



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, December 16, 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 and Planning Proxy
Josh Spangrud	Santa Cruz Public Works
Nathan Nguyen	Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Chris Lamm	Scotts Valley Public Works
Murray Fontes	Watsonville Public Works
Justin Meek	Watsonville Community Development
Steve Wiesner	County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Paul Hierling	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Gus Alfaro	Caltrans District 5
John Urgo	Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Teresa Buika (Vice Chair)	University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)

RTC Staff Present

Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Guy Preston, Sarah Christensen

Others Present

Matt Machado, County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Malinda Gallaher, Caltrans Alternate
Members of Public: Michael Pisano

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Introductions were made. All attendees participated by teleconference.
- 3. Oral Communications:** Matt Machado noted that the Coastal Commission was considering the permit application for Segment 5 of the Rail Trail.
- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the November 18, 2021 ITAC meeting**
6. **Received December 2021 RTC Meeting Highlights**

Committee members present unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Wiesner) approving the consent agenda, with Wiesner, Mozumder (public works and planning proxy), Spangrud, Nguyen, Fontes, Meek, Urgo, and Alfaro voting "yes" by roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

ITAC members provided updates on projects, programs, studies and planning efforts.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the 41st Avenue adaptive signal project is almost done and resurfacing projects planned in conjunction with the County for spring 2022.

County of Santa Cruz Public Works – Steve Wiesner reported several guardrail projects have been completed, with the exception of projects in burn areas. County road crews are cleaning up from recent storm events, with significant damage on Lodge Road, Granite Creek Road, Casserly, and Two Bar Road and a mudslide on Alta Via.

Watsonville Public Works - Murray Fontes reported that the Airport Boulevard pavement project is almost done. City staff is still awaiting shipment of final hardware for the Lincoln Street pedestrian safety project.

1:42pm Chris Lamm and Paul Hierling joined the meeting.

Watsonville Community Development - Justin Meek reported that revisions are being made to the Downtown Specific Plan, which includes new pedestrian and bike facilities.

Santa Cruz - Josh Spangrud reported that construction continues on the Highway 1/9 intersection, with work in the riparian area on the northwest quadrant complete and the project expected to be completed late spring. He reported there was minimal impact to city roads from the most recent storms. The city is working on final right-of-way and permits for the Murray Street Bridge project, with construction possibly starting in mid- or late-2022. Nathan Nguyen reported the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds for phase 2 of

Segment 7 of the Rail Trail, with construction anticipated to go to bid in January and start construction in late Spring/early summer 2022. The city received bids for the San Lorenzo Riverwalk Lighting project north of Water Street, which includes 55 lights along the river and possible additional lighting near San Lorenzo Park.

METRO - John Urgo reported that METRO will be starting work on its Soquel Drive planning study, for which Gus Alfaro anticipates the notice to proceed to be available soon. METRO's Strategic Plan is being updated to reflect new priorities, goals, and metrics based on input at METRO Board retreats. He also reported Alex Clifford is leaving METRO in January and METRO has started the recruitment process for his replacement.

1:47pm Teresa Buika joined the meeting.

RTC - Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC approved projects to receive approximately \$11 million in funds. She thanked Josh Spangrud, Casey Carlson, Murray Fontes and Malinda Gallaher for their assistance preparing documents for projects submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. She encouraged agencies with projects designated to receive Covid Relief, Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP), and Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) funds to implement their projects quickly, noting funds are immediately available for use. Guy Preston reported that the California Coastal Commission approved a coastal permit for Segment 5 of the rail trail, including plans for an embankment at Davenport Beach.

Caltrans - Gus Alfaro encouraged agencies to apply for funds from the Clean California grant program. Murray Fontes, Steve Wiesner, and METRO staff indicated they plan to prepare applications. He noted project updates were included in the meeting packet and that Caltrans is kicking off a project on SR152 in Watsonville from SR1 to Carlton Road. Caltrans is looking at integrating complete streets into that and several capital maintenance (Cap-M) projects. Caltrans is also working with the City of Santa Cruz adding additional flashing beacons along Highway 1/Mission Street at Olive and Berkshire.

AMBAG, Scotts Valley, and UCSC representatives indicated they had no new updates.

8. Draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Amy Naranjo, RTC Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including information on the policies, financial estimates, and the program-level environmental impact

report. She requested ITAC members review the draft RTP and EIR, and submit any updates or comments on the draft document, especially the project list, to her via email by January 31, 2022. She noted that public hearings and workshops will be held in January. Matt Machado noted the document sets policy direction for the RTC and indicated County Public Works staff plans to submit comments that system preservation should be identified as a high priority. Ms. Naranjo noted that the goals, policies and targets were approved by the RTC board in early 2021 and confirmed they are not currently ranked. She suggested that agencies can email new project ideas, project cost and other updates to her. Rachel Moriconi encouraged agencies to ensure the project list includes projects for which they plan to submit grant applications in the next five years. Paul Hierling (AMBAG) and RTC staff reported that some updates will be made to the financial element based on the recently passed federal infrastructure bill – the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Paul Hierling noted that there are some limitations related to adding projects that would require additional modeling to the constrained project list. Rachel Moriconi indicated that information provided by agencies with their Measure D Maintenance of Effort report will be considered for the financial element.

10. State and Federal Legislative and Funding Updates

Rachel Moriconi reported that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is expected to provide updated revenue forecasts based on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in the next several weeks. Caltrans plans to issue a call for projects for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds early next year and agencies must have a safety plan in place in order to apply. CTC continues workshops on SB1 competitive grants and Active Transportation Program (ATP). Gus Alfaro noted that Clean California grant applications are due February 1, 2022. Teresa Buika noted that UCSC plans to apply for a FTA5310 grant for replacement disability vans.

- 11. Next meeting.** The next meeting of the ITAC is tentatively scheduled to start at 1:00pm on January 20, 2022 and will be followed by an Active Transportation Program (ATP) workshop. ITAC meetings may be canceled if there are no action items to be considered by the committee.

Adjournment: Chair Mozumder adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner