



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY
**SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE & TRAFFIC OPERATIONS
 SYSTEMS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

DRAFT MINUTES

Wednesday, March 17, 2021
 10:00am – 12:00pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Meeting Participants

Kaitlyn	Walker	American Civil Constructors West Coast
Laura	Giorgi	Resident
Sarah	Burnworth	Bay Area Metro (MTC)
Stephen	Terrin	Bay Area Metro (MTC)
Kane	Wong	Caltrans D4 TMC
Kevin	Drabinski	Caltrans D5 PIO
Gus	Alfaro	Caltrans D5 Planning
Kelly	McClendon	Caltrans D5 Planning
Tom	Byington	CHP San Jose
George	Gori	CHP San Jose
Jason	Reardon	CHP San Jose
Jeff	Bates	Redwood Estates Service Association
Gary	Richards	San Jose Mercury News
Brian	Winterhalder	Santa Clara County Fire Department
Jarret	Winter	Santa Clara County Fire Department
Brad	Hartzell	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
Dede	Smullen	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
Amy	Naranjo	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

1. **Call to Order** – Introductions were made.
2. **Oral communications** – None.
3. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – None.
4. **Received Information Items** - Amy Naranjo, RTC staff, provided an update for the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP). In 2020, FSP provided 698 assists over 1,977 roving hours on Highway 17, averaging 0.35 assists per truck hour. Normal



weekday, weekend, and summer FSP coverage remained the same during COVID. Amy also shared that the RTC is requesting proposals from qualified towing companies for towing services on Highways 1 and 17 for the Santa Cruz County Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) program. Amy shared a link to Caltrans Customer Service Request form (<https://csr.dot.ca.gov/>) where residents and motorists can report missing or damaged guardrails, signs, lights, and other concerns. Customer Service Requests are handled Monday through Friday, 8AM to 4PM directly by Caltrans. The form should NOT be used to report any kind of highway emergency. Report highway emergencies to 911 or the California Highway Patrol immediately.

5. **Received Update on California Highway Patrol Safe on 17 Program Statistics and Public Information Efforts** – Sgt. Tom Byington provided the update for CHP San Jose and CHP Santa Cruz. Sgt. Byington shared that CHP enforcement is beginning to increase on Highway 17 as both counties start loosening COVID restrictions.
6. **Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update** – Kevin Drabinski, Caltrans D5 Public Information Officer, announced completion of an SB-1 funded, 6-mile traffic safety improvement project on Highway 17 between Scotts Valley and the Santa Cruz/Santa Clara County line. The project features upgraded pavement and guardrails, more visible lane markings, widened lane markings, and improved local street and driveway intersections. Mr. Drabinski shared his appreciations to all the project partners involved. Gus Alfaro, Caltrans D5 Planning, announced the Wildlife Habitat Crossing project is on schedule to begin construction in summer 2021. Mr. Alfaro shared information about a Countywide rumble strip and striping safety project, which Caltrans plans to install edge line and rumble strips on Highway 17; this project is currently in the design phase. Mr. Alfaro also shared that construction is likely to begin sometime in 2022 for high friction surface treatment applications at various locations south of Scotts Valley to the county line. Kelly McClendon, Caltrans D5 Planning, shared that Caltrans D4 and D5 partnered together to apply for federal funding for a Highway 17 Corridor Plan. The plan is heavily focused on resiliency and climate adaptation and includes an equity component.
7. **Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update** – Kaitlyn Walker, American Civil Constructors, provided a construction update for Highway 17 projects in Santa Clara County. In August 2020, 18,000 sq yards of high-friction surface treatment were installed, in addition to new guardrails, electrical equipment, signage, flashing beacons, traveler/driver awareness systems. Due to procurement delays, not all electrical work was completed in 2020 and will resume mid-April 2021. Ms. Walker clarified that the overhead structure on southbound at



Madrone on Highway 17 will be a dynamic speed sign and was a component of the delayed electrical work that is expected to be completed by mid-June 2021.

8. **Received Traffic Operations Systems Updates** – The TMC operates the changeable message signs (CMS) which provide real-time motorist information and the TMC relies on CHP and feedback from the public to ensure the CMS's are operational. Amy Naranjo, SCCRTC, provided a map of all CCTV locations on Highway 17 between Los Gatos and Santa Cruz, including newly activated cameras at the Summit.
9. **Other Discussion Items** – Jeff Bates, Redwood Estates Services Association, requested additional weed abatement along SR-35. Gus Alfaro, Caltrans D5, reminded residents that maintenance requests can be submitted directly to Caltrans via the Customer Service Request form (<https://csr.dot.ca.gov/>). Dede Smullen, Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, asked the group for any evidence of road closures due to downed trees since the SR-17 Shaded Fuel Break Project completed in May 2020.
10. **Approved Next Meeting Date** – The next Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting is Wednesday, September 15, 2021 10:00 am to 12:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectively submitted by: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "AN", is written over a horizontal line.

Amy Naranjo