



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, May 21, 2020, 1:30 p.m.
Teleconference

Due to precautions associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus), the meeting was held by teleconference, consistent with Governor Newsom's Executive Orders which allow legislative bodies to hold Brown Act meetings via teleconference.

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Gus Alfaro, Caltrans District 5 Planning
Teresa Buika, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)
Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Athena Cheung, Scotts Valley Public Works
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Community Development (Proxy)
Claire Gallogly (Chair), Santa Cruz Planning
Paul Hierling, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Kailash Mozumder (Vice Chair), Capitola Public Works
Anais Schenk, County Planning
Chris Schneiter, Santa Cruz Public Works
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

RTC Staff Present: Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo

Others Present: Terry Corwin, Friends of Santa Cruz County Parks; Brett Garrett, Santa Cruz resident; John Olejnik, Caltrans District 5; Oxo Slayer, UCSC; Theresia Rogerson, County Health

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- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Gallogly called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
 - 2. Introductions:** Roll call introductions were made. All attendees participated by teleconference.
 - 3. Oral Communications:** None.
 - 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Mozumder/Fontes) approving the consent agenda, with all members present voting "yes" by roll call vote.

5. Approved Minutes of the March 19, 2020 ITAC meeting

6. Received Information Items

- a. Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Railroad Worker Safety Training
- b. RTC Meeting Highlights
- c. Measure D Spring 2020 Project Updates

REGULAR AGENDA

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

ITAC members provided updates on Measure D-funded projects, RTC-funded projects, and other major projects and planning efforts.

County – Steve Wiesner reported that the County completed a Safe Routes to School Plan, which provides a roadmap for projects near 16 schools in unincorporated areas and Scotts Valley. He noted many roads will be under construction this year, including over 30 storm damage repair projects, Measure D resurfacing and paving projects funded by Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).

Anais Schenk reported that the Planning Department continues work on General Plan, code, and ordinance updates. She suggested agencies contact AMBAG and utilize REAP and LEAP grants for planning work. The County is schedule to adopt SB743 thresholds in June.

Scotts Valley – Athena Cheung reported that construction has started on Glenwood Drive and a contract was awarded to resurface seventeen roads.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the Brommer St. multimodal project is starting; Park Avenue sidewalk construction is finished; and one storm damage repair project is moving forward.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that construction of Segment 18 of the Rail Trail is starting; the city is awarding a contract for the HSIP-funded Airport Blvd/Holm signal project; the Lincoln Street Active Transportation

Program (ATP) project is moving forward; and construction is planned for the locally-funded Ohlone/West Beach signal.

Santa Cruz – Chris Schneider reported that construction of phase 1 of Segment 7 of the Rail Trail is about 50% complete; design services for Segments 8 and 9 is going to bid; River St and Water St roadway rehabilitation projects have been completed; citywide rehabilitation and paving projects start in June; and the Ocean St/Water St intersection project is under construction.

Claire Gallogly reported that work started on a local roadway safety plan, required for future Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grants. She reported that Jump has merged with the Lime bike share program.

SCCRTC – Rachel Moriconi noted updates on RTC projects and programs included in the RTC Meeting Highlights on the consent agenda.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG is meeting with local agencies regarding the Regional Growth Forecast for housing, transportation, and jobs, with the draft scheduled to be available for public review this summer. Updates are being made to the Regional Travel Demand Model. He noted that LEAP grant proposals are due to the California Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) on July 1, with REAP (Regional Early Action Plan) grants to be available as a pass-through from AMBAG. The draft [Highway 1 climate resiliency study](#) for the area around Elkhorn Slough was released for public review.

Caltrans – Gus Alfaro reviewed highway projects included in the packet, highlighting construction and crosswalk projects. He reported on special permits authorized for overweight trucks with medical, safety, sanitation, food, and other essential supplies and the Vulnerability Assessment for District 5, noting Caltrans will reach out to ITAC and other stakeholders for input on a forthcoming adaptation strategies document. He noted that Caltrans is working with California Highway Patrol (CHP) to reduce speeding on highways.

University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) – Teresa Buika reported that the RSTPX/ATP-funded bike path reconstruction project will start construction in mid-June. Urban bike riding classes are available online.

8. Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis – Alternatives Screening Results and Short List of Alternatives

Ginger Dykaar presented information on the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (TCAA). She described the evaluation framework, stakeholder

outreach and screening analysis of a range of transit investment options utilizing all or part of the length of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail corridor. She reported on the short list of alternatives that the project team is recommending be considered for further analysis: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT), an autonomous road “train” on pavement with rubber tires, electric light rail, and electric commuter rail.

Brett Garrett, member of the public, requested Personal Rapid Transit (PRT) be forwarded to the next phase of analysis.

9. Transportation Funding Impacts due to COVID-19

Rachel Moriconi provided an overview of state, federal, and local estimates of potential impacts of COVID-19 on transportation revenues, including preliminary Measure D and Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenue forecasts, California budget state sales tax and gas tax forecasts, and federal relief and stimulus proposals. She reported that the RTC plans to amend its budget in June to reflect updated Measure D and TDA forecasts. ITAC members reported that some of their agencies are moving forward with planned projects, while others are waiting to bid projects reliant on general fund revenues; some agencies anticipate furloughs due to revenue losses. Agencies were encouraged to get projects shelf-ready for construction as quickly as possible to help with economic recovery.

10. COVID Response and Recovery Strategies

Members discussed modifications agencies were making in response to COVID-19 shelter-in-place orders. Several agencies noted changes to parking, including restricting parking in some areas, repurposing parking spaces for outdoor seating, adding signage to remind people to maintain physical space between one another, and temporary closures of offices to foot traffic. ITAC members discussed slow streets, parklets, and street closure concepts. Some public works departments noted challenges in implementing slow streets safely and effectively, especially given limited staff. Bike Santa Cruz County, Friends of County Parks, Ecology Action and County Health Services representatives requested that local jurisdictions look at changes that can be made to the transportation network to support walking and biking as part of COVID-19 response, resilience, and recovery strategies, especially in town centers.

11. Transportation Program Updates and Announcements

Rachel Moriconi highlighted some upcoming state and federal grant opportunities which were listed in the agenda packet. She noted that deadlines for several programs had been extended.

12. Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 5 Applications

Chair Gallogly encouraged agencies to review the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant updates. City of Santa Cruz, County of Santa Cruz, Watsonville, and Ecology Action staff reported they are preparing grant applications.

13. SB 743-Implementation Updates

City and County members provided updates on SB 743 implementation. John Olejnik encouraged ITAC members to review and provide comments on Caltrans's [Draft Transportation Analysis Framework](#) (TAF) and [Draft Transportation Analysis under CEQA](#) (TAC). Agencies discussed mitigations for projects, modeling vehicle miles traveled (VMT) for land use and transportation projects, possibly establishing a regional mitigation bank, and VMT thresholds.

14. The next meeting scheduled for 1:30pm on June 18, 2020 was subsequently cancelled.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:27 pm.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner