



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

MINUTES

Thursday, September 19, 2019, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Gus Alfaro, Caltrans District 5 Planning
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning proxy
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning proxy
Paul Hierling, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Daryl Jordan, Scotts Valley Public Works
Kailash Mozumder (Vice Chair), Capitola Public Works
Matt Marquez, Santa Cruz METRO
Anais Schenk, County Planning
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

Excused Absences: Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Planning
Justin Meek, Watsonville Community Development

RTC Staff Present: Sarah Christensen, Rachel Moriconi, Tommy Travers

Others Present: Will Condon, AMBAG; Matt Machado, County Public Works;
John Olejnik, Caltrans District 5 Planning

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- 1. Call to Order:** Vice Chair Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.
 - 2. Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
 - 3. Oral Communications:** Paul Hierling announced Will Condon is a new planner with AMBAG and may be attending future ITAC meetings on behalf of AMBAG. Rachel Moriconi reminded agencies to notify her or AMBAG if they have updates to any federally-funded projects that need to be included in the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP).
 - 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** Item 11 regarding the statewide Active Transportation Program (ATP) was tabled to a future meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5. Approved Minutes of the August 15, 2019 ITAC meeting**
- 6. Received Caltrans Project Updates**

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Status of Ongoing Transportation Projects

Caltrans – Gus Alfaro reported that the new Caltrans Director is Toks Omishakin. He announced Sustainable Transportation Planning grant opportunities and Murray Fontes reported Watsonville will be seeking a grant for a downtown plan. Mr. Alfaro also provided information on Strategic Growth Council climate change research grants, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) Transit Project Delivery workshop, and other state programs. John Olejnik reported that significant program reviews, especially focused on indirect costs, is underway. Caltrans is also updating the regional planning handbook and working to balance complete streets and other Caltrans mandates.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the Park Avenue sidewalk project is underway; Clares St. traffic calming project is scheduled to start construction in Spring 2020; the 41st Avenue adaptive signal lights project – coordinating traffic signals on 41st Ave, through Highway 1, to Soquel Village is moving forward with AB2766 grants to the city and County. He also provided updates on the Brommer St. complete streets infill project (38th Ave to 41st Ave). Design work continues on the rail trail near City Hall. The city is seeking emergency funds for Park Avenue storm damage repairs through Caltrans.

UCSC – Teresa Buika reported that the Great Meadow Bicycle Path project is in design, with construction scheduled for summer 2020. The East Remote Parking Lot project is expected to complete construction in early 2020.

Scotts Valley - Daryl Jordan reported that bids have been received for the Glenwood Preserve Trails project, with construction Glenwood Road rehabilitation and bicycle lanes also expected to start construction soon.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG is working on regional growth forecast updates.

SCMTD – Matt Marquez reported that METRO has received and is testing new RSTPX-funded buses. EV bus infrastructure projects are starting soon. METRO has also been working on Pacific Station design and mobile ticketing/eco bus passes, starting with Highway 17 Express routes.

County Public Works – Steve Wiesner reported that the County is planning to install a traffic signal at Robertson St. and Soquel Dr. Construction continues on storm damage repairs countywide, with the County working with FHWA to get extensions to federal reimbursement deadlines. The Redwood Road Bridge project and Capitola Road at Soquel Dr. roadway repair projects are wrapping up. The County is starting repairs on Sumner Road and Capitola Road at Leona Creek. Design is 90% complete on the Soquel Drive/Aptos Creek Road signal, with the project expected to go to bid this fall or early winter. Matt Machado reported that the County plans to start pre-construction work on the Mar Vista Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge over Highway 1 and Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) trails between Live Oak and Aptos this fall.

County Planning – Anais Schenk reported that the County continues work on the General Plan update and SB743 implementation and model updates to estimate vehicle miles traveled (VMT).

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that the City of Watsonville is working on complete streets and safe routes to schools plans. Green bicycle lanes and Green Valley Road Reconstruction projects are starting construction soon. In October, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will consider changing which portion of Segment 18 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) is constructed with Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds.

Santa Cruz – Chris Schneiter reported that the City of Santa Cruz awarded a contract for safe routes to schools projects, with construction to start in a few months. Bids were opened for construction of Segment 7, phase 1 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST).

RTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) has several openings. At its September 5, 2019 meeting, the RTC approved amendments to the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) for several projects, as requested by project sponsors and the RTC approved the process for programming new Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX), State Transit Assistance (STA), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Local Partnership Program (LPP) and Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds this year. Project information is due from project sponsors on October 21, 2019. Ms. Moriconi also announced that Joanna Edmonds is leaving the RTC for the City of Santa Cruz and Cory Caletti will be retiring from the RTC this year. Tommy Travers reported that bicycle route signage has been installed in unincorporated areas of the County, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and on Caltrans facilities. Installation of signage in Capitola and Watsonville is expected to be completed over the next several months.

8. Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program Updates

Sarah Christensen reported on Highway 1 corridor projects. She requested that agencies contact her if they would like to review aesthetic treatment options for the Chanticleer bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing. A community meeting is scheduled in October to review the design options. Design of the 41st Avenue to Soquel Drive auxiliary lanes, bus on shoulders, and Chanticleer bike/ped bridge project is at 95%. The RTC plans to seek SB1 grants for construction. The RTC has started environmental review and preliminary design work on the Highway 1 Bay-Porter to State Park Drive Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulders project. The County of Santa Cruz is now taking the lead on the Highway 1 Mar Vista Bicycle and Pedestrian overcrossing. She appreciated Caltrans for its support integrating bus on shoulders into auxiliary lane projects. She also reported that RTC staff is planning to start pre-construction work for the next phase of auxiliary lanes between State Park Drive and Freedom Boulevard later this year.

9. State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Update

Gus Alfaro shared updates on planned State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects. He noted that while the SHOPP is focused on maintenance of Caltrans's assets, the Department is also thinking about transit and active transportation. He

encouraged agencies to contact Caltrans if they would like to partner with Caltrans on SHOPP projects, notify Caltrans project managers of any locally funded projects that should be coordinated with planned SHOPP projects, and inform Caltrans staff if there are concerns or questions about specific projects. Matt Machado requested additional information about survey crews near Highway 1 and State Park Drive. Mr. Alfaro agreed to provide additional information on that and other projects.

10. 2022 Regional Growth Forecast and 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) Update

Paul Hierling reported that the AMBAG board has started work on the 2045 MTP/SCS, starting with updates to the Regional Growth Forecast (RGF). The 2045 MTP/SCS will integrate updated growth forecasts, CARB greenhouse gas reduction targets, the 2019 Public Participation Plan. AMBAG is collecting data and other information from local jurisdictions and working with a demographer to prepare employment, population and housing forecasts. AMBAG is expected to release the Notice of Preparation for the MTP/SCS Environmental Impact Report (EIR) in early 2020. AMBAG does not plan to make updates to policy goals from the 2040 MTP/SCS and is instead focused on updating specific performance measures used to evaluate each goal. Beginning in 2020, the Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA) will work with project sponsors to update transportation project lists.

Anais Schenk noted that if high quality transit along the rail corridor is included in the next RTP/MTP, it could be helpful for land use planning. She also asked AMBAG to consider making the determination on if development proposals are consistent with the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and state-defined high quality transit corridors, rather than leaving it to local jurisdictions to make the determination.

11. Statewide Active Transportation Program (ATP) Advisory Committee and Cycle 5 Updates – *Tabled to future meeting*

12. Other Transportation Program Updates

Caltrans Planning/Strategic Partnership Planning Grants – agencies were encouraged to submit draft applications to District 5 staff by 9/27 to review.

SB1 Competitive Grants – The California Transportation Commission (CTC) is updating guidelines for its Solutions for Congested Corridors, Local Partnership Program (LPP), and Trade Corridors competitive programs. Agencies with uniform developer fees are also eligible for LPP-competitive funds.

The CTC is expected to start holding workshop on Active Transportation Program (ATP) guideline updates later this year. Murray Fontes reported that Watsonville is hiring a consultant to assist with the Highway 1/Harkins Slough Rd. bicycle/pedestrian application.

13. The next meeting scheduled for October 17, 2019 was subsequently cancelled.

The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner