



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

MINUTES

Thursday, September 17, 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

Capitola Public Works and Planning (proxy) - Kailash Mozumder (Vice Chair)
Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning (proxy) - Claire Gallogly (Chair)
Watsonville Public Works - Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development - Justin Meek
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) - Heather Adamson
Caltrans District 5 - Gus Alfaro
Ecology Action Transportation Demand Management Program - Piet Canin
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) - Wondimu Mengistu
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) - John Urgo

ITAC Members Absent: *County of Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)*

RTC Staff Present: Rachel Moriconi, Ginger Dykaar, Amy Naranjo, Thomas Travers

Others Present:

Jacques Bertrand, RTC Commissioner/Capitola Council
Darron Hill, Joe Londono, Kelly McClendon, Doug Hessing, Jenna Shudson, and Malinda Gallaher, Caltrans District 5
Sasha Tepedelenova, AMBAG
John Thurston, Caltrans Headquarters Planning

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- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Gallogly called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
 - 2. Introductions:** Roll call introductions were made. All attendees participated by teleconference.
 - 3. Oral Communications:** Justin Meek reported that the recent American Planning Association (APA) conference focused on equity and justice issues, and Watsonville is working on an environmental justice element for its General Plan. He agreed to share some of the lessons learned at a future

ITAC meeting. He also noted that he has been discussing with the state challenges associated with estimating vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and will report back with more information on that front. Gus Alfaro appreciated AMBAG for making a presentation to Caltrans's planning staff on its activities-based model.

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

CONSENT AGENDA

The Committee approved a motion (Fontes/Meek) approving the consent agenda (9-0), with members Fontes, Meek, Mozumder (2), Mengistu, Urgo, Canin, Gallogly (2) voting "yes" by roll call vote. Adamson abstained.

- 5. Approved Minutes of the August 20, 2020 ITAC meeting**

REGULAR AGENDA

- 6. 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.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the city has been working through items for Caltrans encroachment permits for the 41st Avenue adaptive signal program.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that the Airport Blvd/Holm Road signal project (Highway Safety Improvement Program-funded) is expected to start construction this month. Caltrans is working with Watsonville to integrate complete street bike and pedestrian improvements on Highways 129 and 152. The Active Transportation Program (ATP) application was submitted for bike and pedestrian facilities connecting to Pajaro Valley High School along Harkins Slough Road over Highway 1. Construction of Segment 18 of the Rail Trail is expected to restart soon.

Justin Meek reported that the Watsonville Community Development Department has been working on the VMT model and screening maps for infill development projects and reaching out to state OPR to discuss opportunities and challenges; met with Caltrans to discuss conceptual concepts in the Downtown Specific Plan; and planning is coordinating with public works on general plan and climate action plan development.

METRO – Wondimu Mengistu reported that METRO is implementing its electric bus implementation strategy to transition its fleet to zero emission. METRO finished installing charging infrastructure and 4 new buses will be arriving this fall. METRO is also starting to install up to 10 EV charging portals for non-revenue vehicles using Air District funds. METRO is also planning to use formula shares of SB1 State of Good Repair and Local Partnership Program (LPP) funds on several replacement buses.

AMBAG – Heather Adamson reported that AMBAG is working on the regional growth forecast, working with local jurisdiction staff to add forecast information to the regional travel demand model (RTDM) and within transportation activity zones (TAZ). Work also continues on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update. Requests for Regional Early Action Program (REAP) funding are due to AMBAG next month. While focused on housing, REAP funds can also be used for related planning work.

Ecology Action – Piet Canin reported that Ecology Action helped prepare Active Transportation Program (ATP) applications for Watsonville’s Harkins Slough project, a County Health non-infrastructure grant for 12 schools in Watsonville, and two City of Santa Cruz Rail Trail projects. During Bike October people are encouraged to log their bicycle trips online. Ecology Action is also helping with National Drive Electric events.

SCCRTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that at its September 3, 2020 meeting the RTC board adopted the updated [Measure D 5-year plans](#) for regional projects; viewed a [video simulation](#) of TIG/m rail vehicles, with a live demonstration planned for spring 2021; and approved the preliminary list of projects for the [2045 Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#). She also reported that the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the environmental document for Highway 1 auxiliary lanes/bus-on-shoulder between Freedom Boulevard and State Park Drive, including portions of rail trail Segment 12, will be released soon. Design and right-of-way for the Highway 1 41st Ave-Soquel Dr project work is expected to be completed by the end of the year. The draft EIR/EA for the Highway 1 State Park Dr to Bay/Porter project is also expected to be released later this year.

Santa Cruz – Clair Gallogly reported that construction continues on phase 1 of Segment 7 of the Rail Trail and HSIP-funded crossing improvements. The city submitted ATP grant applications for Rail Trail Segment 7 phase 2, Rail Trail Segments 8 and 9, and a Delaware-Swanton multiuse path. City staff is also working on their local safety plan and Cycle 10 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) application.

Caltrans – Gus Alfaro announced that Caltrans will be hosting a SB743 web-based workshop at 11:00 am on October 6, 2020. Caltrans planning grant guidelines are expected to be released soon, with applications likely due in November. He reminded agencies applying for HSIP funds to check in with Caltrans if their project may impact state highway right-of-way. He reported that Caltrans issued an emergency contract to address fire damage on Highway 9 and Highway 236, with reconstruction efforts underway. The fires and smoke did result in delays to most non-emergency projects. He also highlighted announcements and projects listed in the agenda packet – including the Pasatiempo shoulder widening, capital maintenance, pedestrian signal upgrades, and Highway 152 projects. Malinda Gallaher will be the new Local Assistance Engineer for Santa Cruz County. She will be taking over for Donn Miyahara who is retiring.

Follow-up for ATP Applicants: Heather Adamson reminded members that agencies are required to send copies of ATP applications to AMBAG.

7. Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Update

Darron Hill and Joe Londono, Caltrans District 5, presented the [10-Year SHOPP Book](#) and [webviewer map](#). **Agencies should review planned projects and talk to Gus Alfaro and the project manager regarding where opportunities may exist to partner/coordinate, where there might be a conflict with local projects, and potential complete streets components.** Mr. Hill highlighted planned projects on Highways 1, 9, 17, and 236 which could be good candidates for coordination regarding transit, bike and pedestrian facilities and emphasized that it is most effective to provide input and suggest project modifications, such as complete street components, when projects are in the “planning” stage and before they have been programmed by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for SHOPP funds.

8. Caltrans Draft 2050 California Transportation Plan

John Thurston, Caltrans Headquarters Statewide Long-Range Planning Branch, provided an overview of the 2050 California Transportation Plan (CTP), available online at www.CTP2050.com. He highlighted goals, modeling, strategies and recommendations to achieve state goals, differences from the 2040 CTP, and implementation plans. Interested parties are encouraged to provide input on the draft plan through October 22, 2020. A [webinar](#) will be held on September 25, 2020 from 11:30am to 1:00pm.

Committee members requested additional information about the models used to estimate VMT, commented that some strategies are more urban focused, that land use should remain locally driven, and expressed concerns that the plan is not financially constrained and that some strategies may not be reasonable to implement given available funding.

9. Caltrans District 5 Vulnerability Assessment

Jenna Schudson, Caltrans District 5, made a presentation regarding the [Caltrans District 5 Vulnerability Assessment](#). The report and maps include information on state highway facilities that are vulnerable to climate “stressors” such as temperature, sea level rise, wildfire, precipitation, storm surge and cliff retreat. Climate stressors can impact project design, maintenance, landscaping/vegetation management, bridges, culverts, visibility, evacuation routes, and result in other challenges. Caltrans plans to consider the information during project development and will be identifying at-risk projects and adaptation priorities. Some of the Caltrans tools may be helpful in local adaptation planning and project design efforts.

10. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP)

Sasha Tepedelenova, AMBAG, provided an overview of the [Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program \(MTIP\)](#) programming and amendment process. Projects that have been approved to receive federal funds or are considered regionally significant must be included in the MTIP in order to access certain state and federal funds. She reviewed the schedule for adoption of the next MTIP update.

11. The next meeting was re-scheduled to 1:30pm on October 22, 2020. This is one week later than the regular date. The meeting is anticipated to be held by teleconference.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner