



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, March 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

In Person: RTC Conference Room
1101 Pacific Ave, Ste 250, Santa Cruz, CA

Remote: Zoom

ITAC Members Present:

Capitola Public Works & Community Development Proxy	Kailash Mozumder (AB2449)
Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy	Josh Spangrud
Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy	Phillip Linarte
County of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy	Casey Carlson
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Heather Adamson
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	Paul Guirguis
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and 1 Proxy	John Urgo

Committee Members/Alternates that Attended Remotely: *non-voting/
did not count towards quorum or meet AB2449 requirements*

Chris Duymich, AMBAG (alternate)
Malinda Gallaher, Caltrans District 5 Local Assistance (alternate)
Georgina Arias, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)

Excused Absences:

City of Watsonville: Murray Fontes and Justin Meek
Ecology Action-Transportation: Piet Canin

RTC Staff Present - In Person: Sarah Christensen, Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Guy Preston

RTC Staff Participating Remotely: Grace Blakeslee, Tommy Travers, Tracy New

Others Present:

Todd Marco, Nisene Rio Gateway
Brian Peoples, Trail Now
Faina Segal, Friends of the Rail & Trail
Miranda Taylor, AMBAG
Nadene Thorne, Greenway Committee

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

2. **Introductions:** Introductions were made.
3. **Consider AB2449 request(s) to participate in the meeting remotely –**

The committee unanimously approved a motion (Adamson/Spangrud) for the following AB2449 requests from committee members to participate remotely:

- Kailash Mozumder for just cause: A contagious illness that prevents a member from attending in person. He confirmed that no one over the age of 18 was present at his location.

4. **Oral Communications:** None
5. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:**
Handouts for Item 10 (presentation) and Item 11 (public comments) were posted on the ITAC meeting webpage.

CONSENT AGENDA

Committee members unanimously approved a motion (Spangrud/Urgo) approving the consent agenda (8-0).

6. **Approved Minutes of the February 16, 2023, ITAC meeting**
7. **Received list of Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Amendments approved by RTC March 2, 2023**

REGULAR AGENDA

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

ITAC members and RTC staff provided updates on projects, programs, studies, planning efforts, and storm damage.

County of Santa Cruz – Casey Carlson reported that the Soquel Drive buffered bike lanes and rehab project is out to bid. The County has over 150 storm damage sites from recent winter storms. The County is also planning to construct the San Andreas Road Resurfacing, Holohan/152 intersection and Green Valley Road multi-use path reconstruction projects this summer.

City of Santa Cruz – Josh Spangrud reported on storm damage to West Cliff Drive and one-way traffic. The city received one bid for the Ocean Street paving project (Plymouth St. to Water St.). The city will also be repaving Laurel Street soon and installing flashing beacons at crosswalks in the city

with a Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) grant. The Murray Street Bridge project right-of-way is completed and the city may go to bid this spring, pending approval of a National Marine Fisheries permit.

Scotts Valley – Phillip Linarte reported the city had storm damage/landslides on Green Hills and Bean Creek Roads and is working on near- and long-term repairs. The city is also working on high visibility crosswalk and Lockwood Lane projects. Repaving Bean Creek Road is scheduled to go to bid soon.

METRO – John Urgo reported there have been some service disruptions due to storms, that the River Street bus yard flooded during the January storms, and METRO continued to help with evacuations during the March storms. METRO launched the Youth Cruz fee-free rides for K-12 students program. METRO is holding a public workshop online on the “Reimagining METRO” plan and evaluating cost-neutral and two additional revenue scenarios for modifying METRO service. METRO is studying options to speed up service along bus routes 71, 69W, and 69X between Watsonville and Santa Cruz.

Caltrans – Paul Guirguis shared storm damage updates, noting that Highway 1 at the Pajaro River was the biggest closure. He also reported on the Highway 9/Holiday slide, with reopening on hold due to continued slide activity. He reported that planning grant applications were due to Caltrans March 9, with awards anticipated to be announced by the end of August 2023. Caltrans only received requests for about half of the funds designated for adaptation plans and there will likely be a second call for projects.

