



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, February 15, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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

Alternate In Person Location: Caltrans District 5

Online: Zoom

ITAC Members Present:

County Public Works	Casey Carlson
Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy	Matt Starkey
Watsonville Public Works	Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Regina Valentine
California Department of Transportation	Paul Guirguis (online)
Ecology Action-Transportation Programs	Piet Canin
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and 1 Proxy	John Urgo

Non-Voting Committee Members/Alternates Attending Remotely:

Caltrans Alternate: Evelyn Frederic

Santa Cruz Alternate: Claire Gallogly

University of California at Santa Cruz: Tracy Wang

RTC Staff In Person: Rachel Moriconi

RTC Staff Participating Remotely: Sarah Christensen, Riley Gerbrandt, Mitch Weiss

Members of the public

Faina Segal (online)

Frank R., Sons in Retirement-Watsonville

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Matt Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.
2. **Roll Call/Introductions** were made.
3. **Consider any AB 2449 requests by voting members to participate remotely.** There were no AB2449 requests made. Paul Guirguis was attending remotely under Brown Act rules, with his location noticed on the agenda. Alternates online were participating as non-voting attendees.
4. **Additions, deletions, or other changes to consent and regular agendas.** None

5. **Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda**

Frank R. from the Sons in Retirement invited staff to present information on transportation projects at their meetings, held on the second Tuesday of the month in Watsonville.

CONSENT AGENDA

6. **Approved Minutes of the January 18, 2024 ITAC meeting**

By role count vote, the committee unanimously approved a motion (Urgo/Meek) approving the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

- Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported they received a grant for a clean mobility in schools program and a grant being implemented by Ecology Action and several other non-profits and Watsonville for EV carshare, Open Streets, outreach, and other programs.
- METRO: John Urgo reported on Michael Tree's departure, the move of the downtown Santa Cruz Transit Center during construction at Pacific Station, eighty new bus operators and public outreach for Reimagine METRO phase 2 proposed service changes.
- County of Santa Cruz: Casey Carlson reported on storm damage projects – the county has completed repairs at 80% of the 220 storm damage sites from 2017 storms, 60% of the 217 sites from 2023, and have another 21 sites so far in 2024. He also reported about 16 miles of pavement repairs; going out to bid on 2024 pavement management projects funded by Measure D, RTC grants, and other funds, with designs underway for several other projects; received an extension for the Green Valley Road multiuse path Clean California grant; anticipate construction of the Highway 152/Holohan intersection to start this spring/summer; and construction of 5-miles of multimodal improvements on Soquel Drive is still underway and anticipated to be completed in fall 2024.
- Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported on Ohlone Parkway Measure R-funded road rehabilitation and the city's Vision Zero corridor plan. Justin Meek reported on the City Council's General Plan retreat and other long range planning efforts.
- City of Santa Cruz: Matt Starkey reported on several pavement preservation projects planned for Highland, Bay, Escalona, and other roads; storm damage repairs on West Cliff Drive; and the temporary METRO station relocation on Front Street, River Street, and Soquel Drive, with the first red bus lanes in the area.

- Caltrans: Evelyn Frederic gave an update from District 5 Local Assistance which included highlighting items included in the meeting packet, upcoming allocation request deadlines, information about Emergency Relief funding, and clarification of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise requirements and documentation.
- Regional Transportation Commission (RTC): Sarah Christensen provided updates on highway construction, including the Chanticleer bike/ped crossing and the Capitola Ave overcrossing demolition, with detours to begin next month. The North Coast Rail Trail Segment 5 construction is out to bid.

8. **2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) Update, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments**

Heather Adamson from Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) gave an update on the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). The vision and goals of this plan have been updated and the performance measurements are currently being worked on. Updating the project list will begin in Spring 2024 and the draft plan will be ready in Fall of 2025. A scoping meeting on the environmental impact report is being held (notice included in the meeting packet). Justin Meeks asked for additional information on the performance metrics, thresholds, data sources, and methodology. Heather stated that the new metrics and data used for measurement are being finalized, but similar to information in Appendix G of the 2045 MTP/SCS. Claire Gallogly asked that high quality transit maps be made easier to use. Heather and others discussed challenges with changes in state law and definitions, and that transit stop locations change and are not permanent. Paul Guirguis asked about the environmental metric, "open space consumed and farmland converted." Heather gave more background on this measurement.

9. **Draft Complete Streets Policy, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments**

Regina Valentine presented AMBAG's Draft Complete Streets Policy. This included the background, key sections of the draft, and timeline. Public comment closes March 15 and the policy will be presented for board adoption in May 2024. She requested that ITAC email her any comments on the document. The presentation was included in the agenda packet.

10. **Zero Emission Rail Transit and Trail Preliminary Purpose and Need**

Riley Gerbrandt presented the background, overview, schedule, and project purpose and needs for the Zero Emission Rail Transit and Trail project. Currently, the project is in the preliminary purpose and needs statement phase. Piet Canin asked about the trail project being part of this and the

timeline of the trail. Matt Starky appreciated that the RTC was looking at the rail and trail needs together. Justin Meek expressed support for identifying the train alignment and station locations. Paul Guirguis suggested the state and federal rail network connections, climate resiliency, and the need for alternatives to roadways be considered as part of the purpose and need statement.

11. **Regional Transportation Equity Priority Communities Definition**

Rachel Moriconi presented preliminary recommendations on metrics to use to update the regional definition of equity priority communities, also called "disadvantaged communities". She noted recommendations are based on input received from the RTC's new Transportation Equity Workgroup. Piet Canin asked if these different metrics will be helpful when applying for federal funding. Rachel noted that while some grant programs require applicants to use metrics set forth by those grants, others provide an option to use regional definitions that identify areas experiencing inequities that may be diluted by aggregated data. Paul Guirguis suggested clarifying threshold percentages. Justin Meeks inquired about available data for certain metrics and Rachel confirmed staff is still researching available data for some metrics.

12. **Funding Program Opportunities and Updates**

Rachel Moriconi and attendees mentioned several upcoming grant opportunities, including transit, active transportation, ZEV, climate adaptation, and affordable housing/sustainable communities grants. Rachel Moriconi also reminded the group that if they receive state funds through the California Transportation Commission (CTC), to get allocation or extension requests in for anything programmed in FY23/24.

13. **Next Meeting and Future Items:** The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm on **March 21, 2024 at the RTC conference room, 1101 Pacific Ave, Ste 250**. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.