



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, March 18, 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 – Tim Bailey
Capitola Public Works - Kailash Mozumder (Vice Chair)
Santa Cruz Public Works – Mark Dettle
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy - Josh Spangrud
Scotts Valley Public Works – Athena Cheung
Watsonville Public Works - Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development - Justin Meek
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) – Heather Adamson
Caltrans District 5 - Gus Alfaro
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District – John Uργο (2 votes)
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) – Teresa Buika

Excused Absence: Piet Canin, Ecology Action

RTC Staff Present

Rachel Moriconi, Guy Preston, Fernanda Dias Pini

Others Present

Darron Hill, Caltrans District 5
Miranda Taylor, AMBAG Alternate
Oxo Slayer, UCSC Alternate
Daryl Jordan, Scotts Valley Public Works Alternate

- 1. Call to Order:** Vice Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:32 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:** Handouts were provided for Items 8, 10, and 12.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved Minutes of the January 21, 2021 ITAC meeting

6. Accepted Caltrans Announcements from Gus Alfaro, District 5

The Committee approved a motion (Fontes/Mozumder) approving the consent agenda (8-0), with Mozumder, Dettle, Cheung, Fontes, Alfaro, Buika, Uργο and alternate Taylor voting yes by roll call vote. Spangrud abstained. Due to technical difficulties Members Bailey and Meek did not vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. 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.

UCSC – Teresa Buika noted that an increase in the student population is expected this Fall as COVID-19-related restrictions are gradually lifted, and with on-campus housing at 2/3rds capacity and in-person classes at 50% capacity. Ms. Buika also stated that the UCSC Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) is in the early planning stages to electrify its fleet and plans to contract with the Center for Transportation and the Environment to conduct a feasibility study.

METRO – John Uργο reported METRO is currently running a free fare program for those with COVID-19 vaccine appointments; a 50% reduction for regular and free rides for discount eligible customers system-wide will be implemented between March 22nd and September 15th; changes to METRO’s summer service are being considered in anticipation of increased traffic and greater demand on weekends, to recreational areas, and to the UCSC campus as pandemic-related restrictions are eased.

Scotts Valley – Athena Cheung reported that the city is out to bid for a sidewalk project on Bluebonnet Lane.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported that the HSIP-funded Airport Boulevard and Home Road signal is operational; the ATP-funded Lincoln Street safety improvement project is out to bid for the third time; the first phase of Segment 18 of the Rail Trail is close to completion; and California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff have recommended that the city receive grant funding for the Harkin Slough pedestrian crossing over Highway 1.

For Watsonville planning Justin Meek reported that efforts for the downtown specific plan are ongoing and that opportunity sites and connections to the transportation network are being looked at, including design alternatives. Planning staff are working with Caltrans and the Public Works Department to discuss alternatives and what may be included as part of that effort.

County – Tim Bailey reported that they opened bids on Measure D resurfacing project which includes 5.34 miles of rubber cape seal. The Aptos Village signal is expected to be operational by the end of March, with new striping scheduled to be completed in the next week. Storm damage projects continue, with new projects going out to bid soon.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the Capitola Avenue streetscape sidewalk project near Capitola Village and planning for the Clares Street improvement project is underway, including public outreach and final design.

Santa Cruz – Josh Spangrud reported that the Highway 1/9 project is out to bid, with construction expected to start in May. He also reported that the City has received bids for citywide pavement projects; Segment 7-Phase I of the Rail Trail and an HSIP project pedestrian crossing projects were completed. Mark Dettle added that the City is working with Caltrans on fencing and to relocate houseless people during Highway 1/9 construction.

AMBAG – Heather Adamson stated AMBAG updates would be provided under Item #9.

RTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that RTC will be collecting bicycle and pedestrian counts this spring. Agencies should contact Tommy Travers by March 26th if they have locations that need counts they would like to coordinate with the RTC's contract. Counts are anticipated to be done in May to ensure consistency with previous counts. She also reported that the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing, funded in part by \$5 million from Measure D, is ready to go to bid and will be advertised soon after the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) meeting in May 2021 releasing funds for Caltrans construction support costs. The RTC's Highway 1 41st Ave to Soquel Ave/Dr Auxiliary Lanes, Bus-on-Shoulder, and Chanticleer Bike/Ped Overcrossing project is anticipated to go out to bid following the CTC's fund allocation in June, and begin construction in the Fall. Along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, several repair projects are under construction or out to bid. Ms. Moriconi also reported that RTC and partners will be kicking off the campaign for the new Cruz511 commute manager program, branded as Go

Santa Cruz County, in May 2021, which could help promote METRO's new services.

Caltrans – Gus Alfaro reported that Caltrans released *California Transportation Plan 2050*, a long range plan with a vision to create a statewide transportation system that is integrated, sustainable, and that has a network of mobility options that provide a safe, reliable, and convenient transportation. At the core of the 2050 Plan is a focus to reduce greenhouse gas to 80% below 1990 levels by 2050, and with an emphasis to attempt to advance racial and economic justice by redirecting resources to marginalized and under-invested communities and by amplifying voices traditionally excluded from the transportation decision-making process.

Mr. Alfaro also reported that the CTC made \$100 million available to integrate complete streets into Caltrans' State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects. He noted that this was a competitive process and announced that Caltrans staff is recommending approximately \$2 million for complete streets projects on Highways 152 and 129 in Watsonville; the allocation will be decided at the May CTC meeting. Mr. Alfaro lauded the City of Watsonville and Ecology Action for their local community planning and for proving a compelling story and analysis.

Mr. Alfaro noted another new project is a high friction surface treatment project on Highway 17 around Scotts Valley to Summit Road, Heidi Borders is the project manager and contact for this project.

8. State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Update

Darron Hill, Caltrans District 5, provided an update on State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects in Santa Cruz County and encouraged use of the [SHOPP virtual project dashboard - projectbook.dot.ca.gov](https://projectbook.dot.ca.gov), which includes information on SHOPP projects in their various stages of development, including broad categories, project costs, notes on currently programmed projects. The 10-Year Book projects is available online at <https://tinyurl.com/reqf34t>.

Mr. Hill noted that many projects present an opportunity for partnership between Caltrans and local agencies. Projects that are reactive in nature, such as safety projects or storm damage projects, are immediately addressed by Caltrans and present very limited opportunity for interagency collaboration, are not listed on the SHOPP project viewer.

He requested jurisdictions identify safety issue areas and communicate those with Caltrans as soon as possible and that ITAC members review and provide input on SHOPP projects.

9. Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) 2021 Title VI/Limited English Language (LEP) Plan Development

Miranda Taylor, AMBAG, gave an overview of AMBAG's 2021 Title VI Plan development process. The 2021 Title VI Plan is a comprehensive document that guides AMBAG in the Title VI process, effective from 2021-2024. As a subrecipient of Caltrans' Planning Grants and the federally designated Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO), AMBAG must prepare and adopt a Title VI plan at least once every three years to meet Federal Transit Administration requirements. Ms. Taylor asked ITAC members to review and provide feedback on the development of the draft plan.

10. Transportation Funding Updates

Rachel Moriconi, RTC, provided updates on state and federal funding sources, including: Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP), the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) ACT, Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)/ Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX), Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), Active Transportation Program (ATP), Transportation Development Act, and Measure D. She reminded agencies that AMBAG has requested updates to the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for federally-funded projects by March 19.

Ms. Moriconi reported that members of Congress are likely to bring back Earmark appropriations and that the RTC will be submitting priority projects to the Central Coast Congressional Representatives and encourages ITAC members to reach out to RTC staff to coordinate efforts to obtain appropriations or earmarks for local projects. She also discussed the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (aka CRRSAA, H.R. 133, COVID Relief) and state-level discussion on fund distribution and amounts. The CTC is expected to decide regional funding amounts and whether funds are distributed through the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) and/or Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG) programs at its March 24, 2021 meeting.

Teresa Buika noted that a small amount of CRRSAA funding has also been distributed for operations to agencies that received FTA5310 grants in 2020, including about \$30,000 to UCSC.

11. Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI)

Rachel Moriconi, RTC, provided an overview of the draft [Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure \(CAPTI\)](#). The California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA), along with several other state agencies, has developed the CAPTI as a response to the executive orders signed by Governor Gavin Newsom in 2019 (EO N-19-19) and 2020 (EO N-79-20) that target greenhouse gas emission reduction in transportation to reach the state's climate goals. She noted that comments on the plan are due May 4 and encouraged ITAC members to review the draft CAPTI and share any comments that they have with RTC staff.

Heather Adamson noted that AMBAG staff will be taking their comments on the CAPTI for Board deliberation. She mentioned that AMBAG is paying particular attention to CAPTI language on freight and safety and how it may hinder grant-competitiveness of some projects in Monterey and San Benito counties.

Justin Meek discussed submitting a comment related to the need for a definition of disadvantaged communities that incorporates a more fine-grained level of data and analysis to ensure representation and advocacy for services for vulnerable populations and to address historical inequities.

Murray Fontes inquired about how Caltrans staff believe that the CAPTI will be integrated into Caltrans' programs.

Gus Alfaro stated that the goals of the California Transportation Plan 2050 are synergic with those of the CAPTI and encouraged agencies to read the CAPTI to gain insight into Caltrans' investment strategies. Mr. Alfaro noted that this discussion only pertains to discretionary funds and that Caltrans will continue to have a "Fix-It-First" approach to Senate Bill 1 road repair and maintenance and SHOPP projects. He noted that vehicle miles traveled (VMT) have increased leading to a state-wide sense of urgency to address climate change, reduce VMT and to focus on multi-modal improvements.

Rachel Moriconi noted that while CAPTI recognizes the need for additional funding for active transportation projects, she expressed concerns that the State might suggest funding complete streets on state highways through the already oversubscribed Active Transportation Program (ATP).

Teresa Buika stated that the CAPTI is a forward-thinking plan and she inquired whether CalSTA staff had reached out to higher education agencies for input. Ms. Buika also noted that the University of California (UC) system does not have sufficient funding to meet state-set transportation goals, such as to electrify its fleet and promote transit use,

as the UC's transportation/parking services are funded by student fees, which is an inequitable and unsustainable funding source to meet the state's goals.

12. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Rachel Moriconi shared information on past ITAC chairs and vice chairs since 2000. She noted that Claire Gallogly has proposed Kailash Mozumder serve as Chair and Teresa Buika as Vice-Chair. After brief discussion, Mr. Mozumder confirmed that he would be willing to serve as chair for the next two years and Ms. Buika agreed to vice chair. ***The committee approved a motion (10-0) from Fontes/Dettle nominating Kailash Mozumder and Teresa Buika as chair and vice chair for a two year term starting April 2021. The motion passed with Mozumder, Dettle, Cheung, Fontes, Meek, Bailey, Alfaro, Buika, Urgo, and Adamson voting yes.***

Murray Fontes acknowledged that Claire Gallogly did a wonderful job as chair, especially in spite of additional technical challenges associated with virtual meetings due to COVID over the past year.

13. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on April 15, 2021 via videoconference (Zoom). ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 3:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Fernanda Dias Pini, RTC Transportation Planning Tech