Malinda Gallaher reported that Caltrans awarded HSIP Cycle 11 funds to one project in the City of Santa Cruz. She noted workshops are being held on the Clean California program and encouraged agencies to contact her with any questions. Rachel Moriconi noted that Caltrans has a statewide cleanup planned in April, but no local jurisdictions in Santa Cruz County were participating; Paul Guirguis agreed to follow up on what outreach was done. [After the meeting Paul reported that District staff primarily contacted organizations that organize volunteer clean-up and will be doing additional outreach for next year’s event.) Malinda also reminded agencies to submit required paperwork to avoid losing funds for projects that are subject to a June 30 “reversion date”.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported city staff have been meeting with FEMA to determine what storm damage is eligible for funds. The city anticipates starting construction on the Capitola Road-30th Ave to 41st Ave intersection paving project late summer. The city is seeking input from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) on the design for the Kennedy Road sidewalk project.

UCSC – Georgina Arias reported that UCSC had some significant power

outages and downed trees because of winter storms. She reported that UCSC hopes to launch the new bikeshare program Memorial Day weekend.

SCCRTC - Sarah Christensen reported that vegetation clearing started for the Highway 1 Soquel-41st Auxiliary Lanes/Bus-on-Shoulder/Chanticleer Ave bike/ped project construction. The Highway 1 Bay/Porter-State Park project is out to bid. The EIR for the Highway 1 Freedom-State Park plus Segment 12 Trail project is expected to be released soon. She also reported that there were two washouts on the rail line due to January storms.

9. AMBAG 2023 Public Participation Plan Development Process

Miranda Taylor, AMBAG, presented information on the purpose, schedule, and preliminary updates to the Public Participation Plan (PPP), which serves as the federally mandated plan for AMBAG's Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and is also used as the RTC's PPP for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The draft plan is scheduled to be released in June. AMBAG has sent a survey to over 1500 people soliciting input on methods to involve the public in transportation planning and projects.

Committee members provided information on public engagement efforts at their agencies, including community engagement managers, consultants, and social media managers working with project managers to share project information with the public.

10. AMBAG 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Draft Work Program and Schedule

Heather Adamson, AMBAG, provided an overview of the work program and schedule for the next Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) update, highlighting key points during development that local project sponsors will need to provide financial estimates and project updates via SCCRTC. The draft plan is scheduled to be released late fall 2025, with final adoption by June 2026. In response to questions from Paul Guirguis, Heather Adamson noted that the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) document includes an environmental justice analysis and Rachel Moriconi indicated that the RTC's forthcoming Equity Action Plan will be used to analyze and prioritize projects.

11. Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 (State Park Drive to Rio del Mar Boulevard) design

Sarah Christensen, Sr. Engineer for RTC, presented and solicited input from the committee on the draft design for the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12. She confirmed that drainage is being considered in the project design.

Public comments: Todd Marco stated that cyclists will likely use the rail trail to also access parks in Aptos and provided comments about access and interface with Aptos Village and Soquel Drive and leveraging Aptos Street. Brian Peoples stated he was frustrated by flooding at Pajaro River, shared photos, and expressed concern that the train tracks are located through wetlands and at risk.

12. Funding Program Opportunities and Updates

Committee members and staff discussed several funding programs identified in the agenda, including:

Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC): Heather Adamson requested that agencies applying submit proposals several days in advance to AMBAG for its required review. The City of Santa Cruz is applying for funds the downtown library/housing project.

Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP): Only the City of Santa Cruz applied for funds in Cycle 11, with the County indicating it plans to apply in the future once its Safe Streets for All Plan (being prepared in partnership with Scotts Valley and Watsonville) is completed.

REAP: Heather Adamson noted that \$2.5 million is available this cycle.

Caltrans updated State Highway Management Plan considers asset-based priorities and is integrating climate adaptation and resiliency.

MEGA/Rural: Sarah Christensen reported that the RTC plans to partner with the County and Santa Cruz METRO on a second application for the Watsonville-Santa Cruz corridor.

Several agencies noted that they have limited staff available to prepare grant applications.

13. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on April 20, 2023.

Chair Mozumder adjourned the meeting at 3:30 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi