



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 20, 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
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
Pete Rasmussen, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)
Anais Schenk, County Planning and Public Works (proxy)
Chris Schneider, Santa Cruz Public Works
John Urgo, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)

RTC Staff Present: Grace Blakeslee, Sarah Christensen, Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Fernanda Pini, Thomas Travers, Jason Thompson

Others Present: John Olejnik, Caltrans District 5; Josh Spangrud, Santa Cruz Public Works

- 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:** Rachel Moriconi noted that hard copies of [Active Transportation Program \(ATP\)](#) applications should be sent to Caltrans Headquarters, rather than the California Transportation Commission (CTC). Rachel also announced that Caltrans is releasing the draft California Transportation Plan (www.CTP2050.com) and encouraged agencies to review and provide input on the document. Amy Naranjo reported that the www.Cruz511.org website includes road closure, traffic, and other information from Caltrans, California Highway Patrol (CHP) and the County, with links to CZU Lightning Complex Fire resources also provided on the website. Anais Schenk reported that the County has been working on providing information on the fires, noting emergency shelters are almost at capacity.

- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:**
None.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- 5. Approved Minutes of the May 21, 2020 ITAC meeting**

6. Received Information Items

- a. Caltrans ITAC Announcements
- b. Transportation Program Updates and Announcements
- c. Highway 1 Updates, Staff Report

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.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that the city has been working with Caltrans to [solicit public input](#) on transportation improvements through Watsonville. Construction of Segment 18 of the Rail Trail was temporarily paused, with work anticipated to restart in mid-September. Due to high bid proposals, the city is revising and rebidding the Lincoln Street Active Transportation Program (ATP) project. City staff have also been working on an ATP application to build bike and pedestrian facilities connecting to Pajaro Valley High School over Highway 1 along Harkins Slough Road.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the Brommer St. multimodal project and Park Avenue sidewalk projects are getting notices of completion this month; and they are putting together an RFQ to get help with their pavement management program.

Santa Cruz – Chris Schneider reported that phase 1 of Segment 7 of the Rail Trail is about 80-85% complete, with construction anticipated to be completed in October. HSIP-funded crossing improvements have started, including on Soquel Dr through Seabright. City staff is preparing several grant applications for Rail Trail and other bike/ped projects in the scope. Anticipate awarding a contract for rail trail Segments 8 and 9 environmental review and engineering.

METRO – METRO held a kickoff meeting with the community on the planned new ParaCruz facility at the Soquel Drive Park and Ride lot. They have been focused on restoring service and with most service to 100% starting September 3, except some Highway 17 and will launch mobile ticketing-allowing tickets to be purchased by mobile phone.

County – Anais Schenk reported that as the emergency operations center, the County has been focused on emergency response. The County has approved ordinance allowing temporary using of parking and sidewalks for outdoor seating during COVID. Also working on sustainability updates to the General Plan, codes and ordinances.

Chair Gallogly appreciated Anais’s leadership on development of SB743 thresholds. Website is now online with threshold guidance posted, focused on the OPR approval process.

SCCRTC – Sarah Christensen reported that the RTC applied for \$107 million grant for Highway 1 auxiliary lanes, bus-on-shoulder improvements from Soquel interchange to State Park Drive, Capitola Ave overcrossing and signal upgrades and protected/buffered bike lanes on five miles of Soquel Drive. Rail corridor storm damage repairs – some under construction, some out to bid and going out to bid, and raiing over Highway 1 being re-advertised this fall after modifying some of the plans. Maintenance ditch regrading planned for several locations this fall.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG has finalized the [Highway 1 climate resiliency study](#) for the area around Elkhorn Slough

Caltrans – Gus Alfaro reported that Caltrans will present the District Active Transportation Plan to the ITAC next month; Caltrans’ [SB 743 website](#) has been updated; a wrong-way driver pilot program is underway; the Legislative Analyst’s Office published a new report regarding [sea-level rise](#) and Caltrans has been working on encroachment permits to allow outdoor seating in the state right-of-way that do not impact ADA accessibility. He noted that in addition to projects listed in the agenda packet Caltrans has started environmental review and design on a pedestrian safety project on Highway 9 in Felton and planning for a Highway 129 capital maintenance project.

8. Draft Project List for 2045 Transportation Plans

Amy Naranjo, RTC Transportation Planner, presented and solicited input from committee members on the draft project list for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). The plans are long range transportation plans with a horizon year of 2045.

Since the project list exceeds funding anticipated to be available through 2045, staff will return at a future meeting with recommendations on which projects to prioritize for anticipated funding based on various analysis. **She requested agencies provide any updates on project titles, descriptions, cost estimates, and completion dates by the end of next week (8/28).** Gus Alfaro suggested that the lump sum Highway 9 corridor complete streets project (CT-P09) be moved under various agencies. Paul Hierling noted that the constrained project list should match up to forecast revenues.

9. 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy and 2022 Regional Growth Forecast Update

Paul Hierling, AMBAG provided an update on the 2045 MTP/SCS and Regional Growth Forecast, included regional performance measures and draft environmental justice definitions and thresholds.

10. Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) Update

Grace Blakeslee and Fernanda Pini provided an update on the Santa Cruz County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS). The RCIS will identify environmental conservation actions. The transportation project mitigation needs assessment will analyze potential compensatory mitigation needs of future transportation projects. Once finalized, the Santa Cruz County RCIS will be a tool to help expedite delivery of transportation and other major infrastructure projects by identifying potential advance mitigation opportunities. Ms. Blakeslee asked agencies to **provide input on the transportation mitigation needs assessment project list by the end of August** and to let her know if their agencies would like to be involved in development of the RCIS. In response to a question from Gus Alfaro, she noted that Caltrans projects were included in a state needs assessment.

11. Measure D Five-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects and Community Bridges Lift Line

Rachel Moriconi, RTC Senior Transportation Planner, presented and requested committee input on the draft 5-Year Programs of Projects showing how RTC plans to invest Measure D funds over the next 5 years for each of the regional transportation categories -- Highway Corridors, Active Transportation, and the Rail Corridor, as well as San Lorenzo Valley Highway 9 Corridor Improvements, the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing, as well as the 5-year plan for Community Bridges Lift Line. The five year plans have been updated to reflect lower revenue forecasts, updated schedules and expenditures for individual projects. Gus Alfaro suggested the Highway

9/SLV plan be modified to clarify that the Highway 9 Complete Streets project initiation document (PID) is expected to be used to facilitate integration into local and Caltrans projects. Staff agreed to make the change.

A motion (Schneiter/Gallogly) was made to recommend that the RTC approve the Measure D 5-Year Plans. The motion passed with members Alfaro, Fontes, Gallogly, Mozumder, Rasmussen, Schenk, Schneiter and Urgo voting in favor. Member Hierling abstained.

12. The next meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm on September 17, 2020. The meeting is anticipated to be held by teleconference.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner

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