D Transportation Demand Management (TDM) funds [included in the existing Measure D Highway Corridors 5-year plan] for \$450,000 total this cycle that would be available on a competitive basis for applicants other than the four cities and the county. Members Bailey, Schneiter, Jordan, Fontes (including Watsonville Planning proxy), Schenk, Fliesler, Canin, and Buika voted yes; Emerson and Mengistu voted no; Alfaro and Hierling abstained.**

*Daryl Jordan, Matt Machado, and several Commission staff left the meeting following Item 10.*

8. Alternative Analysis for High Capacity Public Transit in Rail Corridor Update

Ginger Dykaar, Senior Transportation Planner, provided an update on the Alternatives Analysis for High Capacity Public Transit in the Santa Cruz Branch rail corridor, which included an overview of the RTC’s ownership of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, subsequent plans and studies, and Measure D requirements.

9. Cruz511 Traveler Information Program Update

*Item 9 was postponed to a future meeting due to time constraints.*

11. Draft 2019 Public Participation Program

Rachel Moriconi and Paul Hierling reported that the Public Participation Program ensures compliance with federal regulations as it relates to public participation for the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments and transportation planning agencies in Santa Cruz (RTC), Monterey, and San Benito Counties. The public participation plan will be used for each county’s Regional Transportation Plan. Staff recommended the ITAC review the draft plan. Comments on the draft plan are due August 28, 2019. Staff recommended that ITAC members also share outreach strategies that are effective for engaging members of the community in transportation planning, programming and project implementation with RTC staff Shannon Munz.

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

Santa Cruz Public Works - Chris Schneiter reported that the right-of-way phase continues for the Highway 1/9 intersection project. He reported that the following projects will be going out to bid: River St. paving (partially STIP-funded); Safe Routes to School projects; and Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Segment 7 - Phase 1. He also provided updates on the Segment 7-Phase 2 project.

Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy - Murray Fontes reported that construction for the Airport Blvd. project is completed, that a contract has been awarded for the Bike Safety Improvements Project, which includes green lanes, that construction of multi-modal improvements to Green Valley Road is slated for the Fall, and that the City of Watsonville submitted a construction allocation request to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for a portion of Segment 18.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that there were no major updates.

METRO – Barrow Emerson recommended bus riders watch for service alerts.

Caltrans – Gus Alfaro asked that committee members refer to the project updates list included in the consent agenda. He also announced that a project initiation document (PID) is under development for a soldier pile wall and roadway restoration project on Highway 236, with a construction timeline of 2022/23. Highway 129 roundabout project information is being circulated to residents and other stakeholders.

County Public Works – Tim Bailey reported that the County recently completed storm damage projects on Eureka Canyon Road, Mountain and Grove Streets in Boulder Creek, and Felton-Empire; and completed three stripping and guardrail projects throughout the county. He stated that storm damage repair work is starting on Glen Haven Road, Mount Charlie Road, Grove Street, Bean Creek Road, and Lompico Road. He also said that the County's Measure D-funded resurfacing project is close to completion, and that the County is working on a guardrail project on La Madrona Drive and a Capitola Road emergency culvert repair. The County is going out to bid on three additional storm damage sites soon.

County Planning – Anais Schenk reported that the General Plan is undergoing a massive update, as well as code modification. The County is also working with others on Senate Bill 743 implementation.

University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC) – Teresa Buika reported that the RSTPX/ATP-funded Great Meadow bike path is under final design and that construction is scheduled for Summer 2020. UCSC is using part of the ATP grant for bike safety and working to create a 4-year bike safety education program in partnership with Ecology Action. UCSC is also working with the RTC and other stakeholders on the Ride Amigos commute platform. The East Remote parking lot is under reconstruction, it will include electric vehicle charging stations, and it is expected to be completed by Fall 2019.

Ecology Action (EA) – Piet Canin reported that EA is also working with UCSC, City of Santa Cruz, and the RTC to kick off Ride Amigos, in addition to collaborating with the City of Santa Cruz for the downtown Go Santa Cruz TDM project. Mr. Canin stated that EA is kicking off the RSTPX-funded Cycle September Bike Challenge, that October 3<sup>rd</sup> is Fall Bike to Work/School Day, and that Measure D Neighborhood-funded bike/pedestrian youth safety programs are being rolled out at schools throughout the county. He noted that EA advocated in support of Segment 7-Phase 2 to the Coastal Commission, is undertaking on-going National Drive Electric Day outreach efforts, is wrapping up Safe Routes to School projects with the County and the cities of Watsonville and Scotts Valley, and that EA is starting the planning process for an Active Transportation Plan for Scotts Valley.

Bike Santa Cruz County (BSCC) – Gina Cole reported that as part of BSCC's Earn-A-Bike Program, youths were served this summer at the Boys and Girls Club with high school mentors volunteered as bike techs for middle schoolers, and approximately 280 bikes were given in the last few years to youth in the county; she noted that Earn-A-Bike programs are planned for Watsonville, Live Oak, and Santa Cruz in the Fall. Ms. Cole reported that there will be a pop-up delineated bike lane on 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue from Brommer St. to Felt St. in October, and that BSCC

continues to work towards having a bike/ped trail along the rail corridor.

City of Santa Cruz Planning – Clair Fliesler reported that the City of Santa Cruz applied for Proposition 68 grants for Segment 7- Phase 2 and the Riverwalk rehabilitation, that the Go Santa Cruz program is kicking off, an expanded TDM project targeting downtown employees, being implemented in partnership with METRO, Ecology Action, JUMP, RTC, will be kicking off soon. The Project goal is to leverage all local transportation partnerships and meet people where they are and offer as many alternatives for how downtown employees get to work.

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) – Rachel Moriconi reported that the California Transportation Commission approved allocation to the RTC for environmental review of the Highway 1 Bay Porter/State Park Dr. Auxiliary Lanes Project, that the design phase for the Highway 1 41<sup>st</sup>/Soquel Ave. Auxiliary Lanes and Chanticleer Ped/Bike Bridge is underway, and that the RTC expects to seek competitive SB 1 grant programs run through the CTC for that project which includes Bus on Shoulders – achieved through close collaboration with Caltrans. Ms. Moriconi also reported that the final Highway 9/ San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan was adopted in June 2019 and is available on the RTC website: <https://sccrtc.org/projects/streets-highways/hwy-9-plan/>.

#### 13. Other Transportation Program Updates

Staff reported on various state and federal funding programs: SB 1 Local Streets and Roads Expenditure Reports are due to the CTC by October 1, 2019. Measure D annual expenditure reports are due by December. FTA 5310 Program applications are due Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works approved a federal reauthorization proposal. The Active Transportation Program (ATP) bill that could have significantly changed the program did not move forward, another project/applicant meeting is being discussed. Claire Fliesler noted ATP Cycle 5 trainings should start this Fall and that applicants should start public participation for projects now. Caltrans is hosting a workshop on the Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) on Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> in Salinas – which could influence the availability of funding for interregional projects. California Department of Housing & Community Development released information for Senate Bill 2 planning grants and assistance to accelerate housing production. METRO's proposal for SB1 State of Good Repair funds will be considered at the September RTC meeting. Anais Schenk recommended that agencies follow state proposals which could affect developer impact fees.

14. Next Meeting – The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm on September 19, 2019 in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

Meeting adjourned at 3:33 p.m.