



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

MINUTES

Thursday, January 16, 2020, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Heather Adamson, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Jim Burr, Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning proxy
Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning proxy
Daryl Jordan, Scotts Valley Public Works
Anais Schenk, County Planning
Wondimu Mengistu, Santa Cruz METRO and proxy

Excused Absences: Claire Fliesler (Chair), Santa Cruz Planning; Gus Alfaro, Caltrans District 5 Planning; Teresa Buika, UCSC; Kailash Mozumder (Vice Chair), Capitola Public Works; Justin Meek, Watsonville Community Development

RTC Staff Present: Brianna Goodman (*arrived 2:30pm*), Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Fernanda Pini, Guy Preston

Others Present: Gina Cole, Bike Santa Cruz County
Rufus Francis, Safety, Security and Risk Management Director, METRO

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- 1. Call to Order:** In the absence of the regular Chair and Vice Chair, Murray Fontes was designated as Chair for the meeting and called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
 - 2. Introductions:** Self introductions were made
 - 3. Oral Communications:** None
 - 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** Item 11 was moved to the end of the agenda.

CONSENT AGENDA

Piet Canin and Gina Cole provided brief summaries of projects recommended for funding under Item 6. *The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Schenk/Adamson) approving the consent agenda, with all members present voting "yes".*

- 5. Approved Minutes of the November 21, 2019 ITAC meeting**
- 6. Approved recommendations for programming competitive RSTPX grant funds**
- 7. Received Caltrans Updates**
 - a. Caltrans Project Updates

- b. Semi-annual SHOPP Project List
- c. Caltrans announcements and website information

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Status of Ongoing Transportation Projects

Santa Cruz – Jim Burr reported that the City of Santa Cruz anticipates breaking ground for the Rail Trail Segment 7, phase 1 this month. Pre-construction work on Phase 2 continues. ATP-funded Safe Routes to Schools crosswalks projects are currently under construction, with another crossing project going out to bid soon. These projects will improve crossing at over 40 locations citywide.

County – Anais Schenk reported that the County kicked off their Caltrans’ planning grant-funded Active Transportation Plan, starting with identification of priority projects. The planning department is working on several General Plan updates and amendments to address new state regulations. Public works continues to work on several storm damage projects and is hiring project managers to work on major projects. The County is working with the RTC on grant proposals for SB1 competitive grants. Gina Cole appreciated the county’s work on Freedom Boulevard, 17th Avenue and several other locations that has resulted in improved bicycle lanes.

METRO - Rufus Francis reported that METRO is working to prepare the FTA-mandated safety plan by July 2020, which will require Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) and Caltrans review. The plan includes safety performance metrics. Wondimu Mengistu reported that METRO is submitting grant applications for new zero emission buses to use Highway 1 bus-on-shoulder facilities and EV charging infrastructure, including a fast charger at Watsonville transit center.

Bike Santa Cruz County – Gina Cole reported on Light Up the Night, MBSST Segment 7 Groundbreaking, and Open Streets events, and its earn-a-bike programs at several middle and high schools. She noted that people have especially appreciated METRO’s demonstration of how to load bicycles on the front of buses at the Open Streets events.

Ecology Action – Piet Canin reported that Ecology Action is kicking off outreach events and safety trainings at UCSC, which also include e-bike demonstrations and bicycle light distribution. Ecology Action has also been providing information at Go Santa Cruz downtown employee events, and assisting with the County’s Active Transportation Plan.

1:50 p.m. Committee Member Jordan arrived.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that the City of Watsonville’s green bicycle lane project is almost done. The city will be awarding a contract for the first phase of Segment 18 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST), with construction scheduled to start in March or April. The Green Valley Road reconstruction project between Struve Slough and Freedom Blvd is ramping up. He also announced that the city will be hosting events during Public Works Week, including the famous egg drop.

Scotts Valley - Daryl Jordan reported that the city recently awarded the Glenwood Drive bike paths and rehabilitation project, which also includes new striping and speed feedback signs.

New trails at Glenwood Preserve are also being constructed.

9. Draft Measure D Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP)

Guy Preston provided an overview of the Measure D Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), which includes scope, cost, and delivery schedule information for regional projects and programs. The plan includes updated revenue forecasts and strategies to use Measure D funds to leverage other grants and expedite delivery of Expenditure Plan projects. The RTC is currently soliciting input on the draft plan, with adoption scheduled for the February 2020 RTC board meeting.

Committee member comments included inquiries about funding opportunities for protected bicycle lanes on the Soquel Corridor; opportunities to leverage grants, use inter-program loans or financing to advance construction of the Rail Trail; and support to expedite highway projects. Some agencies expressed concerns about the level of RTC oversight proposed for regional programs and projects implemented by other agencies (Policy 4.15). Director Preston noted that RTC wants to be of assistance to agencies implementing regional category projects, especially those on the rail line, and to ensure RTC's interests as property owner are also addressed. Several members indicated that their agencies are reviewing the plan and intend to submit additional comments.

10. Draft 2020 State and Federal Legislative Programs

Rachel Moriconi presented the preliminary draft 2020 state and federal legislative programs and requested that Committee members identify issues that the RTC should consider, pursue or monitor in 2020. Committee members discussed concerns about the state imposing new housing rules on local jurisdictions, SB743 thresholds and mitigation banks for vehicle miles traveled, transportation demand management methods to reduce VMT, potential impacts of the federal SAFE vehicle rule on local transportation projects, potential SB375 changes/land use-transportation greenhouse gas targets, High Quality Transit Corridor mandates and restrictions in areas that do not meet the definition, and challenges converting to electric buses.

11. Other Transportation Program Updates – *discussed after item 13*

Committee members shared information about the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Active Transportation Program (ATP) cycle 5 workshop and tour of several projects in Santa Cruz County. The Committee also discussed Air Resources Board Sustainable Transportation Equity Project (STEP) grants, which may be an option for areas with a state-defined Disadvantaged Communities (DAC).

12. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and 2022 Regional Growth Forecast Update

Heather Adamson provided updates on the MTP/SCS and Regional Growth Forecast. She provided updated timelines, noted there will be a scoping meeting for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on January 22, 2020 in Live Oak, and requested input on the draft MTP/SCS goals and performance measure. The committee discussed transit safety measures and defining high quality transit routes, growth opportunity areas and transit priority areas.

13. 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Updates

Amy Naranjo and Brianna Goodman provided an update on the development of the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and requested that the ITAC provide input on the draft goals, policies and targets for the 2045 RTP. Staff also requested that project sponsors and committee members review the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project list and provide updates, including any new projects for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan. The Committee discussed including Vision Zero as a 2045 target, as well as the feasibility concerns of meeting such a target.

14. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm on February 20, 2020 in the RTC Conference Room. The meeting will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner

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