



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, January 20, 2022 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
Pete Rasmussen	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, Brianna Goodman

Others Present

Casey Carlson (Alternate), County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Athena Cheung (Alternate), Scotts Valley Public Works
Doug Hessing, Chelsey Moore, Chris Bjornstad, Caltrans District 5
Members of Public: Michael Pisano, Terry, Careen, Joni Steele

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:33 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:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the December 16, 2021 ITAC meeting**
6. **Received January 2022 RTC Meeting Highlights**
7. **Received Active Transportation Program (ATP) January 20, 2022 Workshop Notice**

Committee members present unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Buika) approving the consent agenda, with Wiesner, Mozumder, Lamm, Spangrud, Nguyen, Fontes, Rasmussen, Hierling, Buika, and Alfaro voting "yes" by roll call vote. (Meek was not present at time of vote)

REGULAR AGENDA

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

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

Santa Cruz – Nathan Nguyen reported that the City of Santa Cruz plans to go to bid for the RTC-funded Chestnut Street rehabilitation project in February. They plan to award a contract and start construction of Phase 2 of Segment 7 of the Rail Trail in late Spring/early summer 2022. Josh Spangrud reported that construction continues on the Highway 1/9 intersection and that the City is still working on final right-of-way and permits for the Murray Street Bridge project, with construction possibly starting mid-2022.

County of Santa Cruz Public Works – Steve Wiesner reported that there were 12 sites damaged by the December 13 storm event in addition to Two Bar Road which is close to finished and Lodge Road where construction is beginning now. The Soquel Drive congested corridors project met 60–65% design, with two outreach meetings on January 12 and January 20. The County expects to start construction of the 2022 Measure D road repair program in early summer. The County is designing a multimillion-dollar roadway reconstruction project on Buena Vista Drive, funded in part by franchise fees from the landfill; the bid will be released this summer. 2017 storm damage repairs continue. The County opened bids in December and there are upcoming projects in the Valencia/Trout Gulch area. Mr. Wiesner introduced Casey Carlson, Civil Engineer, the new alternate on RTC ITAC.

1:40pm Member Justin Meek joined the meeting.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG is wrapping up the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS), which are on track for adoption in June 2022. The AMBAG board accepted the Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) Methodology and is expected to adopt the Final 2023–2031 RHNA Plan between August and October 2022.

UCSC – Teresa Buika reported that most classes are expected to be in-person starting February 1, with the exception of large classes.

Watsonville Public Works - Murray Fontes reported that the City's Airport Blvd. pavement project is done. The Lincoln Street pedestrian safety project is waiting on the supply chain for lights and iron; as a result installed grates were run over and need to be replaced. The week of February 20th is Engineers Week and to celebrate, the city is hosting its annual Egg Drop on February 23, 3:30–5:00 p.m.; registration is open to all ages at 3:00 p.m. the same day.

City of Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the 41st Avenue adaptive signal project is underway, with signals expected to go live in March. Preliminary work on the roadway resurfacing project is underway in conjunction with the County.

RTC – Amy Naranjo reported that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is out for public review. She requested that agencies inform her of any updates to the project list or cost estimates, including the cost of on-going maintenance and system preservation needs.

Sarah Christensen reported the final rail line 2017 storm damage repair is underway; repair of the damaged overpass railing over Highway 1 in Aptos requires overnight northbound and southbound closures. The RTC will be conducting outreach for the State Park-Bay/Porter project's Capitola Ave. overcrossing aesthetic treatments through February 23. She also reported that the RTC has hired Brian Zamora as a Jr. Transportation Engineer and Riley Gerbrandt as an Associate Transportation Engineer, who will be focused on Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line projects.

Ms. Buika suggested that the Highway 1 Soquel – 41st Ave Auxiliary Lane project construction and public outreach be coordinated with the City of Santa Cruz Murray St. Bridge. Josh Spangrud noted that there will be significant outreach before Murray St. construction starts.

Mr. Fontes asked about media releases regarding Roaring Camp and RTC and rail line abandonment. Staff agreed to provide information at the next ITAC meeting.

METRO and Scotts Valley representatives indicated they had no new updates.

9. Caltrans Updates, Announcements and

Gus Alfaro announced a new “Go Safely California” safety campaign to run over the next 3 years (www.gosafelyca.org); February 1st is the deadline to submit local Clean CA grant applications; and highlighted the Santa Cruz and San Benito County Rumble Strip and Striping Project scheduled to start construction this summer on Highways 1, 9, 17, and 129.

Gus Alfaro and Doug Hessing presented design information on the Highway 9 – San Lorenzo River Creek and Kings Creek Bridge Replacements. Mr. Hessing responded to questions about shoulder width and the decision not to include separate pedestrian facilities, citing that it was a compromise from 6-foot sidewalks and 4-foot shoulder, the 8-foot shoulder is standard for a highway such as this, community and other departmental feedback, that there is no sidewalk approaching or leaving the bridge, and to provide access to all modes of pedestrian travel. Mr. Alfaro said they are considering “Share the Road” signage and additional buffered striping for pedestrians. Plans and specifications are expected to be ready by June 30, with some schedule risks and permitting still needed.

10. 2022 Legislative Program

Rachel Moriconi provided an overview of the Draft 2022 Legislative Program, noting key legislative issues this year will include implementation of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), state budget funding proposal, and Brown Act modifications. She requested ITAC members review the draft program and provide comments by Feb. 11, 2022.

Teresa Buika emphasized the need for federal and state electric vehicle fleet funding and policies to include universities and colleges. She also requested that the RTC advocate for changes to the FTA’s Section 5310 Program to allow hybrid and electric paratransit vehicles to qualify for the program.

11. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on February 17, 2022. ITAC meetings may be cancelled if there are no action items to be considered by the committee.

Adjournment: Chair Mozumder adjourned the meeting at 2:22 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Cindy Convisser, Administrative Assistant & Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner