



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

MINUTES

Thursday, November 18, 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

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| Kailash Mozumder (Chair) | Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy |
| 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 |
| Steve Wiesner | County of Santa Cruz Public Works |
| Anais Schenk | County of Santa Cruz Planning |
| Paul Hierling | Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments |
| Malinda Gallaher | Caltrans District 5 |
| John Urgo | Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District |
| Wondimu Mengistu | Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District |
| Piet Canin | Ecology Action-Transportation |
| Teresa Buika (Vice Chair) | University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) |
| Alan Romero (Ex-Officio) | Monterey Bay Air Resources District (MBARD) |

RTC Staff Present

Rachel Moriconi, Guy Preston, Sarah Christensen

Others Present

Mark Dettle, Santa Cruz City Public Works; Casey Carlson, Russell Chen, Matt Machado, and Rob Tidmore, County of Santa Cruz Public Works; Oxo Slayer, UCSC Alternate
Members of Public: Michael Pisano, Joni

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Introductions were made. All attendees participated by teleconference.
- 3. Oral Communications:** None.

4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:**
Chair Mozumder moved Item 9 ahead of Item 8.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the September 23, 2021 ITAC meeting**
6. **Received RTC Meeting Highlights**
7. **Received Notice of SCCRTC online system for utility and right-of-entry on the rail corridor**

The Committee approved a motion (Fontes/Gallogly) approving the consent agenda (15-0), with Wiesner, Mozumder (public works and planning proxy), Spangrud, Cheung, Gallogly, Fontes, Schenk, Meek, Urgo, Mengistu, Gallaher, Buika, Canin, and Hierling voting yes by roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

9. 2021 Consolidated Grant Program – Preliminary Recommendations

Rachel Moriconi, RTC, presented preliminary recommendations for programming \$10.7 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Surface Transportation Block Grant Program/ Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (STBG/RSTPX), Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2021 (CRRSAA), and federal Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP) funds and solicited input from the committee. For projects recommended for partial funding, Ms. Moriconi reported that implementing agencies have indicated that they would be able to reduce the scope of their projects and/or would utilize other funds to implement projects. She noted that the preliminary recommendation leaves \$500,000 available for programming to priorities identified by committees or the RTC board.

Matt Machado recommended \$0 be programmed to METRO, Lift Line, and Highway 1 projects and reduced funding for planning, programming, and monitoring (PPM) and that those funds instead be programmed to County resurfacing projects. Several members expressed support for the staff recommendation, recognizing funding is insufficient to fund all of the projects and the range of projects that are eligible for funding.

Steve Wiesner made a motion that the ITAC recommend the RTC program \$500,000 currently unallocated to Alba Road resurfacing, prior to considering the staff recommendation. The motion failed due to lack of a second.

Murray Fontes/Claire Gallogly made a motion to support the staff recommendation. Piet Canin requested a friendly amendment to split the

\$500,000 balance between the Bike Challenge, San Andreas Road and Old San Jose-Soquel Drive resurfacing, consistent with the Bicycle Committee's recommendation. The amendment was not accepted by Fontes/Gallogly. Steve Wiesner requested a friendly amendment to program \$500,000 currently unallocated to Alba Road resurfacing, which was accepted by Fontes/Gallogly as part of the motion.

The committee unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Gallogly) recommending the RTC program funds to projects identified in the preliminary staff recommendation, plus \$500,000 for Alba Road resurfacing (12-0), with Wiesner, Mozumder (2), Cheung, Gallogly, Fontes, Schenk, Meek, Urgo, Mengistu, Buika, and Spangrud voting yes by roll call vote. Members Gallaher, Canin, and Hierling abstained.

Guy Preston appreciated the committee for its input and unanimous recommendation, he noted that funding needs continue to exceed available funding, as demonstrated in the draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and he encouraged agencies to leverage other sources.

2:40pm Members Mengistu and Urgo left the meeting.

8. Status of transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents

Representatives from ITAC member agencies provided updates on projects, programs, studies and planning efforts.

Santa Cruz Public Works & Planning – Josh Spangrud reported that construction has restarted on the Highway 1/9 project. Construction will be starting for the San Lorenzo River levy path lighting project (Water St to Highway 1) and the West Cliff Drive storm damage repair project at Chico. Plans and specs are complete for the Chestnut Street project. Claire Gallogly reported the regional bikeshare program vendor is expected to be selected and to start in Spring/Summer 2022. Mark Dettle announced that Nathan Nguyen is the new Assistant Director and City Engineer.

Watsonville Public Works – Murray Fontes reported that construction on Airport Blvd. is expected to be completed by the end of the year. He noted that the city also applied for a Caltrans planning grant for a citywide Active Transportation Plan. He reported that completion of construction of pedestrian facilities on Lincoln St near Watsonville High School is delayed due to supply chain issues/delivery of materials, such as lights. Watsonville anticipates applying for Cycle 6 Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds the Lee Road trail project.

Watsonville Community Development – Justin Meeks reported they have been identifying bike share parking locations. City staff has been meeting with Caltrans to identify changes that could be made on SR152/Main St.

UCSC – Teresa Buika expressed excitement on progress on the bike share program. She noted traffic, parking numbers, and transit ridership is down and classes with over 150 students meeting online.

County of Santa Cruz Public Works – Steve Wiesner reported the Soquel Drive Buffered Bike Lanes and Congestion Mitigation Project is at about 65% design, with public meetings expected in January. Construction continues on the Soquel Adaptive Signal Project in Soquel Village. He noted the County is also awaiting delivery of materials, such as RRFBs, for several crosswalks. Half of 2016/17 storm damage repairs have been completed, but there are still over 90 locations left, with several locations in San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) under construction. Fire recovery – including new guardrails – is ongoing. Started construction of a new sidewalk and crosswalk near Rio Del Mar Elementary School. The County is gearing up to implement its 2022 Measure D program, including Buena Vista Dr. The County anticipates applying for an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant for Green Valley and Holohan Road. Rob Tidmore reported that the County is soliciting input on the Notice of Preparation of an environmental impact report for Segments 10/11 of the Rail Trail.

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.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the 41st Avenue adaptive signal project is under construction.

Caltrans District 5 – Malinda Gallaher noted updates on Caltrans construction projects were included in the packet. Local assistance is working on the Clean California Program. Local Assistance is also going to be rolling out trainings and other tools to help agencies implementing projects.

Ecology Action - Piet Canin reported they are working with the County to solicit input on the draft Santa Cruz County Active Transportation Plan. The October Bike Challenge wrapped up and Ecology Action is working with the City of Santa Cruz on its downtown e-bike rebate program. He noted

Central Coast Community Energy and MBARD also have electric bike rebate programs. He also reported that they completed a micromobility study for Watsonville funded by the CA Air Resources Board.

MBARD – Alan Romero congratulated Capitola and the County for their adaptive signal projects. He reported more funding is available for infrastructure projects, electric vehicle projects, including light/medium-duty vehicles and city refuge vehicles. He also announced he is retiring at the end of December.

2:50pm Members Schenk and Romero left the meeting.

10. Draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS)

Paul Hierling, AMBAG provided a summary of the draft 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). He noted the draft MTP/SCS and Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is being released for public review, with several public hearings and workshops to be held in January. ITAC members were encouraged to review the project lists, financial assumptions, and environmental document and to share information on implementation strategies.

3:00pm Members Fontes and Meek left the meeting.

11. Updates on Funding Opportunities

Rachel Moriconi noted Active Transportation Program (ATP) call for projects is anticipated in March, with applications due in June. She urged agencies to apply for state and federal grants, utilize their Measure D funds to implement projects and leverage grants. She also reminded agencies that FY20/21 expenditure reports for SB1 Local Street and Road and Measure D funds are due in December. She noted that staff is still awaiting details on any formula federal funds which may be available for programming from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

12. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for December 16, 2021. Meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be considered by the committee.

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

Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner