



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, October 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:

Capitola Community Development & Public Works Proxy	Kailash Mozumder
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
Santa Cruz Public Works	Nathan Nguyen
Scotts Valley Public Works	Chris Lamm
Watsonville Public Works	Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Paul Hierling
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	Paul Guirguis
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	John Urgo
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Pete Rasmussen
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Oxo Slayer

Absent: County of Santa Cruz and Ecology Action-Transportation Program

RTC Staff Present: Grace Blakeslee, Sarah Christensen, Brianna Goodman, Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Tracy New, Guy Preston

Others Present:

Jessica Kahn, Capitola Public Works
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans District 5
Paul Martin and Jake Weir, Mark Thomas consultants
Public: Brian Peoples, Michael Pisano, Jacquii Rice, Joni Steele

- 1. Call to Order:** Vice Chair Chris Lamm called the meeting to order at 1:34 p.m. Kailash Mozumder took over as chair at 1:40pm.
- 2. Introductions:** Introductions were made. All attendees participated by teleconference. Jessica Kahn noted that she is the new Capitola Public Works Director.
- 3. Oral Communications:**

Rachel Moriconi shared that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff recommendations for the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 6 grant program have been released and while only 22% of applications

statewide were recommended, all the proposed projects in Santa Cruz County are recommended for nearly \$116 million. The CTC is scheduled to consider the staff recommendations at its December 7/8, 2022 meeting.

4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:

Item 7 on the Measure D 5-year plans was moved up to be the first item on the regular agenda (before item 6).

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved Minutes of the September 22, 2022, ITAC meeting

Committee members unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Lamm) approving the consent agenda, with Mozumder, Gallogly, Nguyen, Lamm, Fontes, Meek, Guirguis, Slayer, Hierling, Urgo, and Rasmussen, voting "yes" by roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

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

City of Santa Cruz – Nathan Nguyen reported that the Highway 1/9 intersection and Chestnut St. paving projects are expected to be completed in November; they plan to put the Ocean St paving project out to bid by January. Claire Gallogly announced that the City hired Mark Starkey as the new Transportation Manager.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported Watsonville opened bids for the Freedom Blvd Reconstruction project, which came in high, but they are working to award a contract on November 15, with construction of the multimodal paving project expected to start in spring 2023, upon completion of a utilities project. City Council approved a road diet concept for Highway 152/Main Street. This is a Caltrans long-lead project, with construction scheduled for 2031. He also announced that Maria Esther Rodriguez is retiring.

Justin Meek reported on the public hearing on the Downtown Watsonville Specific Plan and CEQA Initial Study. He noted that the update includes details on land use and mobility elements, including the road diet concept, with an EIR and final plan anticipated to be considered by council next year.

Scotts Valley – Chris Lamm reported that Scotts Valley will be updating its Pavement Management Program.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the Clares Street project is starting construction (40th to Wharf Rd), including curb ramps and a CAR effort scheduled for the end of November, pending weather. The 41st Ave. Adaptive Signal project is underway, with intersections from Jade St. to Clares completed and work continuing to deploy the three Caltrans signals. The fully adaptative system on 41st Avenue expected to go live by the end of the year. The Kennedy Ave sidewalk project is in design, with public outreach coming next. Initial data has been collected for the 41st Ave/Capitola Road intersection project, including deflection testing and looking at options for any potential changes to signal timing and overall design.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG board approved the 6th Cycle RHNA plan, with the plan now at HCD for final review and approval. He requested agencies to inform him of any housing element meetings. The REAP2.0 grant program final framework expected to be approved in November, with guidelines for suballocation being developed January – June 2023.

METRO – John Urgo reported that September ridership numbers were 91% of pre-COVID levels (2019); UCSC ridership up 1-4%; 87% non-UCSC ridership, free-fare; Highway 17 ridership is 57% of pre-covid levels. He thanked regional partners for attending the board retreat, where the board set goals to double ridership, fleet conversion, and construct more housing at transit centers. They also kicked off the Soquel Ave/Dr-Main St speed and delay survey. METRO also has an RFP out for a bus network redesign, looking at routes and services countywide to identify improvements for next fall.

Caltrans – Kelly McClendon announced that he will be leaving District 5 to work at Caltrans Headquarters on Freight Planning. He appreciated working with everyone. Paul Guirguis reported that Jenna will be working on planning grants and requested agencies reach out to him with any questions or coordination. He reported that draft grant guidelines for Sustainable Communities and Adaptation planning grants are available for comment, with the call for applications anticipated to be released in December or January. He noted there are some partial lane closures on Highway 17 and significant closures planned on State Route 9. He suggested looking at the Caltrans QuickMap and signing up to receive news releases for construction updates. Rachel Moriconi expressed appreciation for Kelly McClendon's outstanding work on projects in Santa Cruz County.

SCCRTC - Rachel Moriconi reported:

- Open Streets: The October 16 RTC-funded Bike Santa Cruz County Open Streets event was well attended with over 10,000 people estimated to have attended throughout the day. The RTC solicited input

on transportation planning on the North Coast of Santa Cruz County and provided information about the Go Santa Cruz County commuter rewards program and distributed information on transit, bike and pedestrian resources.

- The RTC will be developing a new "Access for All" grant program, soliciting proposals from entities to provide on-demand wheelchair accessible vehicle transportation services in SCR.
- Scotts Creek Coastal Resiliency Project: The Caltrans project initiation document (PID) is almost finalized, with a Legislative/Executive site visit with Senator John Laird and resource agencies planned for October 27; the multi-agency project team is looking for funds to start the PA/ED phase.
- Hybrid/In-person meetings - SB361 & AB2449 updates: The RTC and committee meetings will be modified to follow AB2449 and Brown Act requirements starting in March 2023, which may result in hybrid in-person and virtual meetings, with some limits on committee members attending meetings remotely.

Sarah Christensen reported:

- The RTC's Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation project is currently out to bid, with bids scheduled to be opened November 9 and with construction anticipated in 2023.
- Proposals for the Electric Passenger Rail consultant are being evaluated, with a contract expected to be awarded before the end of the year.
- The Highway 1 41st Ave to Soquel Drive project is scheduled to start construction in November/December.
- Design of the Highway 1 Bay/Porter-State Park project is almost completed, with construction funding allocations expected at the January 2023 California Transportation Commission (CTC) meeting.
- The environmental document for the Highway 1 Freedom-State Park Drive and Trail Segment 12 project may be ready for public review as soon as December 2022.
- RTC is working with Caltrans, METRO and the County of Santa Cruz to prepare applications for SB1-Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), Trade Corridor, and Local Partnership Program (LPP) competitive grants for the combined Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Highway 1 Freedom-State Park and Trail, and Soquel Dr multimodal improvements, and transit enhancements based on several of the Unified Corridor Study recommendations.

Public comments:

- Michael Pisano suggested making shared UberShare and LyftLine available to lower costs in Santa Cruz County, possibly as part of the Access for All program.
- Brian Peoples congratulated METRO on positive ridership numbers. He stated that Manu Koenig and Matt Machado were successful at diverting funding from METRO buses to County road projects and suggested that

was good since METRO was successful at securing other grants for buses. He stated that the Caltrans planning grant guidelines should require agencies to meet code requirements. Paul Guirguis responded that comments on the Sustainable Communities grant guidelines should be submitted to headquarters. Rachel Moriconi noted that the Caltrans planning grants are used on the planning stage of projects. She also responded that METRO, like most agencies, still has significant outstanding bus replacement and other system preservation funding needs.

UCSC- Oxo Slayer reported that UCSC will be running new campus shuttles to its Westside Santa Cruz Coastal Science facilities.

7. Measure D 5-Year Program of Projects Updates

Rachel Moriconi provided a summary of proposed updates to the Measure D 5-year programs of projects for regional investment categories: Highway Corridors, Active Transportation/Trail, Rail, Highway 9 and Highway 17. She recommended that the ITAC provide input on the proposed updates.

Committee comments: Claire Gallogly, expressed support for the proposed 5-year plan updates and the importance of having Measure D revenues to leverage grants.

Public comments: Brian Peoples expressed opposition to spending funds on rail planning and infrastructure.

8. Review of Draft Concepts for San Lorenzo Valley Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study

Brianna Goodman provided an overview of planned complete projects in the Highway 9 corridor through San Lorenzo Valley (SLV). Paul Martin and Jake Weir, consultants from Mark Thomas, presented and solicited input on draft proof-of-concept designs for potential multimodal improvements at the SLV Schools Complex in Felton, including along Highway 9, El Solvo Heights and other access points to the school. The draft designs integrate input received from students, school staff, and the public at large on traffic circulation, driveways, bicycle, pedestrian, and bus stop elements.

Oxo Slayer asked if any new signals might be proposed at the Elementary School. Paul replied that they are analyzing if a new signal would be warranted and if a new signal were added, any new signals would be synchronized. Brianna Goodman requested members submit any additional ideas or questions on the project to slvprogram@sccrtc.org.

Committee members Gallogly, Nguyen, and Urgo left the meeting.

9. Funding Updates

The Committee received information on numerous state and federal funding programs listed in the agenda.

Rachel Moriconi reported that RTC staff plan to submit [Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant](#) applications for a North Coast/Davenport TDM/Traffic Circulation/Complete Streets Plan and infrastructure resiliency and environmental enhancements for Waddell Creek at Highway 1 and San Vicente Creek.

Justin Meek noted that [REAP 2.0](#) could be a transformative program to fund housing and transportation improvements, with partnership opportunities including possible transit oriented development and revitalization options.

[SB1 Accountability and Transparency Guidelines](#): Amy Naranjo noted that additional forecasting and reporting on project benefits may be required for Active Transportation Program (ATP) and other CTC competitive programs.

Capitola and Scotts Valley staff noted their agencies have limited staff time to monitor grant opportunities and prepare applications. Committee members expressed interest in setting up a sub-group of agencies to review guidelines, identify priority projects that would be good candidates for each grant, and identify opportunities to partner on applications. Oxo Slayer noted the need to do some preliminary work to get projects ready to compete.

Public Comments: Brian Peoples suggested that agencies only look at projects that are cost effective and timely.

10. Next meeting.

The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on December 15, 2022 (*the November 17 meeting was canceled*).

Rachel Moriconi noted that District 5 Local Assistance may host a special meeting in November with project managers and others at local agencies to share information about and discuss various new state and federal requirements and programs.

Chair Mozumder adjourned the meeting at 3:20 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi

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