



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, September 21, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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

ITAC Members Present:

County Public Works & Planning	Steve Wiesner
Capitola	Kailash Mozumder
Santa Cruz Public Works	Mark Starkey
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy	Steve Jesberg
Watsonville Public Works	Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Regina Valentine
California Department of Transportation	Paul Guirguis
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and 1 Proxy	John Urgo

Non-Voting Committee Members/Alternates Attending Remotely:

AMBAG Alternates: Paul Hierling, Heather Adamson
Caltrans Alternates: Malinda Gallaher, Evelyn Frederic
METRO Alternate: Pete Rasmussen

Excused Absences

University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC): Georgina Arias

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

RTC Staff Participating Remotely: Grace Blakeslee, Tommy Travers

Others Present In-Person:

Elizabeth Byrd, County of Santa Cruz Human Services

Others Participating Remotely

Bhupendra Patel and Gina Schmidt, AMBAG
Brian Peoples
Nadene Thorne
Matt Welker, Caltrans Planning

- 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:** Presentation slides and public comments are posted on the [ITAC meeting webpage](#).
5. **Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. **Approved Minutes of the June 15, 2023, ITAC meeting**

The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Fontes) approving the consent agenda, with members all members present voting “yes”.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. **Chair and Vice Chair Elections**

Claire Gallogly nominated Matt Starkey to serve as chair and John Uργο to serve as vice chair. There were no other nominations. **The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Uργο) to elect Matt Starkey as chair. The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Starkey) to elect John Uργο as vice chair.** Committee members appreciated Chair Mozumder for his outstanding service as chair (April 2021-September 2023) and as Vice Chair (April 2019-March 2021).

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.

Santa Cruz: Mark Starkey reported on West Cliff Drive short-term and long-term storm damage repairs; paving projects happening on Dimeo Lane, Ocean Street, East Cliff Drive, and San Lorenzo Blvd.; the new temporary METRO station on Front Street to be complete in December; and that the Murray Street bridge is expected to go out to bid in October. Claire Gallogly reported that the city has secured grants for the Downtown Library Mixed Use project, complete streets on Bay Street, sidewalks on Laurel Street, and lighting and other rehabilitation work for the San Lorenzo River Walk. The

city was also awarded a Caltrans Planning grant to update the city's Active Transportation Plan, which will be launched in January.

SCCRTC: Sarah Christensen provided updates on Highway 1 construction, including installation of cameras to see live construction of the Chanticleer bike/ped bridge. Highway 1 Bay/Porter to State Park will be under construction for the next few years, with Capitola Avenue bridge construction scheduled to start in spring 2024. Guy Preston reported that the RTC received three Caltrans Planning grants: a Rural Highway Safety plan, climate plans for Waddell Creek Bridge and San Vicente Creek Bridge, and an Access Plan along Highway 1 north coast to create more parking and safety along the highway.

METRO: John Urgo reported that METRO is purchasing 57 hydrogen buses and building a hydrogen fueling station.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported on completing projects on Freedom Blvd and that a planning grant was received for a Vision Zero corridor study.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Weisner reported on storm damage repairs, finishing up summer paving projects, including the Emergency Routes Project. The 152/Holohan improvement project was awarded, but will not start construction until Spring 2024. The County received one bid for the Green Valley Multi-Use Bike Path that was significantly over the engineer's estimate and requested a spending deadline extension from Caltrans to the end of 2024. A sanitation project on East Cliff Drive between 13th and 16th Avenue will continue until next summer. The Soquel Drive Congestion Management and Buffer Bike Lane Project construction has started. The County, in partnership with the City of Watsonville and City of Santa Cruz, received a Safe Streets For All (SS4A) planning grant which has a 2 year deadline. County staff is preparing grant applications for the RTC's Consolidated Competitive Grant Program. The County has several efforts underway around Climate Change Resiliency, including work with RTC on a climate adaptation and vulnerability assessment (CAVA) for County transportation facilities and the branch rail line corridor. Counties of Monterey, San Benito, and Santa Cruz are also partnering to purchase electric vehicles and are looking into electric refuse trucks.

Claire Gallogly encouraged agencies to request site walks with Vista Center for the Blind representatives to improve accessibility. Several ITAC members expressed a desire to partner with Elizabeth Byrd from County of Santa Cruz Human Services in this regard.

Guy Preston noted that the RTC is interested in partnering with the County in the Safe Streets for All grant.

Caltrans: Paul Guirguis reported on planned road closures in the Santa Cruz Mountains, including that Highway 9 is scheduled to have separate day time closure in the first week of October. He encouraged members to sign up for Caltrans construction news releases. The call for project for the next cycle of Sustainable Transportation Planning grants begins in October, with applications due in January 2024. Malinda Gallaher reported on Local Assistance staffing changes and introduced Evelyn Frederic as the new area engineer for local agencies. She reminded agencies that the new federal fiscal year is starting and encouraged everyone to update documents and forms to receive federal funding.

Scotts Valley: Steve Jesberg reported that the Bean Creek Road project is close to completion and the city is working on citywide road patching plans, the Granite Creek Overpass project design, and the Mount Hermon Road traffic, active transportation, and signal improvement project design.

Capitola: Kailash Mozumder reported that the city issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) for the Cliff Drive Resiliency project; the city will open proposals for planning, environmental, design, and construction services for emergency relief projects. The city is planning to start construction of the Capitola Road paving project from 41st to 30th Avenue in November. The city has also started to plan for 2024 pavement projects.

9. AMBAG 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) Update

Heather Adamson, AMBAG, presented an update on the MTP/SCS. She highlighted the Regional Growth Forecast to be completed in 2026 and uses for planning purposes and a new draft Vision which is "accessible and connected region for safe, resilient and equitable future." Feedback on the vision, goals and objectives is desired by October 16, 2023. AMBAG plans to develop a new transportation project database, update the project list, and evaluate projects using new MTP/SCS performance measurements geared toward inclusion. Next steps include regional growth forecast updates, finalizing the vision and policy goals, updating performance measurements, and continuing to implement the 2050 MTP/SCS work plan components.

Committee members inquired about inclusion of undocumented individuals in growth forecast and data being used that show decline in local population. A public comment was made by Brian Peoples about the use of VMT and possible alternatives that are less negative.

10. AMBAG Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM)

Bhupendra Patel presented on the AMBAG GIS Data Modeling Program, federal requirements, the purpose of the RTDM upgrade and land use model.

Gina Schmidt presented on the development monitoring web tool and gave tour of the website and relevance to stakeholders. Committee member questions were regarding the context for the use of the GIS tool.
Public comment: Brian Peoples commented on metrics used in RTDM.

11. Caltrans Highway 17 Resiliency and Adaptation Plan

Matt Welker, Caltrans, presented on the Highway 17 Resiliency and Adaptation Plan. The project includes defining a comprehensive multimodal corridor plan that will be replacing transportation conception reports and it will include goals for climate change resiliency and safety improvements. The plan is scheduled to be published in February of 2025. Next steps include assembling a Resilient Corridor Planning Team with members of stakeholder agencies and organizations.

Committee members and staff discussed what multimodal means in the context of this project for Highway 17, including transit, bike and pedestrian facilities at interchanges. Staff recommended that representatives from METRO, Scotts Valley, RTC and the County of Santa Cruz be involved on the planning team.

12. Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District Planning Updates: Reimagining METRO and Rapid Corridors

John Urgo provided an update on the Reimage METRO planning effort and highlighted the timeline of the project, public input, new improvements and frequency on bus routes, and the changes at each phase of the project and the long-range plan.

The Rapid Corridors presentation was tabled to the next ITAC meeting due to time constraints.

13. 2023 Measure D Strategic Implementation Plan Update

Guy Preston summarized proposed updates to the Measure D Strategic Implementation Plan (SIP), including a planning study for Highway 1 to improve traffic efficiency, as well as additional funds for expansion and upkeep of the Coastal Rail Trail.

Committee members inquired about specifics for the Highway Corridors Program regarding bus frequency and expressway lanes and ramps. Tommy Travers discussed the long-term plans and schedule of SIP. He requested that ITAC members provide feedback as soon as possible, with the draft plan scheduled to be completed in 2 weeks.

In response to a committee member question, staff clarified that the Measure D Expenditure Plan for Highway Corridors does not include funding for Highway 1 projects north of Santa Cruz.

14. Funding Program Opportunities and Updates

The Committee received information about several upcoming grant opportunities and shared information on potential applications, including the RTC Consolidated Grants Call for Projects, Call Trans Planning Grants, Outdoor Equity Grants Program, and RAISE Grant Program. Claire Gallogly provided an update on Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 7 guidelines, requesting a site visit to discuss potential projects with California Transportation Commission (CTC) staff. The committee suggested local potential applicants meet to discuss potential projects and best practices for developing applications.

14. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on October 19, 2023, at the RTC conference room, 1101 Pacific Ave, Ste 250.

Chair Mozumder adjourned the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Anna Kalthoff, Planning Intern