



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

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**MINUTES**

Thursday, April 20, 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
Santa Cruz Public Works	Matt Starkey
Santa Cruz Planning	Claire Gallogly
Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy	Chris Lamm
Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy	Murray Fontes
County of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy	Steve Wiesner
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Chris Duymich
California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)	Paul Guirguis
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and 1 Proxy	John Urgo

**Committee Members/Alternates Attending Remotely:**

*Non-voting/Did not count towards quorum or meet AB2449 requirements*  
Georgina Arias, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)  
Piet Canin, Ecology Action-Transportation  
Paul Hierling, AMBAG (alternate)

**Excused Absences:**

City of Watsonville Community Development: Justin Meek

**RTC Staff Present - In Person:** Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo

**RTC Staff Participating Remotely:** Brianna Goodman, Tommy Travers

**Others Present:**

Arnold Shir, County Public Health  
Theresia Rogerson, County Public Health  
Brian Peoples, Trail Now  
Faina Segal, Friends of the Rail & Trail (in person)  
Nadene Thorne, Greenway Committee

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:30p.m.
- 2. Roll Call/Introductions:** Introductions were made.

**3. Consider AB2449 request(s) for voting members to participate in the meeting remotely:** None

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

Presentations for Item 7 and Item 8 were posted on the [ITAC meeting webpage](#) after the meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

*Committee members approved a motion (Gallogly/Lamm) approving the consent agenda (8-0), with Matt Starkey abstaining.*

**5. Approved Minutes of the March 16, 2023, ITAC meeting**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

**6. 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.

Scotts Valley: Chris Lamm reported that they have been focused on storm damage, which resulted in delays to bidding some other projects. The Bean Creek Road repaving project is expected to go out to bid in April. City Council is expected to review the Measure D 5-year plan and Capital Improvement Program (CIP) at its mid-May or early June meeting.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the city has issued the notice of completion for the Lincoln St pedestrian safety project. The city will be starting construction on RTC-funded Freedom Boulevard reconstruction and citywide maintenance projects. A new public works director is being hired. Murray noted that the County's storm response on West Beach St was well done. He also reported that the city is hosting an Earth Day celebration, which will include a complete streets demonstration.

METRO: John Urgo reported that METRO is offering free rides countywide on Earth Day (flyer included with the meeting packet). He reported that METRO hosted a 3-day workshop with stakeholders as part of the Reimage METRO comprehensive analysis of transit service scenarios. He also reported that the YouthCruz free rides has resulted in an 25% increase in youth riders in March 2023.

Santa Cruz: Claire Gallogly reported that the city is holding a meeting on West Cliff Drive at 5:30pm on April 27<sup>th</sup> at London Nelson Center. The city

and UCSC plan to launch the new bikeshare program in June, with bikeshare expected to be launched in other jurisdictions soon after that. The city is scheduled to consider Measure D 5-year plan updates in May and June. Pedestrian and bicycle facility upgrades on Bay St between Escalona Dr. and Nobel Dr. are scheduled to start this summer. The Murray St bridge project construction is expected to go to bid soon.

Matt Starkey reported that construction is going well for Segment 7 Phase 2. The Ocean St. rehabilitation project is starting construction soon and expected to be finished in June. Entry and widening the medians is part of a separate beautification project. West Cliff Dr. initial repairs are expected to start early this summer.

Caltrans: Paul Guirguis reported that several projects were paused due to weather, but will be restarting soon. He recommended keeping an eye out for news releases, twitter notices, referencing the Caltrans online [QuickMaps](#) and [mobile application](#) for the latest construction and lane closure information. It was discussed that the Highway 9/Holiday slide area is scheduled to be briefly closed in order to complete work needed to restore 2-way traffic by April 26. Murray Fontes requested and Paul agreed to follow up with information on when the SR1/Pajaro River repairs are scheduled.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Wiesner reported that the county continues to make storm damage repairs. He indicated that this year there was more damage due to culvert failures and flooding compared to storm damage in prior years, though there are a similar number of storm damage sites. The County anticipates awarding a contract for the Soquel Drive buffered bike lanes and rehabilitation project at its May 16 board meeting. The County has also awarded a contract for 2023 resurfacing projects. The County is also planning to construct the Green Valley Road multi-use path reconstruction, San Andreas Road Resurfacing, Holohan/152 intersection and projects this summer.

Capitola: Kailash Mozumder reported that the 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue adaptive signal and Clares Street projects have been completed. Design for the Kennedy Road sidewalks project is under contract. He reported that staff walked the Capitola Road project area with Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) representatives which was very helpful. He noted that storms have resulted in more potholes.

Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported that White House staff contacted EA about its program installing EV charging at apartments. He reported that there will be an EV information booth at the Watsonville Earth Day festival and several EVs will be available to test drive the Earth Day event in Seaside. He also reported that May is Bike Month, which is funded by RTC and several local agencies and other sponsors. A flyer for Bike Month was

included in meeting packet.

UCSC – Georgina Arias reported that UCSC is looking forward to the launch of the new bikeshare program.

SCCRTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC adopted a resolution of appreciation for crews that responded to the extraordinary storms this winter. She thanked agencies for providing information and photos for the presentation. She also reported that the RTC will be holding a public hearing on the annual Transit Unmet Needs list at its May 4 meeting. The RTC held a groundbreaking event for the Highway 1 Soquel-41<sup>st</sup> Auxiliary Lanes/Bus-on-Shoulder/Chanticleer Ave bike/ped project construction on April 19. Bids for the Highway 1 Bay/Porter-State Park project are due April 27. The draft environmental documents for the Highway 1 Freedom-State Park plus Segment 12 Trail project was released for public review on April 18, 2023, with public hearings scheduled for May 2 and May 4 and comments due June 2, 2023.

Amy Naranjo reported that the RTC also received an update on Cruz511/Go Santa Cruz County programs and directed staff to develop recommendations and a funding plan for a countywide bike rebate program.

## **7. Health Program Updates**

Arnold Shir and Theresia Rogerson from County Public Health presented information on providing safe, healthy, and equitable mobility for all. The presentation included information on best practices to improve safety and public health, the “Safe Systems Approach (SSA)” to road safety, Vision Zero Action Plans, collision information, grant programs available to help agencies reduce crashes, quality of life and health indicator data sources to support grant applications and prioritize projects, and the County Public Health’s Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) and bike and pedestrian safety education programs. *Presentation slides have been posted on the ITAC meeting website.*

Committee members discussed some of the information, noting increased focus on fatalities and looking at best practices used by other agencies to reduce crashes.

Public comments: Brian Peoples expressed concern about the rail trail design and stated that he believes rail with trail is infeasible and that the rail trail prevents people on Palm Street from accessing the trail.

## 8. Caltrans Planning Updates

Paul Guirguis, Caltrans District 5 Planning, provided an overview of several recent and ongoing planning efforts at Caltrans, including information on the Caltrans Freight Mobility Plan 2023 and AMBAG Freight Study, Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS), 2023 State Rail Plan, Caltrans Complete Street planning and implementation process, the Highway 17 Resiliency and Adaptation Plan, and First/Last Mile Transit Connectivity and Mode Shift Study. *Presentation slides have been posted on the ITAC meeting website.*

## 9. 2023 Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) Recommendations

Rachel Moriconi provided background information on the state Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) program. **The ITAC unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Guirguis) recommending that the RTC board approve Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District's (METRO) request to use the region's FY22/23 LCTOP shares on the YouthCruz free fare for youth program and identify future transit and paratransit projects that greenhouse gas emissions.** Steve Wiesner suggested that METRO seek funding in future years to add transponders in buses that would allow for bus prioritization at signals along Soquel Drive.

## 10. San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Schools Access Study

Brianna Goodman reported that the draft study is available for review and requested that a few ITAC members volunteer to review and provide input on the draft. In addition to County, METRO, and Caltrans staff, Matt Starkey volunteered to review the draft plan.

## 11. Funding Program Opportunities and Updates

The Committee received information about several upcoming grant opportunities and shared information on potential applications, including:

- a. [Clean California](#): Murray Fontes reported that Watsonville Parks and Art staff are applying for a signage, educational, and art project.
- b. Caltrans Grant Updates
  - Local Assistance Funding Opportunities Workshop on 4/28
  - [Caltrans support letters procedures](#)
- c. USDOT grants: 2023 NOFO schedule
  - Grant Prep Checklist
  - [Charging and Fueling Infrastructure Discretionary Grant Program](#): Piet Canin encouraged agencies to apply and that Ecology Action staff is available to help with applications. He noted there is a regional workgroup focused on EV infrastructure.

- [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#)
- [Wildlife Crossing Pilot Program](#)
- d. [CA Reconnecting Communities: Highways to Boulevards](#) (RC:H2B) Pilot Program
- e. [CTC-Local Transportation Climate Adaptation Program \(LTCAP\)](#): Kailash Mozumder identified Cliff Drive as a potential candidate.
- f. Other updates
  - The Air District will be soliciting application for AB2766 grants

**12. Committee Member and Staff Oral Communications - None**

**13. Public Comments and Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda – None**

**14. 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 3:35 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi*