



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

MINUTES

Thursday, March 17, 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

Joshua Spangrud	Santa Cruz Public Works
Nathan Nguyen	Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Chris Lamm	Scotts Valley Public Works
Murray Fontes	Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Casey Carlson	County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Paul Hierling	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Darron Hill	Caltrans District 5
John Urgo	Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Teresa Buika (Vice Chair)	University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)

RTC Staff Present

Brianna Goodman, Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Guy Preston, Sarah Christensen

Others Present

Mark Dettle, Santa Cruz Public Works
Will Condon, AMBAG
Miranda Taylor, AMBAG
Members of Public: Linda Wilshusen

- 1. Call to Order:** Vice Chair Teresa Buika called the meeting to order at 1:35 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:** Handouts for [Item 11: MTIP Presentation](#) and [Item 13: AB285 Report Summary](#) were posted on the meeting webpage.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the January 20, 2022 ITAC meeting**
6. **Received notice: Caltrans Central Coast-Bay Area Interregional Strategic Corridor Meeting April 1, 2022**
7. **Received notice: Caltrans Local Assistance Trainings**

Committee members present unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Spangrud) approving the consent agenda, with Carlson, Lamm, Spangrud, Nguyen, Fontes, Hierling, Buika, and Hill voting "yes" by roll call vote. (METRO staff 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 – Josh Spangrud reported that the Highway 1/9 intersection project is progressing. Nathan Nguyen reported that Phase 2 of Segment 7 of the Rail Trail project and the Chestnut Street paving and storm drain project are out to bid. For Murray Street Bridge, staff is still working on permits and right-of-way certification, but hope to go to bid this summer.

County of Santa Cruz – Casey Carlson reported that the County is still working on finishing the balance of 200 storm damage projects from 2017, with 2 ready to go now and projects at 35 locations going for board approval over next few months. Of 12 storm damage sites from 2021, 2 are out to bid, with other sites in design. The Soquel Multimodal Project is at 100% design, with right-of-way review anticipated to be completed in April, and plans to bid construction this summer. The Holohan/152 intersection project is scheduled for construction this summer. The final draft of the County's Active Transportation Plan is out for review. For the Soquel Dr. adaptive signal project, intersections currently in adaptive mode include: 41st Ave/Soquel Drive, 41st Ave/Redwood Shopping Center, Soquel/Daubenbliss, Soquel/Porter-Main, and Soquel-San Jose/O'Neill. RRFB have been installed at 10 locations. The 2022 Measure D repaving project will start construction this summer. Environmental review of a Buena Vista Dr. project is delayed, moving construction to summer 2023. The San Andreas Road rehab STIP project is also scheduled for construction for summer 2023. The County is working to get its emergency routes project [Alba and Jamison Creek Roads] out to bid this summer. The County also won a \$5 million Clean

California grant for its Green Valley path and is working on firming up local matching funds and getting it implemented quickly.

Watsonville Public Works - Murray Fontes reported that Watsonville is still waiting for delivery of lighting components for Lincoln Street pedestrian safety project. The Harkins Slough Road bicycle/pedestrian crossing over Highway 1, being implemented in partnership with Caltrans, is in design. The City plans to seek a STIP construction allocation for the Freedom Blvd Improvements project at the June California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting.

Scotts Valley - Chris Lamm reported that Scotts Valley recently completed a geotechnical report on portions of Bean Creek Road, with design finishing up and the project scheduled to go to bid in May or June 2022.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG is the final review phase for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and Environmental Impact Report (EIR), with adoption scheduled for June 2022.

City of Capitola – On behalf of Kailash Mozumder, Teresa Buika reported that Capitola is in the process of issuing a contract for the 2022 Measure D resurfacing project, in collaboration with the County of Santa Cruz. Construction is scheduled to begin in June. The first phase of the City's 2021 Road Repairs project addressing base repairs and drainage issues was completed last month. The City will be bringing the long-awaited Clares Street project to the community, with project advertisement planned for Spring and construction this Summer. Kailash appreciated the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) and Bike Committee for their helpful input on the final Clares St. project design. The City is updating its Pavement Management Plan and should it be completed and an updated Measure D 5-year Plan by the end of the summer.

UCSC – Teresa Buika reported on the regional bike share project, with the contract still under negotiation and launch timing dependent in part on the supply chain/availability of equipment.

9. Election of new ITAC Vice Chair

Teresa Buika reported that she has taken a new job at UCSC, will no longer be working at TAPS, and is resigning as ITAC Vice Chair after this meeting.

The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Spangrud) electing Chris Lamm, City of Scotts Valley to serve out the remainder of the term through March 2023, with Carlson, Lamm, Spangrud, Nguyen, Fontes, Hierling, Buika, and Hill voting "yes" by roll call vote.

(METRO staff was not present at time of vote). Kailsah Mozumder remains the Chair.

10. Caltrans Asset Management and State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) Updates

Darron Hill presented an overview of the Caltrans Asset Management and 10-Year State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) fix-it-first maintenance plan. Currently there are over \$381 million in projects planned in Santa Cruz County. He highlighted projects programmed in the 2022 SHOPP that will be ready to list for construction in the next four years. Most of the Project Initiation Documents (PID) for those projects were prepared in 2019 based on the State Highway System Asset Management Plan, which sets statewide targets for safety, maintenance, and other goals. Then Districts are given targets for 32 objectives and a budget to identify priorities. PIDs for the 2024 SHOPP are currently under development for projects expected to be delivered in FY 26/27-27/28. He highlighted four planned projects in Santa Cruz County, including drainage projects for long-toed salamander and fish passage, as well as safety projects and a sixteen lane mile capital maintenance (Cap-M) and complete streets project in Watsonville. It will be one of District 5's largest complete streets projects. Caltrans has also started identifying candidates for the 2026 SHOPP. He **urged agencies to review planned projects and provide comment early**, in order to ensure comments can be integrated into projects.

John Urgo, Sarah Christensen and Guy Preston joined the meeting at approximately 2:00pm.

He also reported that Caltrans is still working on how to implement the new Caltrans Complete Streets Directive. He noted that additional budget was not included with the directive and they might have to make cuts to other projects and seek funding from partners. Caltrans will work to connect its facilities with local facilities and will prioritize and integrate complete streets in phases over time, as appropriate and feasible. Caltrans is still looking at how any new complete streets elements will be maintained. The CAT Plan (Active Transportation Plan) goals and metrics are being used to identify priorities. Caltrans will look at where complete street elements can be integrated into planned paving, bridge, and other projects. District 5 project managers will reach out during development of PIDs for input on the scope. **Agencies should provide information about planned bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the area of Caltrans SHOPP projects.** District 5 has a Complete Streets Advisory Committee that will be helping refine priorities; over 300 locations have been identified. A Transportation Planning Scoping Information Sheet and Complete Streets Vision document are being used to identify, evaluate, and get local agency agreement on potential

complete streets elements. He emphasized that could take many many years to implement.

In response to questions, Darron Hill confirmed that the Complete Streets policy applies to the planned Mission Street repaving project, but that there are budget constraints and parallel routes should also be considered. Murray Fontes appreciated the work that Gus Alfaro had done to advocate for complete street projects in Watsonville and requested additional information on who to contact. Rachel Moriconi reported that Orchid Monroy is serving as the interim planner for Santa Cruz County.

11. Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) Update

Will Condon, AMBAG, provided an overview of the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and the schedule for the 2023-2026 MTIP. He noted federally-funded and regionally-significant projects are required to be included in the MTIP. Project must be included in the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and projects are required to address performance targets, including air quality, system performance, and system preservation. He also noted that formal amendments can take around two months, so **agencies should regularly review and ensure project scope, schedule, and cost information is accurately reported in the MTIP. Agencies should submit updates for the 2023-2026 MTIP by May 20.**

12. 2022 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan Development Process

Miranda Taylor, AMBAG, provided an overview of and update on the development plan of the 2022 Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan (Coordinated Plan) for the Monterey Bay Area (Santa Cruz, Monterey, and San Benito Counties). The plan is required by federal legislation and needs to be used for grant applications for federal transit funds for elderly, persons with disabilities, and low income individuals (FTA5310). The plan assesses transportation needs, gaps in services, and identifies strategies to address needs and priority projects to implement specific strategies. She reported that AMBAG will be soliciting input from local agencies and the public, in coordination with development of the RTC's annual Unmet Transit Needs list.

13. Legislative updates

Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC submitted comments to the Governor regarding state budget proposals. She noted that the federal appropriations bill was finally approved and that increases are expected for the Highway

Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Active Transportation Program (ATP). She noted that several groups have been meeting to determine how the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) will be implemented in California. Amy Naranjo provided a handout and reported on the Strategic Growth Councils AB285 Report and strategies to greenhouse gas, including reconsidering projects that are "in the pipeline." Rachel requested that ITAC members **share any transportation bills they are monitoring or taking positions on.**

14. RTC Major Projects Updates

Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC received presentations on Segments 8-12 of the Rail Trail in February and has been discussing implementation options. Sarah Christensen provided updates on Highway 1 projects: The 41st Ave to Soquel Drive project is scheduled to start construction later this year; RTC received public input on design features for the Bay/Porter to State Park project, with construction scheduled to start in early 2023; the Freedom Blvd to State Park Drive project, which includes Segment 12 of the rail trail, is in environmental review, with the RTC planning to submit an applications for the CTC's Cycle 3 SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) and Local Partnership Program (LPP). The RTC may need to consider financing to provide local match. She also reported that the Pajaro River rail bridge rehabilitation project is going out to bid for construction. Amy Naranjo report that she will be providing an update on the Go Santa Cruz County program to the RTC board and ITAC in April 2022. She highlighted some of the marketing and incentive programs.

15. Discussion of Funding Programs and Priorities

Rachel Moriconi highlighted several upcoming state and federal funding opportunities and provided updates on Measure D revenues, the Taxpayer Oversight Committee meeting, and 5-year plans. She also reminded agencies that **projects approved for funding by the RTC that could impact bicyclists, pedestrians, or people riding transit are required to be reviewed by the RTC's Bicycle Committee and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) prior to final design.**

16. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on April 21, 2022 by zoom. ITAC meetings may be cancelled if there are no action items to be considered by the committee.

Adjournment: Vice Chair Buika adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner

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