



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

MINUTES

Thursday, October 22, 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 Work- Mark Dettle
Santa Cruz Planning - Claire Gallogly (Chair)
Scotts Valley Public Works – Athena Cheung
Watsonville Public Works - Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development - Justin Meek
County of Santa Cruz Public Works – Tim Bailey
County of Santa Cruz Planning – Anais Schenk
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) – Paul Hierling
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 Uργο
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) – Teresa Buika

RTC Staff Present: Rachel Moriconi, Amanda Marino, Amy Naranjo

Others Present:

- Debbie Benham, John Daugherty, Veronica Elsea - Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC)
- Malinda Gallaher – Caltrans Local Assistance
- Ingrid McRoberts, Audrey Ogden, John Olejnik, Terri Persons, Jenna Schudson - Caltrans District 5 Planning
- Ben Vernanza, Aptos resident
- Steve Wiesner, County Public Works
- Alex Yasbek, Watsonville Community Development

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:** Ben Vernanza, Santa Cruz County resident, expressed support for the “busway and bikeway” alternative studied in the 1998 Major Transportation Investment Study (MTIS), including a trail on the rail line, rather than using the rail line for both trains and trail. He also suggested the RTC put on hold any expenditures related to Highway 1 auxiliary lanes south of State Park Drive and rebuilding the railroad trestles over Highway 1 [Freedom-State Park Drive Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder, and Segment 12 of the Rail Trail project]. *His full statement is attached to these minutes.*
4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Committee approved a motion (Fontes/Mozumder) approving the consent agenda (15-0), with all members voting “yes” by roll call vote.

5. Approved Minutes of the September 17, 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.

County - Tim Bailey reported that public works has been working on Measure D resurfacing projects, though some were put on hold due to the fires; the Aptos Creek Road/Soquel Drive signal project is under construction; and they are wrapping up some storm damage projects before winter.

Scotts Valley – Athena Cheung reported that the city just repaved and restriped 11 roads and is starting design on next year’s roads.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the city is working on a Caltrans encroachment permit for the 41st Avenue adaptive signal

project; finishing bid documents for the streetscape project on a small section of Capitola Ave near the Village.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that two signal projects are under construction at Airport Blvd/Holm Road (HSIP-funded) and West Beach/Ohlone (developer fee-funded). They rebid the Lincoln St Active Transportation Program (ATP) project, but received no bids, so will rebid again in the spring. Segment 18 of the Rail Trail is under construction.

Justin Meek reported that the Watsonville Community Development Department has several advance planning projects moving that could impact future capital projects including a Climate Adaptation Action Plan; Environmental Justice element of the General Plan and a specific plan for downtown to spur infill development.

METRO – John Urgo reported that METRO had a press event highlighting safety measure being taken for buses, including barriers between seats, mask enforcement, and enhanced cleaning of buses. They are also working with the City of Santa Cruz on an Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) application for Pacific Station and a Paracruz facility on Soquel Drive.

Wondimu Mengistu reported that METRO is purchasing six CNG buses to replace diesel buses that are over 20 years old. At its October 22 meeting, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) approved an allocation of formula SB1-Local Partnership Program (LPP) funds that METRO will use to purchase seven 10-passenger paratransit vans to replace gasoline fueled vans. METRO is also closing out its Low Carbon Transit Operations Program-funded charging infrastructure project.

UCSC - Teresa Buika reported that the ATP- and RSTPX-funded bike path project is complete and open. Some of the non-infrastructure bike safety program classes have been moved online, with some mechanic checks and bike light distribution in-person.

Ecology Action – Ecology Action is working with UCSC on non-infrastructure bike safety programs; working on the Active Transportation Plan for County unincorporated urban areas, with well-attended public forums; and hosting Bike October using an online system to track and support trips by bicycle. Ecology Action also was awarded an Electric Vehicle Equity program grant to promote EV rebates for low income and moderate income individuals.

RTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that RTC is not adjusting TDA or Measure D revenue estimates or apportionments at this time and instead is making mostly minor amendments to its FY20/21 budget at its November meeting. Transportation Agency for Monterey County (TAMC) presented information to the RTC board on its plans for extending passenger rail service from San Jose and the Bay Area to Salinas and Pajaro. The North Coast Rail Trail team is working through tasks required to finish up design. RTC has been conducting public outreach on several Highway 1 projects, including the Mar Vista bike/ped bridge design and 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.

Santa Cruz – Clair Gallogly reported that construction is underway on Rail Trail Segment 7 and HSIP-funded pedestrian crossing improvements. The city is also working on its highway safety plan and she encouraged other local jurisdictions to apply for funds to develop their plans, which will be required for future HSIP grants. They are also looking at options for a countywide regional bikeshare program and options for its Go Santa Cruz TDM program for downtown employees, in light of reduced parking revenues. The city also prepared HSIP Cycle 10 applications for signal and pedestrian crossing projects. Mark Dettle reported that the city plans to go to bid on the Highway 1/9 intersection project late winter/early spring.

Caltrans – Gus Alfaro appreciated agencies for meeting with Caltrans on future SHOPP projects, including complete streets elements and opportunities to partner on funding. He highlighted that the HSIP application deadline is November 2. The Caltrans Planning Grant application deadline and call-for-projects is being pushed out, exact dates will be shared once available; workshops planned in November. October 2020 is the first National Pedestrian Safety Month; Caltrans is increasing its focus on pedestrian safety countermeasures in their projects, plans, and trainings. He also shared information on the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC) program and turn lane modifications to the Soquel Avenue/State Route 1 interchange.

7. Caltrans District 5 Active Transportation Plan

Terri Persons, Audrey Ogden, and Ingrid McRoberts provided an update on the District 5 Active Transportation Plan. The plan describes existing and planned facilities, gaps and barriers, prioritization criteria –

including mobility, safety, and equity. They highlighted the online story map and explorer map which identifies some of the desired projects. They requested that agencies provide feedback on the draft plan and information on existing and future local planning efforts and projects. Community members in attendance suggested that Highway 17 be looked at and that bike lanes be added on uphill sections of roadways where right-of-way is constrained.

8. Safe Pedestrian Intersection Design

The Pedestrian Projects Ad-hoc Subcommittee of the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee, including Veronica Elsea, Debbie Benham, and John Daugherty, made a presentation regarding safe pedestrian intersection design. They highlighted challenges pedestrians face at intersections and solicited input on the best ways to share information and address issues with agencies. Gus Alfaro suggested providing comments to Caltrans through RTC staff. Steve Wiesner noted that the County conducts an investigation to review accessibility issues at existing intersections, whereas they try to run new designs through the Bicycle Committee and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC).

9. California's Adaptation Planning Guide

Justin Meek, Watsonville Community Development, provided an overview of the state Adaptation Planning Guide, highlighting some of the tools and resources available to agencies.

10. Climate Action Planning and Roundtable Discussion

Alex Yasbek, Watsonville Community Development, provided an overview of Watsonville's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan. He emphasized the need for more green infrastructure projects, like rain gardens and storm water mitigation, tree planting and interim measures to heat islands, wetlands restoration, and lane use-transportation connections. Committee members discussed planning efforts related to sea-level rise, integrating resiliency into project designs, climate migration, and hazard mitigation planning.

11. Legislative Updates

Rachel Moriconi provided updates on federal and state legislative policy and administrative activities, requested that agencies share information about local efforts that support implementation of Executive Order N-

79-20 regarding zero emission vehicles (ZEV), and requested members email her any state or federal legislative or administration priorities that should be considered for the RTC's 2021 Legislative Program.

Committee members shared information on efforts to convert agency fleet vehicles, including garbage trucks, to electric; requiring electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure in new developments; power challenges; limiting natural gas installation in new buildings; rest area upgrades to include solar charging; public outreach; and permitting to fast track installation.

12. Next meeting. The meeting scheduled for November 19, 2020 was subsequently cancelled.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner