



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, September 23, 2021, 1:30 p.m.
Teleconference

Due to precautions associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus), the meeting was held by videoconference, consistent with state laws and orders allowing legislative bodies to hold Brown Act meetings via teleconference.

ITAC Members Present

Kailash Mozumder (Chair)	Capitola Public Works
Josh Spangrud	Santa Cruz Public Works
Claire Gallogly	Santa Cruz Planning
Athena Cheung	Scotts Valley Public Works
Murray Fontes	Watsonville Public Works
Justin Meek	Watsonville Community Development
Tim Bailey	County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Anais Schenk	County of Santa Cruz Planning
Paul Hierling	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Gus Alfaro	Caltrans District 5
John Urgo	Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Wondimu Mengistu	Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Teresa Buika (Vice Chair)	University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)

Excused Absence: Piet Canin, Ecology Action-Transportation

RTC Staff Present

Rachel Moriconi, Guy Preston, Sarah Christensen

Others Present

Matt Machado, Rob Tidmore County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Chris Lamm, Scotts Valley Public Works
Members of Public: Brian Peoples, Michael Pisano, Barry Scott

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Roll call introductions of committee members were made. All attendees participated by teleconference. The committee welcomed Chris Lamm, the new Scotts Valley Public Works Director.
- 3. Oral Communications:** Brian Peoples described TrailNow and his professional background. He expressed support for work ITAC member agencies do to deliver projects and his support for Greenway.

Barry Scott provided information about the TIG-m rail transit vehicle demonstrations scheduled in October.

- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the June 24, 2021 ITAC meeting**
6. **Received News Release about CalSTA Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI)**

The Committee approved a motion (Buika/Gallogly) approving the consent agenda (11-0), with Schenk, Bailey, Mozumder, Gallogly, Fontes, Meek, Urgo, Mengistu, Alfaro, Buika, and Hierling voting yes by roll call vote. Spangrud and Cheung abstained.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. **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.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the 41st Avenue adaptive signal project from Jade/Brommer St. to Soquel Dr. is expected to start construction this fall, in coordination with Caltrans and the County of Santa Cruz. He appreciated Gus Alfaro for his assistance with the project.

UCSC – Teresa Buika reported it was the first day of classes, with students attending in-person. She noted UCSC has been working with other agencies on the Request for Proposals (RFP) for a countywide bikeshare program. UCSC also launched www.SlugBikeLife.org and has been providing information encouraging people to ride bikes, hosting safety classes and other bike workshops, and placed safety messages on the bike path as part of its Active Transportation Program (ATP)-funded project. UCSC is also launching Go Santa Cruz County to the entire campus, with 300-400 people already signed up.

Watsonville Public Works – Murray Fontes reported on the Segment 18 Rail Trail ribbon cutting held in July 2021. He also reported that construction of pedestrian facilities on Lincoln St near Watsonville High School are nearly complete and that the city is expecting allocation of Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds for design of the Highway 1/Harkins Slough Road school access project this fall.

Watsonville Community Development – Justin Meeks reported on Downtown Specific Plan events and outreach. The plan includes reimaging Main Street, additional bike facilities, modified development standards and zoning requirements.

County of Santa Cruz Public Works – Tim Bailey reported that Soquel Drive Buffered Bike Lanes and Congestion Mitigation Project concept plans are complete, with 65% design plans scheduled to be ready in November. The Soquel Adaptive Signal Project is in construction, which includes intersections: 41st/Redwood Shopping Center, Soquel Dr/41st Ave, Soquel Dr/Daubenbiss Ave,

Soquel Dr/Porter St, Soquel Dr/Main St, Soquel-San Jose Rd/Oneil Ln. Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons are scheduled to be installed at six crosswalks by the end of October (Portola/14th, Portola/24th, Portola/26th, N. Main St/Bridge St, E. Cliff Dr/Moran Way and 7th/Eddy). 2021 Measure D paving projects are nearing completion, with 2022 Measure D projects in design and scheduled for construction in Summer 2022. Project sites are listed in the 5-year plan online at:

<http://dpw.co.santa-cruz.ca.us/Home/TransportationRoads/MeasureDandSB1.aspx>

Several RSTP/STIP resurfacing projects are finishing up. The Buena Vista Dr. (Trabing Rd to Landfill Entrance) pavement rehab project is in design and scheduled for construction in Summer 2022. Several storm damage sites are either in or starting construction soon along Felton Empire Road, Branciforte Drive, Alba Road, Two Bar Road, San Andreas Road, and Mt Bache Road. The County is also rebuilding several roads damaged by fire.

County of Santa Cruz Planning: Anais Schenk reported that the Sustainable General Plan update is scheduled to be released in early 2022, which includes code updates. The County Active Transportation Plan technical advisory committee will meet in October, with a draft project list and plan under development which takes into consideration considerable input from the community. The County is also working with AMBAG on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) and housing element, taking into consideration infrastructure needs associated with new housing.

Santa Cruz Public Works – Josh Spangrud reported that a West Cliff Drive storm damage repair project is out to bid; walkway repairs on Bay St. from Escalona Dr. to Nobel Dr. are in construction; and the Highway 1/9 project is temporarily on hold as the City works with resource agencies and Caltrans to mitigate for steelhead salmon.

Santa Cruz Planning – Claire Gallogly reported on the regional bikeshare program; Phase II of the Segment 7 Rail Trail is expected to start construction in 2022; and an e-bike rebate program is launching soon. She noted that Chris Schneiter is retiring this month and that she will be on leave December 2021-June 2022.

Scotts Valley - Chris Lamm reported that the city received nine bids for paving projects. He expressed interest in discussing Scotts Valley participating in the bikeshare program in the future.

METRO – Wondimu reported on the new electric bus circular in Watsonville. METRO will be starting work on the Caltrans-funded Soquel Drive/Ave corridor plan. METRO is also submitting grant applications for several projects including ZEV facility-fast charging in South County, hydro-fuel cell, and diesel bus replacements.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG has been working on the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) methodology and preparing a Strategic Partnership grant application for a US 101 freight study.

Caltrans District 5 – Gus Alfaro provided information on and encouraged agencies to seek funding from the Sustainable Transportation Planning grants program and Clean California Program. Updates on several Caltrans capital projects were included in the packet.

RTC –Sarah Christensen provided updates on the Capitola Trestle interim trail feasibility analysis and bridge rehabilitation and integration of interim trail analysis for Segment 10/11 of the Rail Trail. She noted storm damage repairs on the rail line along the north coast, over Highway 1 in Aptos, near Manresa, and over the Pajaro River are scheduled for this fall.

Brian Peoples provided comments on Highway 1/9, interim trail, and rail repairs over Highway 1.

8. Measure D 5-year Program of Projects for Regional Projects

Rachel Moriconi, RTC, presented the draft Measure D Five Year Program of Projects for regional investment categories: Highway Corridors, Trail, Rail, Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) and Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing. Claire Gallogly expressed appreciation to the RTC for Measure D funding. Rob Tidmore noted that the County anticipates requesting an extra \$2.5 million later this year for Segments 10 and 11 of the Rail Trail to serve as match for future grant applications. Brian Peoples suggested that the RTC change the Measure D Expenditure Plan to move transit funds to the highway, and move rail and trail funds to other categories.

9. Discussion of Funding Opportunities and Priorities

Rachel Moriconi, Claire Gallogly, Gus Alfaro, and Paul Hierling highlighted some of upcoming grant opportunities, including the RTC's consolidated grant application, Caltrans planning grants, the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Active Transportation Program (ATP), SB1 competitive grant programs, the Clean California Grant program, and REAP 2.0 program. Agencies were encouraged to submit applications and several ITAC members shared information about projects for which they plan to submit applications.

10. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC, scheduled for October 21, 2021 was subsequently canceled.

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

Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner