



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

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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

**Alternate Location:** Caltrans-50 Higuera St, Rm 125, San Luis Obispo, CA  
**Online:** Zoom

**ITAC Members Present:**

Capitola Public Works & Community Development Proxy	Kailash Mozumder
Santa Cruz Public Works	Kevin Crossley
Santa Cruz Planning	Claire Gallogly
Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy	Chris Lamm
Watsonville Public Works	Murray Fontes
Watsonville Planning	Justin Meek
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Chris Duymich
California Department of Transportation (via zoom)	Orchid Monroy-Ochoa
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and 1 Proxy	John Urgo

**Non-Voting Committee Members/Alternates Attending Remotely:**

*(Did not meet AB2449 requirements)*

Georgina Arias, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)  
Casey Carlson, County Public Works  
Piet Canin, Ecology Action-Transportation  
Paul Hierling, AMBAG (alternate)  
Anais Schnek, County Planning  
Pete Rasmussen, METRO

**RTC Staff Present - In Person:** Sarah Christensen, Amy Naranjo, Guy Preston, Brianna Goodman

**RTC Staff Participating Remotely:** Amanda Marino, Rachel Moriconi, Tommy Travers

**Others Present In-Person:**

Jean Brocklebank  
Kevin Lewis

**Others Participating Remotely**

Chris Gregerson, Kimley-Horn (County VMT Consultant)  
Ayberk Kocatepe, Kimley-Horn (County VMT Consultant)  
Michael Schmitt, Kimley-Horn (County VMT Consultant)

Teresa Buika, UCSC  
Matt Miller, Ecology Action-Transportation  
Michael Pisano, E&DTAC  
Faina Segal, Friends of the Rail & Trail  
Nadene Thorne, Greenway Committee

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:35p.m.
- 2. Roll Call/Introductions:** Introductions were made. Claire Gallogly introduced Kevin Crossley as the new Assistant Director of Public Works/City Engineer and ITAC alternate.
- 3. Consider AB2449 request(s) for voting members to participate in the meeting remotely:** None. It was noted that Orchid Monroy-Ochoa is attending under regular Brown Act rules as the Caltrans office was noticed on the agenda as an alternate location open to the public. Other committee members and alternates on zoom did not meet AB2449 requirements and were not eligible to vote or count towards quorum.
- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** Rachel Moriconi noted that the presentation for Item 8 is posted on the [ITAC meeting webpage](#). Item 10 was moved before Item 9. (*Slides for Item 9 were posted after the meeting.*)
- 5. Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda:** None

## CONSENT AGENDA

### 6. Approved Minutes of the April 20, 2023, ITAC meeting

**The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Lamm) approving the consent agenda, with members Crossley, Duymich, Fontes, Gallogly, Lamm, Monroy-Ochoa, Mozumder, and Urgo voting "yes".** (*Committee member Meek was not present for the vote.*)

## REGULAR AGENDA

### 7. 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.

Capitola: Kailash Mozumder reported that the Kennedy Road sidewalks project started construction, with roadway repaving anticipated in

conjunction with a Soquel Water District project. The Capitola Road (30<sup>th</sup>-41<sup>st</sup> Avenue) paving project is scheduled to be advertised within the next two months.

Santa Cruz: Claire Gallogly reported that the new bikeshare program is scheduled to launch in the City of Santa Cruz and UCSC on June 20<sup>th</sup>, with bike docking stations installed in several locations citywide. The Downtown-Beach summer shuttle will start operating on Memorial Day weekend. Laurel Street construction is scheduled to be completed before the end of the month. 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.

In response to questions from attendees, agencies reported that launch of bikeshare in Capitola, Watsonville and unincorporated parts of the county, including Cabrillo College, is anticipated in early 2024, pending agreements and permit processes for each agency. Scotts Valley has not decided about adding bikeshare.

METRO: John Urgo reported that METRO received a Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant for new hybrid buses, rapid bus enhancements along the Watsonville-Santa Cruz corridor, and a Watsonville Transit Center/affordable housing project. The Pacific Station project is scheduled to break ground in December 2023. The RTC and METRO approved Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds for two additional years for the YouthCruz free rides program, which has resulted in 100% growth in youth ridership since its launch and the most significant growth on weekends.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the city plans to build the Lee Road trail and bike/pedestrian bridge on Harkins Slough Road over Highway 1 next year. The Freedom Boulevard Reconstruction project from Alta Vista to Green Valley Road is underway with paving scheduled for June; the new traffic signal at Sydney Ave. may be delayed to October due to supply chain issues. Watsonville is hosting the APWA Monterey Bay Chapter Public Works Week barbeque on 5/24/23 at its water treatment plant. Murray was promoted to Assistant Director of Public Works/City Engineer.

