



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, January 21, 2021, 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

County of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy – Steve Wiesner
Capitola Public Works - Kailash Mozumder (Vice Chair)
Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy - Chris Schneiter
Scotts Valley Public Works – Athena Cheung
Watsonville Public Works - Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development - Justin Meek
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 – Pete Rasmussen (2 votes)
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) – Teresa Buika

RTC Staff Present

Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Sarah Christensen, Tommy Travers, Guy Preston

Others Present

Chris Bjornstad and Sheridan Nansen, Caltrans District 5
Mark Dettle, Santa Cruz Public Works
Miranda Taylor, AMBAG

- 1. Call to Order:** Vice Chair Kailash Mozumder 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:** None
- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved Minutes of the December 17, 2020 ITAC meeting

The Committee approved a motion (Fontes/Schneider) approving the consent agenda (12-0), with Steve Wiesner abstaining and all other members present voting "yes" by roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Status of transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents

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

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the city will start construction of the Capitola Avenue streetscape project near Capitola Village in the next few months.

County – Steve Wiesner reported that the County resurfaced over 32 miles of roads in 2020, with a combination of Measure D, RSTPX, STIP, and some SB1 funds. They also worked on 34 individual storm damage projects, totaling over \$23 million; fire damage to 30 culverts, guardrail, over 500 signs, one bridge that was fully destroyed and one partially destroyed, removing 7500 trees in burn zone along roadsides, and other maintenance work. Several storm damage sites are still under construction, with some on hold during the rainy season and debris flow evacuation routes. Construction continues on the Aptos Creek Road/Soquel Drive intersection signal and RR crossing.

Santa Cruz – Chris Schneider reported that Jim Burr Transportation Manager retired.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that the signal project at Beach/Ohlone is operational and construction continues at Airport Blvd/Holm Road. Segment 18 of the Rail Trail was paved last week and construction may finish in a few weeks, weather pending. He shared a picture of the trail with a train operating next to it.

METRO – Pete Rasmussen reported that METRO will be launching a microtransit pilot program in February 2021. The on-demand, point-to-point service pilot will be available in 6 zones (3-4 miles each). Rides can be scheduled by the general public, the service will use ParaCruz vehicles,

and fares will be similar to ParaCruz. More information is available in the METRO board's January 22, 2021 meeting agenda packet.

UCSC - Teresa Buika highlighted the notice included in the agenda packet regarding the Draft Long Range Development Plan (LRDP) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR). She noted upcoming public meetings and that comments are due March 8, 2021. Documents and meeting notices are online at: <https://lrdp.ucsc.edu/>. She noted that if everything goes well with vaccinations, classes are expected to be in-person Fall Quarter.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported work continues on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS).

Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported that EA is conducting outreach to low income consumers about electric vehicles, completed the Scotts Valley Active Transportation Plan, and is working on a bike commuter education program with the City of Santa Cruz and large employer Transportation Demand Management (TDM) outreach focused on biking as “COVID-safe” transportation.

Caltrans – Gus Alfaro reported that the District Active Transportation Plan is scheduled to be released for public review in February 2021; the CalSTA Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) will likely be released in spring 2021; the climate Adaption Report is expected to be released this month; the draft Interregional Transportation Strategic Plan (ITSP) will be released in summer/fall; and Reinie Jones is the new fulltime District Local Assistance Engineer.

RTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC considered public input on the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (TCAA) and is scheduled to take action on the final report at its February 4, 2021. The RTC is holding a public meeting on the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) on 1/21/21. Amy Naranjo reported that RTC is working with Ecology Action to launch the countywide MyCruz511 program, similar to GoSantaCruz, in coordination with the May Bike Month. Sarah Christensen reported that the Highway 1 – 41st Ave-Soquel Dr. project is expected to be advertised for construction this spring; design work has begun on the Highway 1 Bay/Porter-State Park auxiliary lanes, with the environmental review anticipated to be finalized in May 2021 and the project ready to advertise for construction by the end of 2022. Environmental review of the Highway 1 State Park to Freedom Blvd project continues.

7. Financially Constrained Project List for 2045 Transportation Plans

Amy Naranjo provided an overview of the draft constrained project list and financial forecasts for the 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP). She requested that ITAC members and project sponsors review the project list and provide any final updates on the project list and Financial Element by January 30, 2021.

8. Caltrans Planning and Local Assistance Updates

Gus Alfaro highlighted announcements and projects included in the agenda packet, including that planning grant applications are due February 12, 2021, other grant opportunities and the planned Highway 1 roadside safety project. Rachel Moriconi highlighted changes to Local Assistance invoices and at-risk preliminary engineering.

- 9. Next meeting.** The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on February 18, 2021 via videoconference. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi, RTC Planner