



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 16, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

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

Online: Zoom

Remote: Caltrans District 5, San Luis Obispo

ITAC Members Present:

County Public Works	Tim Bailey
Capitola Public Works & Planning Proxy	Kailash Mozumder
Santa Cruz Public Works	Matt Starkey
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
Scotts Valley Public Works & 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 (online)
Ecology Action-Transportation Programs	Piet Canin
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and 1 Proxy	John Urgo (AB2449)
University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Oxo Slayer

Non-Voting Committee Members/Alternates Attending Remotely:

AMBAG Alternates: Paul Hierling
Caltrans Alternates: Malinda Gallaher, Evelyn Frederic
UCSC: Georgina Arias

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

RTC Staff Participating Remotely: Brianna Goodman (for Item 7)

Others Participating Remotely

Judy Gittelson	Barry Scott
Eduardo Montesino	Faina Segal
Nathan Nguyen	Ben Vernazza
Larry Pageler	

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:32p.m.
- 2. Roll Call/Introductions:** Introductions were made. It was noted that Paul Guirguis was attending via teleconference as a voting member under the Brown Act, with Caltrans District 5 noticed as alternate in-person location on the agenda.

3. **Consider AB2449 request(s) for voting members to participate in the meeting remotely:** John Urgo participated via teleconference due to a AB2449-defined "just case."
4. **Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:**
Item 7 was moved before Item 6.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the October 19, 2023, ITAC meeting** with modifications from Claire Gallogly to Item 10 to correct the spelling of Miguel Lizarraga's last name and to reflect that the Murray Street Bridge construction bid opening is now scheduled for 12/5/23.

The Committee unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Fontes) approving the consent agenda, as amended, with Members Gallogly, Starkey, Bailey, Meek, Fontes, Valentine, Guirguis, Slayer, Mozumder, Jesberg, and Urgo voting "yes". Canin abstained.

REGULAR AGENDA

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

ITAC members and RTC staff provided updates on projects, programs, studies, planning efforts, and storm damage.

Watsonville: Justin Meek reported on the General Plan update: the city is looking at various possible growth scenarios, including development at the airport and designs for corridors around the city, such as the East Lake Drive Corridor, which could result in road diets and protected bike lanes on some roadways. The General Plan update is "place making" rather than land use focused.

Murray Fontes reported the city is soliciting proposals to update its road maintenance program (which is now five years old) and plans to hire a Pavement Management Program Manager.

AMBAG: Regina Valentine reported AMBAG approved REAP 2.0 funds for Santa Cruz METRO to build affordable apartments above the Watsonville METRO station and funds for affordable housing units in the Scotts Valley Town Center.

Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported that Biketober wrapped up and had the highest participation ever. Ecology Action received a grant from the

California Energy Commission and PG&E to bring EV charging to multi-family housing areas.

Capitola: Kailash Mozumder reported that the Capitola Road project from 41st Avenue to 30th Avenue is underway. Concrete curb ramps are completed, with asphalt paving timing weather dependent.

Scotts Valley: Steve Jesberg reported on winterization projects, bids for Scotts Valley Drive, city-wide paving projects, and that a new Director of Public Works has been hired and it was his last day as Interim Public Works Director.

Santa Cruz: Matt Starkey reported that paving work on Ocean Street is almost complete. Holes on West Cliff Drive are being filled in, with construction expected to be completed in January.

County of Santa Cruz: Tim Bailey reported the County is wrapping up its 2023 Paving Project on roadways countywide. He also reported on crosswalk upgrades and that work at about 20 storm damage sites is planned to be completed by the end of the year. Three roads that are still closed are expected to reopen next year.

METRO: John Urgo reported that the Reimage Metro "First Wave" of service changes, increasing service 10%, go into effect on December 21st. Updated maps will be available online shortly. In February 2024, METRO will be moving the Santa Cruz transit center for use during reconstruction of Pacific Station.

Caltrans: Paul Guirguis reported that Highway 35 over Bear Creek Road, which is a connection between San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) and Highway 17, will open to one-way reverse traffic in early December. Night work is scheduled on Highway 9. A new pedestrian beacon on Highway 1 is up and running. He also reported that California was selected as a hydrogen hub, providing support for hydrogen powered transportation.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC's Bicycle Advisory Committee would like to work with public works departments, Caltrans, and RTC to develop safety standards in construction zones for bicyclists (and pedestrians). Construction signage and detours often result in safety concerns for bikes and pedestrians. She encouraged each agency to identify someone on their staff to meet with Bicycle Committee representatives to develop solutions. She also reported that the RTC is soliciting input on bridge aesthetics for the Highway 1/Segment 12 trail project. There will be meetings and online opportunities for people who want to learn more and give input. The RTC's public hearing on the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) will be on December 7 in Scotts Valley.

Staff reported that Luis Mendez was appointed by the RTC board to temporarily serve as Acting Interim Executive Director after Guy Preston's retirement on 12/1/23.

7. 2023 Consolidated Grants and Regional Transportation Improvement Program Preliminary Recommendations (*Moved before Item 6*)

Amy Naranjo provided an overview of the 2023 Consolidated Grants and 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and presented preliminary staff recommendations.

Matt Starkey stated the Bethany Culvert project includes bike and pedestrian improvements on West Cliff Drive. In response to a question from Paul Guirguis, Amy Naranjo confirmed that partial funding does not prevent projects from moving forward, but some agencies might reduce the scope of their projects. John Urgo from METRO inquired about the decision to partially fund more projects instead of fully funding a smaller number of projects. Amy Naranjo stated that there is a desire to support multiple projects across the county. No one from the public made comments.

Clarie Gallogly made a motion to move the staff recommendation; seconded by Kailash Mozumder. John Urgo said METRO does not support the preliminary staff recommendations because it would result in METRO only having partial funding when full funding is needed. He stated that funding multiple projects in this way pits ITAC members against each other. Luis Mendez noted that staff recognizes that both transit and road projects are in need of funding and that staff also considered potential future funding opportunities.

The Committee approved a motion (Gallogly/Mozumder) to recommend that the RTC approved funding for projects as shown in the preliminary staff recommendation (vote 11/2/2), with Mozumder (2 votes), Gallogly, Starkey, Jesberg (2 votes), Meek, Fontes, Bailey, Canin, and Guirguis voting "yes"; Urgo voting "no" (2 votes); and Slayer and Valentine abstaining.

8. Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) Complete Streets Policy

Regina Valentine provided an overview of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments' (AMBAG) planned Complete Streets policy update, which is required by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). She provided background information, the draft outline, anticipated timeline, and next steps for the Complete Streets update. She requested that ITAC

members share any ideas they have about the Complete Streets policy and update. Matt Starkey suggested AMBAG consider complete streets resources available from other entities and cities nationwide. Paul Guirguis suggested looking at the structure used by Caltrans for updating its Complete Streets policy.

9. University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC) Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Study

Oxo Slayer presented information on the UCSC Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan, which is 2021 Long Range Development Plan required Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Mitigation. The TDM Program Study includes a mobility dashboard, community engagement, vehicle miles traveled (VMT) methodology, and a toolkit for TDM performance. The VMT data collection consisted of trip distance, trip generation, and residential/commuter population travel information. UCSC continues to encourage active transportation, through programs such the Slug Bike Life Program, and also plans to increase use of Zipcar on campus, start an electric bus pilot program, and install more EV charging stations.

Claire Gallogly asked why Uber/Lyft is considered single occupancy vehicles (SOV) in the study. Oxo Slayer said it is considered SOV by the University of California because these ride shares still cause vehicles to come and go from campus, creating trips and miles traveled.

Oxo ended his presentation with a summary of next steps which includes a VMT Annual Performance Report, regular TDM Dashboard updates, a GHG calculator, VMT Project level screening tool, and summer vehicle counts.

Justin Meek asked about the estimated amount and length of trips for students and faculty/staff at UCSC. Oxo Slayer stated that students generally take more trips to and from campus that are shorter, including commute and non-commute individual trips. Committee members discussed StreetLight trip data.

Oxo Slayer said there are consultants that they are working with, as well as long range development plans, on designs for new bike and pedestrian infrastructure.

John Urgo stated that METRO is planning new routes that will benefit students and are hoping to have a turnaround spot on campus for the bus system.

Larry Pageler mentioned that two-thirds of METRO ridership is made up of UCSC students and that the housing crisis in Santa Cruz post-2020 has caused students to move further from campus.

10. Storm Damage Lessons Learned

Malinda Gallaher, Caltrans District 5 presented on the FHWA Emergency Relief Program for federal aid for roadways damaged in disasters. Malinda talked about the types of roads that are eligible and the requirements for funding. She also shared lessons learned from the previous season, discussed the timing of Emergency Opening funding, reimbursement requirements and ratios. Evelyn Frederic shared information about working with FEMA and setting up road construction standards. Rachel Moriconi inquired about the ability to integrate complete streets into standards. Both Malinda and Evelyn were unaware but said they would inquire.

Matt Starkey requested updated contact information for Caltrans maintenance staff who can help address operational challenges and coordination during emergency events.

Tim Bailey spoke on the County's positive experience working with Malinda Gallaher and her team. He also emphasized it was important to get pictures of damaged roads before doing any work. Committee members requested a copy of the SLO County road standards and discussed sharing lists of contractors with one another.

11. Funding Program Opportunities and Updates

Rachel Moriconi encouraged agencies to review Local Assistance and other emails highlighting upcoming state and federal grant opportunities.

12. Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda:

Paul Guirguis requested an updated ITAC roster, given staffing and email changes at several agencies.

13. Next meeting. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on December 21, 2023, at the RTC conference room, 1101 Pacific Ave, Ste 250. Committee members requested that the meeting be cancelled if there are no action items.

The committee unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Bailey) adjourning the meeting at 3:53 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Anna Kalthoff, Planning Intern