Scotts Valley: Chris Lamm reported that the Bean Creek Road repaving project is out to bid. Staff will present the pavement management program update to City Council in June.

County of Santa Cruz: Casey Carlson reported that the county has around 200 storm damage sites and has completed emergency repairs at 15 locations. The County is awarding a contract for the Soquel Drive buffered bike lanes and rehabilitation project. The County's Emergency Routes paving

project on Alba and Empire Grade will start construction in June. The County is also planning to construct the Green Valley Road multi-use path reconstruction mid/late summer, and construct countywide paving including San Andreas, Buena Vista, Quail Hollow Road and downtown Felton - this summer. The Holohan/152 intersection is expected to start construction in late summer/fall.

AMBAG: Chris Duymich reported that the AMBAG board is expected to adopt REAP 2.0 guidelines in June. She encouraged agencies to reach out to Paul Hierling with project ideas and questions and to use the funds.

Caltrans: Orchid Monroy-Ochoa shared that a workshop will be held in Seaside on the California Emerging Technology Fund: Broadband-for-All program.

UCSC – Georgina Arias reported that UCSC has installed several bikeshare docking stations.

SCCRTC – Sarah Christensen reported that Highway 1 41<sup>st</sup>-Soquel is under construction, including work on approaches to the bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Highway 1 at Chanticleer – with video expected to be available during bridge construction. Guy Preston noted that lane and ramp closures will happen at night. Construction information is posted on the Cruz511.org website and is being provided through news releases. Sarah reported that Caltrans awarded the construction contract for the Highway 1 Bay/Porter-State Park project; RTC programmed additional Measure D funds due to bids coming in high. Public meetings were held on environmental documents for the Highway 1 Freedom-State Park plus Segment 12 Trail project, with comments due June 2, 2023. Amy Naranjo reported that RTC will be issuing a call for projects for the next consolidated grant funds in the fall. Rachel Moriconi reported that additional Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) funds were awarded for Segment 5 of the Rail Trail and the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS) has been finalized.

## **8. Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Program**

Anais Schenk (County of Santa Cruz) and the County's consultant Mike Schmitt (Kimley-Horn) provided an update on the Regional Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) Mitigation Study, which is scheduled to be completed Fall 2023. Mike Schmitt provided an overview of SB743 which changed how significant impacts from transportation are measured in CEQA, from Level of Service (LOS) to Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT). For VMT impacts that cannot be mitigated through onsite mitigations and Transportation Demand Management (TDM) strategies, a VMT Bank/Exchange could be used to fund transit, bike, pedestrian, parking technology, and other projects that reduce VMT. He provided sample impact fee schedules for different land uses;

discussed local and regional VMT banks for local and regional projects; and tools to estimate VMT impacts of projects. *Presentation slides were posted on the ITAC meeting website.*

*Committee Member Justin Meek joined the meeting at 2:12pm.*

In response to questions from committee members and members of the public, Anais noted that the study is still analyzing the feasibility of using a mitigation bank. The list of local and regional projects available to fund with VMT fees would be regularly updated, with projects ranked based on the cost of the project compared to the VMT benefit, project timing (the VMT-reducing project must be implemented soon after the VMT generating project), and feasibility. Other metrics such as equity and geographic distribution could also be considered. Caltrans has determined that partially-funded projects could count towards VMT reductions. Caltrans is analyzing mitigation banks for highway projects that increase VMT and working on addressing legal and policy issues related to mitigation banks. Funds could be used to work with employers to support more telecommuting than is currently occurring. Justin Meek noted that some developments include TDM programs specifically for that development, such as bike, carpool, and transit pass programs. Some Go Santa Cruz County and Ecology Action programs track pre- and post-participation miles traveled Anais noted that TDM and other mitigations will need to be easy to measure and tabulate VMT reduced. It is impossible for most new developments to fully mitigate their VMT impacts onsite and to meet VMT thresholds, they could utilize local and/or regional mitigation banks. Land use projects that reduce trips could also be funded.

Piet Canin said that TDM programs need consistent funding, should focus on equity and look at who is underutilizing facilities; e-bike subsidies can show trip length and number of automobile trips reduced. Matt Miller noted that some TDM programs use self-reporting that requires manual entry.

Public comments: Jean Brocklebank expressed concern that modeling and VMT projections could underestimate VMT impacts of projects. Faina Segal appreciated the county and consultants work.

In response to questions, the project team and ITAC also discussed potential mitigation monitoring mechanisms and that VMT estimates, such as those used by ITE, Replica/Streetlight, and TREDLite, are regularly updated based on substantial evidence and behavior data.

**ITAC members should start identifying transit, bike, pedestrian, affordable housing, TDM and other VMT-reducing projects that could be funded by local and regional mitigation programs. Staff will send an email with additional instructions.**

**10. Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Safe and Complete Streets Action Plan - Moved ahead of Item 9**

Brianna Goodman provided an update on efforts to amend the Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Complete Streets Corridor Plan (SLV Plan) to fulfill the federal requirements of a Safe Streets for All Safety Action Plan and recommended that the ITAC serve as the oversight group for the SLV Complete Streets Action Plan.

Murray Fontes noted that some ITAC members do not have involvement in SLV and that people in SLV might make sense to provide oversight. Brianna responded that staff will also conduct outreach to the School District, residents, business and community groups in SLV, but recommends that the ITAC serve as the oversight group for this "vision zero" effort. Brianna added that if the RTC's applications for funding to develop an expanded safety plan for rural highways countywide, the scope of the ITAC's oversight role could be expanded in the future.

**The ITAC unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Urgo) recommending that the RTC designate the ITAC as the oversight group for the SLV complete streets safety and action plan, with members Crossley, Duymich, Fontes, Gallogly, Lamm, Meek, Monroy-Ochoa, Mozumder, and Urgo voting "yes".**

**9. Potential GO Santa Cruz County E-Bike, Regular Bike and/or Bikeshare - Moved after Item 10**

Amy Naranjo and Amanda Marino solicited input on development of a potential countywide electric bicycle, regular bike and/or bikeshare incentive program, including potential funding amounts and applicant eligibility criteria. *Presentation slides were posted on the ITAC meeting website after the meeting.*

ITAC members and members of the public provided input on the potential regional program. Discussion included: suggestions to look at Denver as a model; the trip length of e-bike users; local e-bikeshare user demographics have included more women and people of color compared to manual bikeshare programs; the need for safe bike storage and example multi-family housing projects with dedicated bike storage rooms; whether e-bike subsidies or bikeshare are the best way to reduce VMT; trends of more people biking because of e-bikes; how to ensure subsidized bikes replace vehicle trips and are not only used for recreational rides; ways to ensure equity, such as zero-interest bike loan/financing, outreach to affordable housing households, mobile home parks, and community resource centers and organizations that cater to low income individuals, marketing,

reimbursement/rebates and discount vouchers at point of sale, burden of proof of low income status, challenge for renters to own and carry e-bikes up to apartments; latent demand for subsidies; concerns about pedestrian safety next to higher speed e-bikes, bikes on sidewalks, young people joyriding, lack of enforcement of dangerous biking, threat to wildlife and walkers of e-bikes on trails and impact of heavy e-bikes on trail condition; using parking fees to fund subsidies; requiring bike safety education and maintenance; providing free helmets, lights, locks, baskets/trailers; establishing targets to distribute funding for different geographic areas; ways to reduce administrative costs; electric vs cycle bikes; streamlining criteria to match up with criteria used by other state and regional rebate programs; using existing organizations to assist with outreach; issues on age-limits for using e-bikes; providing ongoing annual memberships for bikeshare programs for low-income individuals rather than one-time vouchers; need for more bikeshare stations in Watsonville and at mobile homes; high maintenance costs of e-bikes – including batteries, tires, motors; and other suggestions of things for RTC to consider.

## **11. Funding Program Opportunities and Updates**

The Committee received information about several upcoming grant opportunities and shared information on potential applications.

## **12. Next meeting.** The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on June 15, 2023.

Chair Mozumder adjourned the meeting at 3:35 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi*