



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, February 16, 2023, 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 Public Works & Community Development Proxy	Kailash Mozumder
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
Santa Cruz Public Works	Josh Spangrud
Watsonville Public Works	Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
County of Santa Cruz Public Works	Steve Wiesner
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Paul Hierling
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	Paul Guirguis
Ecology Action – Transportation Programs	Piet Canin
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	John Urgo
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Pete Rasmussen
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Oxo Slayer

Absent: City of Scotts Valley

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

Others Present:

Chris Duymich, AMBAG
Genaro Diaz, Malinda Gallaher and Zach Siviglia, Caltrans District 5
Arnold Shir and Theresia Rogerson, County Health Services
Jeanne LePage, Ecology Action
Matt Starkey, City of Santa Cruz Public Works
Georgina Arias, UCSC TAPS

Public: Brian Peoples, Barry Scott, Michael Pisano, Lani Faulkner, Johanna Lighthill, Krista, Michael Saint, Joni Steele

- 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

Brian Peoples, Trail Now, commented on the impact that inflation can have on project costs.

Michael Pisano stated he was excited about the countywide Bike Share program and requested more park-and-ride lots, parking spaces and bus shelters and pads, especially at the Pasatiempo exit off Highway 17.

- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:**
Item 6 was moved to 2pm and Items 9-11 were tabled to the next meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 5. Approved Minutes of the October 20, 2022, ITAC meeting**

Committee members approved a motion (Gallogly/Fontes) approving the minutes (8-0), with Mozumder, Gallogly, Fontes, Meek, Guirguis, Slayer, Hierling, and Urgo, voting "yes" by roll call vote. Members Canin, Spangrud and Wiesner abstained.

REGULAR AGENDA

- 6. Caltrans's Middle-Mile Broadband Initiative (MMBI) – (item presented after Item 7)**

Genaro Diaz from Caltrans District 5 presented information about broadband projects being implemented by Caltrans in coordination with the California Department of Technology (CDT). The project includes 680 miles along highways in Caltrans District 5 and several hubs. Implementation along Highway 17 is expected to be ready for construction in late Fall 2023, pending funding availability. The statewide project is expected to be completed by 2026.

Steve Wiesner reported that the County received a grant from the CPUC to develop a master plan for broadband, which will include a gaps analysis identifying areas under and not served by broadband.

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

ITAC members provided updates on projects, programs, studies and planning efforts, received a preliminary list of storm damage sites and received Caltrans capital project updates.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the Clares Street project is almost complete. The city and other local agencies have been meeting with

CalOES and FEMA to discuss storm damages, including Cliff Drive and Stockton Bridge, and the process to receive funding.

City of Santa Cruz – Josh Spangrud reported that the Ocean Street paving project is underway. The contractor continues to clean up debris and mud from the storm at the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7, phase 2 construction site. Claire Gallogly reported that the city is expanding the West Cliff Drive one-way pilot from Bay Street to Woodrow Ave and is working on grant applications and a Laurel Street striping project to enhance transit and bicycle access.

County of Santa Cruz – Steve Wiesner reported that there are 90 sites with storm damage totaling over \$40 million in permanent repairs and \$10 million in Category A and B repairs. He also reported that the County received a federal Safe Streets for All grant for vision zero planning, in partnership with Scotts Valley and Watsonville. Measure D and RSTPX-funded paving projects and roadway rehabilitation on Alba, Jamison Creek, and Empire Grade roads are out to bid. The County is re-bidding the Soquel Drive buffered bike lanes and rehab project. The County is also planning to reconstruct the Green Valley Road multi-use path late summer, using a Clean California grant.

Watsonville – Murray Fontes reported on sewer and storm drain cleanup and other storm damage. Watsonville is working on the Lincoln Street active transportation project final “punch list” and is starting the Freedom Blvd reconstruction project next month. Designs for the Harkins Slough pedestrian bridge over Highway 1 are at 60%. He expressed appreciation for the County taking the lead preparing the Safe Streets for All grant application. He noted that the city is recruiting for a new public works director. The city’s annual egg drop competition is on February 22nd.

Justin Meek reported that work is starting work on the General Plan update, including updates to the circulation element. The city will consider a vehicle miles traveled (VMT) policy to evaluate projects.

UCSC – Oxo Slayer reported that UCSC marine facilities experienced some localized flooding. The campuswide TDM program is still in development and is VMT data focused. The Chancellor’s 10 Year Strategic Plan includes climate change goals and UCSC is starting a decarbonization and electrification study focused on UCSC’s fleet. Georgina Arias was introduced as a new planner for Transportation and Parking Services (TAPS) department that will be working on a variety of transportation programs, including coordination with local agencies on bike share and other projects.

METRO – John Urgo reported on “Reimagining METRO” efforts, the rapid transit study focused on speed, reliability, and existing conditions between Watsonville and Santa Cruz, a three-day work group session scheduled for

mid-April, and the Youth Cruz fee-free rides for K-12 students. Metro's bus yard on River Street flooded in January and METRO helped with storm evacuations.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that AMBAG is starting work on the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy.

Ecology Action – Piet Canin reported that Ecology Action is using the name "Modo" for their safe routes to schools, adult bicycle education and Bike to Work/School, and active transportation planning programs. He expressed appreciation for the city of Santa Cruz West Cliff Drive one-way pilot.

Caltrans – Paul Guirguis shared storm damage updates and recommended using the Caltrans website for updates on road and lane closures. He noted the project updates in the meeting packet include resources for agencies and the public to use. He reminded agencies that Sustainable Transportation Planning grant applications are due March 9 and Clean California applications are due April 28. He reported that recent webinars included discussions of Pro-Housing designations and agreed to send the slides to members. Claire Gallogly reported that the City of Santa Cruz took the Pro-Housing designation application to city council. Justin Meek reported that Watsonville determined it would be too difficult to be awarded the Pro-Housing designation based on current criteria.

Malinda Gallaher reported on Emergency Relief (ER) funds and deadlines to submit storm damage assessment forms.

Public comments:

- Brian Peoples asked what percent of storm damage costs are typically reimbursed by FEMA and expressed disappointment with Segment 7, phase 2 delays.
- Michael Pisano suggested reducing mobile home interest rates to support housing affordability.

8. Transportation Goals, Evaluation Criteria, and Strategic Priorities

Amy Naranjo presented information about state, federal and regional criteria often required and/or used to evaluate transportation projects and solicited input on evaluation criteria that could be used to prioritize local projects and programs. She also requested members identify projects that could do the most to advance measures.

Via an online survey, attendees (committee members and the public) ranked safety and collisions, VMT, equity, access for all, and benefits to disadvantaged communities as critical metrics and suggested prioritizing active transportation, transit, and multimodal projects that better coordinate land use and transportation.

Oxo Slayer suggested focusing on low hanging fruit, such as using TDM and technology to advance goals. Piet Canin suggested using subsidies for bike share.

Public comments: Brian Peoples stated that feasibility/deliverability and climate resiliency and Coastal Commission action be considered. Lani Faulkner expressed support for priorities identified in the state's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), integrated rail and multimodal transit options, safe and accessible transportation networks. Michael Saint expressed support for VMT reduction, social justice and other metrics, but stated that widening Highway 1 will result in more cars and recommended focusing on mass transit.

Chair Mozumder left the meeting and Murray Fontes took over to chair the meeting.

9. Safety and health related transportation resources, programs and grants – *Tabled to future meeting*

10. Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 (State Park Drive to Rio del Mar Boulevard) design – *Tabled to next meeting*

11. Funding Program Opportunities and Updates – *Tabled to next meeting*

12. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on March 16, 2023. Staff noted that the meeting is anticipated to be in-person at the RTC office.

Interim Chair Murray Fontes adjourned the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi