



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

MINUTES

Thursday, January 18, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

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

Online: Zoom

ITAC Members Present:

Capitola Public Works & Planning Proxy	Kailash Mozumder
Santa Cruz Public Works	Matt Starkey
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
Watsonville Public Works	Murray Fontes
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Paul Hierling
California Department of Transportation	Paul Guirguis
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and 1 Proxy	John Urgo
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Oxo Slayer

Non-Voting Committee Members/Alternates Attending Remotely:

AMBAG Alternates: Regina Valentine
Caltrans Alternates: Malinda Gallaher, Evelyn Frederic
UCSC: Georgina Arias, Tracy Wang
Ecology Action-Transportation Programs: Piet Canin

Absent: County of Santa Cruz, City of Scotts Valley

RTC Staff Present - In Person: Luis Mendez, Rachel Moriconi

RTC Staff Participating Remotely: Tommy Travers

Others Participating Remotely

Christopher Lindsey
Rosemary Sarka
Faina Segal

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:35p.m.
- 2. Roll Call/Introductions:** Introductions were made.
- 3. Consider AB2449 request(s) for voting members to participate in the meeting remotely:** No AB2449 requests were made. ITAC members attending remotely were doing so as non-voting participants.
- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:**

Item 7 was moved to the regular agenda. Item 11 was taken ahead of Item 10. Presentations for items 10 and 12 and a handout from Caltrans for Item 13 were posted as handouts on the meeting agenda page: <https://sccrtc.org/meetings/inter-agency/agendas/>.

5. Oral Communications: None

CONSENT AGENDA

- 6. Approved Minutes of the November 16, 2023, ITAC meeting**
- 7. Caltrans Draft 2024 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) – *Moved to regular agenda***
- 8. Received Notice: Draft Locally Sponsored Project Initiation Document (PID) Evaluation Guidance (Guidance)**
- 9. Received Notice: Caltrans System Investment Strategy (CSIS) Workshops**

The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Urgo) approving the consent agenda, excluding Item 7.

REGULAR AGENDA

10. Central Coast Sustainable Freight Study

Paul Hierling, AMBAG and AMBAG’s consultant Christopher Lindsey from Cambridge Systematics provided an overview of the update to the regional freight study for District 5. Discussion included the potential of establishing an intermodal center to switch from large trucks to smaller vehicles in downtown areas, with the aim of enhancing the pedestrian experience and ensuring efficient delivery of goods; existing intermodal facilities and the potential to shift more truck loads to rail; the possibility of exploring hydrogen as a fuel source and creating a centralized hydrogen fueling station; truck parking facilities; the sustainability of freight and resiliency impact areas when there are severe storms; and moving truck routes out of and reducing truck traffic through downtown Watsonville.

11. 2024 Legislative Program

Tommy Travers presented the RTC’s draft 2024 Legislative Program and provided updates on the Governor’s budget proposal. Committee members suggested: the RTC make opposing cuts to the Active Transportation Program (ATP) a priority, wording changes related to emergency repairs, adding language to encourage developments that incentivize active

transportation and transit use to include public access easements within and across large development projects. Committee members also suggested language to enhance measurable targets for the SHOPP that better reflect community needs and to better ensure Caltrans implements complete streets policies and integrates complete streets facilities into its projects.

12. Draft Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Goals and Policies, Project Lists and Maps

Tommy Travers presented the RTC's draft Regional Transportation Plan Goals and Policies and timeline for the next RTP update. He noted that the RTC will be sending out a short public survey on the goals and policies and that performance targets will be shared in the future. Committee members suggested the goals and policies be updated to: prioritize funding for complete streets and transit projects; align projects with goals and policies; and include maintenance of the existing transportation system as a goal. It was noted that updates to the project list can happen at several different points, but new projects will need to be considered in the program-level environmental analysis. Faina Segal proposed the RTC prioritize active and public transportation projects in densely urbanized areas, based on the potential number of users. Rachel Moriconi requested agencies send staff lists of projects already identified in local planning efforts.

7. Caltrans Draft 2024 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) – *Moved from consent agenda*

Rachel Moriconi provided information on the draft 2024 SHOPP and proposed projects in or next to Santa Cruz County. She noted that the fish passage at Waterman Gap on Highway 9 and bridges at Kings Creek and San Lorenzo River north of Boulder Creek on Highway 9 will be included in the final 2024 SHOPP. Claire Gallogly said that the City of Sant Cruz submitted several comments to Caltrans on projects along Mission Street/Highway 1. Paul Guirguis emphasized the importance of providing feedback and communicating with Caltrans project managers and him early in the project development process. He noted that several projects are not new and indicated that scope changes for carryover projects that are already in the environmental or design phase may not be possible. The committee discussed the need to address bicycle, pedestrian and transit safety and operational needs on state routes. Several committee members appreciated Paul for regularly updating agencies on the progress of various projects.

13. Status of transportation projects, programs, studies, and planning documents (*Discussed after Item 7*)

ITAC members and RTC staff provided updates on projects, programs,

studies, and planning efforts, including:

- Capitola city road projects and the pedestrian path for the Upper Pacific coast parking lot.
- METRO service increases, rapid corridors plan, hydrogen fuel cell buses, housing projects in Santa Cruz
- UCSC Community Transportation Needs Assessment, Slug Wiggle project, Cardiff/High Street and Empire Grade path upgrades, METRO terminal, new signalized intersections, Delaware area plans, and housing projects
- AMBAG regional growth estimates, potential REAP 2.0 and other state budget cuts
- Watsonville Freedom Boulevard, pavement management, city active transportation plan, General Plan growth scenarios
- Caltrans project deadlines and guideline updates, planning grants, staffing changes, and work with local agencies
- RTC rail, trail, and Highway 1 projects, and interim Executive Director
- Santa Cruz Ocean Street, River Street, METRO Center interim relocation, Murray Street bridge, and West Cliff Drive projects; city active transportation plan, countywide bike share rollout, and traffic calming

14. Funding Program Opportunities and Updates

Members were encouraged to review the list of funding program opportunities and updates included in the agenda.

15. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on February 15, 2024, at the RTC conference room, 1101 Pacific Ave, Ste 250.

The committee unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Guirguis) adjourning the meeting at 3:51 p.m.