



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

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, June 24, 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**

Steve Wiesner	County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Anais Schenk	County of Santa Cruz Planning
Kailash Mozumder (Chair)	Capitola Public Works
Chris Schneiter	Santa Cruz Public Works
Claire Gallogly	Santa Cruz Planning
Murray Fontes	Watsonville Public Works
Justin Meek	Watsonville Community Development
Paul Hierling	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Gus Alfaro	Caltrans District 5
John Urgo	Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Teresa Buika (Vice Chair)	University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)
Jeanne LePage	Ecology Action
Alan Romero	Monterey Bay Air Resources District (Ex-Officio)

*Excused Absence: Athena Cheung, City of Scotts Valley Public Works*

**RTC Staff Present**

Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Guy Preston

**Others Present**

Casey Carlson, Matt Machado, County of Santa Cruz Public Works  
Chris Bjornstad, John Olejnik, Malinda Gallaher, Caltrans District 5  
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz  
Oxo Slayer, UCSC  
Members of Public: Brian Peoples, Michael Pisano, Kate Giberson

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Roll call introductions of committee members were made. All attendees participated by teleconference.
- 3. Oral Communications:** Brian Peoples stated that he feels it is a conflict of interest for Ecology Action to be a member of the ITAC. He suggested that no private organizations should be on RTC committees.
- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** A [Go Santa Cruz County brochure](#) was made available on the meeting webpage as a handout for Item 7.

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 5. **Approved Minutes of the May 20, 2021 ITAC meeting**

*The Committee approved a motion (Gallogly/Schneider) approving the consent agenda (10-0), with Mozumder, Schneider, Gallogly, Fontes, Meek, Urgo (two votes), Alfaro, Buika and Hierling voting yes by roll call vote. Wiesner abstained. Members LePage and Schenk were not present during the vote.*

## REGULAR AGENDA

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

Representatives from ITAC member agencies provided updates on Measure D and RTC-funded projects, other major projects, and planning efforts.

County of Santa Cruz Public Works – Steve Wiesner reported that several pavement projects are underway countywide, with over 30 projects under construction over the past year. The Portola Drive temporary protected bicycle lane pop-up and road diet project has been installed, with the County working with Ecology Action to solicit public input.

Santa Cruz Planning and Public Works – Claire Gallogly reported that the City anticipates releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a regional bikeshare program vendor in August. Chris Schneider reported that construction is underway on the Highway 1/9 project and residential cape seal and arterial paving projects citywide. Pure Water Soquel has a pipeline project on California Ave.

Watsonville Public Works – Murray Fontes reported that the formal opening of Segment 18 Rail Trail is scheduled for July. The city is also constructing pedestrian improvement on Lincoln St near Watsonville High School. The city will be working with a consultant to start design of the Highway 1/Harkins Slough Road school access project.

Watsonville Community Development – Justin Meeks reported on planning efforts to make downtown more bicycle and pedestrian friendly, including complete streets enhancements on Highways 129 and 152 added to Caltrans projects.

UCSC – Teresa Buika reported that UCSC is looking forward to implementation of the regional bikeshare program. She noted that fewer students are anticipated to be living on campus this fall.

METRO – John Urgo reported that METRO received a Caltrans planning grant for the Soquel Drive/Ave corridor and new signs are being installed at bus stops.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported work continues on the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue adaptive signal project, with the bid announcement planned for late July and bid opening a month later; the city is hosting a community workshop on the Clares St. complete

streets project on June 30th at 6:00pm; and the City is working on its pavement management plan.

Caltrans District 5 – Gus Alfaro reported that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has approved over \$100 million statewide for complete streets projects on state highways, including Highways 129 and 152. Caltrans will be working with partners on longer term plans for integrating complete streets on Caltrans projects. He reported a new RFB was installed on Mission St/Highway 1. Caltrans is reviewing active transportation concepts for possible integration into the Mission Street/Highway 1 and Highway 9 Capital Maintenance projects. Pre-construction work for a pedestrian safety project on Highway 9 from Graham Hill Road to SLV Schools is underway. Mr. Alfaro also reported on the Governor’s Clean California litter abatement program which will support public education and cleanup of local roads, highways and transit facilities. He also provided updates on the Highway 9 viaduct and retaining wall project and recently awarded Caltrans Planning grants to the County of Santa Cruz, METRO and Watsonville.

Malinda Gallaher, Local Assistance, encouraged agencies to review Caltrans [Office Bulletins](#), which include updates to the Local Assistance Program Guidelines and Local Assistance Procedures Manual related to master agreements, audits, and state programs (including ATP, LPP, STIP). She also reported that Nicole Olson is the new Caltrans Local Programs contact for any right-of-way issues.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG released its Draft 2021 Title VI Plan for a 30-day public review period on June 9, 2021.

RTC – Rachel Moriconi requested agencies submit invoices to RTC for FY20/21 expenditures by July 10. She also announced that Caltrans is expected to go out to bid for the Highway 1 41st Ave-Soquel auxiliary lanes/bus-on-shoulder and Chanticleer Ave bike/pedestrian crossing project this summer and Caltrans awarded a planning grant for Electric Vehicle infrastructure on the Central Coast. The RTC has also hired a new consultant to work on environmental review and design of the Highway 1 State Park Dr. to Freedom Blvd. and MBSST Segment 12 project.

She also announced that SB1 Local Street and Road project lists are due to the state on July 1 through the State’s CalSMART database; the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will be kicking off the next SB1 competitive grant cycle with a workshop on August 24; the CTC will be holding a workshop on Active Transportation Program (ATP) Augmentation for \$500 million included in the State Budget; and the CTC announced it will be more critical of time extension requests and that project sponsors should focus on delivering and closing out CTC-funded projects to ensure funds are not lost.

Public comment - Brian Peoples said he recently went on vacation to many areas and saw many rails-to-trails facilities. He stated his belief that local agencies are wasting money.

*Member Anais Schenk joined the meeting.*

## **7. Go Santa Cruz County update**

Amy Naranjo provided an update on the countywide Go Santa Cruz County transportation demand management (TDM) program aimed at reducing vehicle miles traveled and greenhouse gas emissions. The program includes a commute management tool online at [www.my.cruz511.org](http://www.my.cruz511.org) that provides information and incentives for using more earth-friendly commute options.

## **8. Programming Process for Discretionary Transportation Funds**

Rachel Moriconi, RTC, sought input from the committee on the proposed process and evaluation criteria for programming regional shares of COVID Relief, Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG)/Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), and Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds in 2021. She noted that Caltrans and FHWA have informed regions that they cannot sub-allocate or program funds by pre-determined percentages or formulas to individual jurisdictions or specific transportation modes; instead, regions are required to evaluate projects based on how well they advance regional, state, and federal performance metrics.

Committee members expressed support for a single consolidated application and programming process, requested that the application be streamlined, and suggested edits to the evaluation criteria. Based on input from committee members, the proposed due date for applications will be pushed out from September to October, with advisory committee review in November, and RTC board approval scheduled for December.

## **9. State and Federal Legislative and Funding Updates**

Rachel Moriconi, RTC, reported on transportation elements included in the State Budget, highlighted state bills staff has been tracking, and provided updates on federal transportation and infrastructure proposals.

- 10. Next meeting.** The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on August 26, 2021, one week later than previously scheduled. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

**Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 2:57 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner*