

# INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

## MINUTES

Thursday, January 15, 2004  
1:30 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room  
1523 Pacific Avenue  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

### ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Anderson, City of Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy  
Maria Esther Carranza, City of Watsonville Community Development Proxy  
Sandra Coley, Pajaro Valley TMA  
Mark Dorfman, Santa Cruz Metro Transit District  
Thomas Hiltner, Santa Cruz Metro Transit District  
David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works  
Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy  
John Presleigh, County Public Works and Planning Proxy  
Charles Sanchez, Caltrans District 5  
Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy

### OTHERS PRESENT

Darleen Panico, Caltrans Local Assistance

### STAFF PRESENT

Lyle Broschat      Rachel Moriconi  
Pat Dellin          Kim Shultz  
Juliet Kustin (intern)

---

Chair David Koch called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

- 1. Introductions --** Introductions were made.
- 2. Oral Communications --** none
- 3. Status of Ongoing Transportation Projects, Programs, Studies and Planning Documents**

*Santa Cruz* – Chris Schneider reported that the Market Street Bridge will reopen in February. The San Lorenzo River Railroad Trestle is open and the City has agreed to take over maintenance and is working with the Seaside Company to improve the entrances to the bridge. The Depot Site project has begun construction, with major work to start in March. One of the first steps is relocating the freight building.

*Capitola*- Steve Jesberg reported that the City has awarded a contract for the 41<sup>st</sup>

Avenue/Gross Road Intersection project and will be adding a lane on 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue between Gross and Clares, by shrinking other lanes. The City's TDA-funded bike lane striping project has been delayed due to weather.

*SCMTD* – Mark Dorfman reported that the new fleet of TCRP-funded Highway 17 buses will be dedicated at 1:00pm on January 23, 2004. He thanked Charles Sanchez for ensuring the Transit District was reimbursed for the buses before TCRP funds were cutoff statewide.

*County of Santa Cruz* – John Presleigh reported that bids for the HBRR-funded Kings Creek bridges will open on January 22, 2004. He thanked Darleen Panico for her assistance on getting those projects to bid. Storm damage work on China Grade is nearly complete, the Harkins Slough Bridge will go to construction in June, and 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue Improvements, starting with sanitation undergrounding, will go to bid shortly. The County also has a number of storm damage repair projects underway countywide.

*SCCRTC*- Rachel Moriconi reported that the Commission will be holding a public meeting to discuss the region's paratransit systems in February.

*Watsonville* – Maria Carranza reported that the City is working on a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to make major improvements to Highway 129/Blackburn.

4. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Item 10 was moved between Items 4 and 5.
10. **Received Report on Traffic Monitoring Program – Traffic Count Locations**

Lyle Broshat requested input on where and how often the Commission should collect traffic count information countywide. He distributed a colored map of count locations and asked all ITAC members to provide feedback within the next month.

#### **CONSENT AGENDA** (Dorfman/Presleigh)

5. **Approved Minutes of the November 20, 2003 meeting**
6. **Accepted Highlights from the December 2003 Commission meeting**

#### **REGULAR AGENDA**

7. **Received Update on State Budget Proposals**

Rachel Moriconi provided an overview of the Governor's Mid-Year and FY04/05 budget proposals. She highlighted the Governor's proposal to use Advance Construction (AC) to initiate projects, rather than federal Obligation Authority (OA). This proposal could delay future project reimbursements. She urged project sponsors to obligate funds for their upcoming projects through Local Assistance as soon as possible in order to avoid additional paperwork and risks.

## 8. **Recommended Process for the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)**

Rachel Moriconi summarized the staff recommendations for the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) process. She noted that due to the statewide STIP funding shortfall and because the California Transportation Commission (CTC) over programmed the 2002 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Santa Cruz County may only be able to program \$148,000 of its \$10.8 million County Share of the STIP. She noted that because of this small amount of funding, staff is not recommending a competitive process to program the region's STIP funds. Though it is unlikely the region will be able to access more than \$148,000 of its funds, she recommended the ITAC indicate its support for reprogramming \$7.8 million to the Transit Districts MetroBase project and ongoing programs instead. **The Committee indicated its support for this recommendation.**

She also noted that CTC has set annual STIP programming targets which would require most projects in the region to be postponed. Staff will work with project sponsors to identify delayed projects to shift to later years, as well as identify which projects are higher priorities, in case the CTC strictly upholds its annual targets.

Finally, Ms. Moriconi noted that staff has recommended the Commission shift its regional share of Transportation Enhancement Activity (TE) funds (\$1.8 million) to existing RSTP or CMAQ projects in order to ensure that none of the region's TE funds are left unprogrammed in the STIP. The traded RSTP and CMAQ funds would be left in reserve for future programming. She noted that due to timing constraints staff was not recommending a competitive programming process.

John Presleigh suggested that the new TE funds should go to new projects instead of being traded with funds from other projects. He also noted that the County has several projects that could use TEA, including the Ben Lomond Streetscape project. Chris Schneider stated that only the West Cliff Drive and Beach Street Bikeway projects, totaling \$444,000 in CMAQ funds, would be good candidates for moving into the STIP given the strict use-it-or-lose-it deadlines. He also asked if the City of Santa Cruz's Multimodal Station project could be allocated TEA funds through the STIP.

One Committee member expressed concern about freeing up RSTP and CMAQ funds, given the Commission's recent programming of RSTP and CMAQ to the Highway 1 Widening/Carpool Lane project rather than other local projects.

The Committee discussed possibilities for programming the \$1.8 million in TE funds, including splitting the funds by formula between the different jurisdictions and holding a quick competitive process. After some discussion of the pro's and con's of different options, **the Committee unanimously recommended (Schneider/Dorfman) the Regional Transportation Commission conduct an abbreviated competitive process to program the \$1.8 million in TE-funds into the 2004 RTIP.** The Committee also agreed to develop a list of possible projects, including project costs, to discuss at a special meeting on January 23, 2004 at 3:00 p.m.

*Ken Anderson left the meeting.*

**9. Received Update on the Highway 1 Widening/HOV Project**

Kim Shultz provided a status report on Highway 1 projects. He highlighted that environmental review of the Highway 1 Widening/Carpool Lane project is moving forward, that the traffic model is delayed until March, and that the Purpose and Need statement for the project was revised to incorporate input from the ITAC. He noted that the Joint Powers Authority for the project met in December and the County has agreed to act as the lead agency for the JPA, with John Presleigh providing staff support.

He noted that the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee has reviewed a preliminary draft of the Expenditure Plan and Ordinance and will likely distribute it for comments in the next few months. He also reported that the Business Council has hired consultants to initiate work on the private sector campaign for the sales tax measure. Staff listed some of the possible projects that may be included in the plan. In response to mention of the Highway 1/9 intersection, Chris Schneiter noted that the City of Santa Cruz has hired a consultant to begin design of the project.

**10. Adjournment**

Chair Koch adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for February 19, 2004 at 1:30 P.M. in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz.

Respectfully Submitted

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner

# INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

## DRAFT MINUTES

Special Meeting  
Thursday, January 23, 2004 - 3:00 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

### ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Ken Anderson, City of Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy  
Sandra Coley, Pajaro Valley TMA  
Thomas Hiltner, Santa Cruz Metro Transit District  
David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy  
Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy  
Charles Sanchez, Caltrans District 5  
Chris Schneiter, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy  
Bill Williamson, County Public Works and Planning Proxy

**STAFF PRESENT:** Rachel Moriconi

---

Chair David Koch called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m.

- 1. Introductions** – All attendees were recognized.
- 2. Additions/Changes to the Agenda**  
Rachel Moriconi reported that at the California Transportation Commission's January 22, 2004 meeting, the CTC announced that the Governor's budget proposal to suspend Proposition 42 could prevent the CTC from making new STIP allocations until FY05/06, and \$4 billion in STIP projects might have to be deprogrammed from the STIP.
- 3. Programming Transportation Enhancement Activity (TE) Funds**  
Rachel Moriconi provided an overview of the options for programming the regions anticipated \$1.8 million in TE funds in the 2004 STIP. She reviewed the categories of projects that are eligible for TE funds and reminded members that at their January 15, 2004 meeting, the ITAC recommended the Commission conduct an abbreviated competitive process to program the funds.

David Koch suggested that splitting the funds by jurisdiction based on population and road miles would be the simplest way to distribute the funds. Staff responded that since some agencies, such as the University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC), the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), and Commission staff, have also identified possible projects for the funds, a formula distribution of funds would prevent those agencies from competing for the funds.

#### 4. **Project Sponsors Share Possible Project Lists**

In an attempt to determine if sufficient projects could be identified for each agency given a short grant timeline, members shared the following lists of possible projects:

*County:* - Wilder Ranch Bike/Pedestrian Path, northern segment (\$1 million)

- San Lorenzo River Bike/Pedestrian Path Study
- State Park Drive area enhancements
- Aptos Village improvements
- Sidewalks and bike lanes near schools, including Amesti & Calabasas

*City of Santa Cruz:* - Soquel Avenue Bike Lanes (\$645,000)

- West Cliff Drive Phase 3 (\$400,000)
- East Cliff Hiawatha Pedestrian and Bike Crossing (\$200,000)
- Pacific Avenue Historic Wall Restoration (\$500,000)

*City of Capitola:* - Bay Avenue sidewalks from Capitola to Monterey Avenue (\$150,000)

- Monterey Avenue to New Brighton Middle School sidewalks (\$350,000)

*City of Scotts Valley:* Bike Lanes and Sidewalks near Scotts Valley High (\$150,000)

*City of Watsonville:* - Wetlands Trail has multiple sections that need funds (\$500,000)

- Highway 129/Secota and 152/Main/Green Valley median landscaping projects (\$150,000)

*SCCRTC:* Coastal Rail-Trail (\$500,000)

*UCSC:* Pedestrian path from base of campus to Campus Facilities intersection (\$400,000)

*AMBAG:* Sanctuary Scenic Trail (multiple jurisdictions)

SCMTD and Caltrans did not anticipate submitting applications for the funds.

#### 5. **Timeline for a Competitive Process**

Rachel Moriconi distributed a suggested timeline/process for programming the funds, with an application deadline of February 27, 2004. The ITAC agreed that the process and timeline were acceptable.

#### 6. **Evaluation Criteria**

Staff shared with the Committee the scoring criteria used in the 1999 TEA grant application, the priorities identified in the 2001 RTP, the scoring criteria developed for the 2004 STP/CMAQ application, and Caltran's model TE scoring criteria.

**The Committee recommended, instead of developing new criteria for this application, that the Commission reuse the scoring criteria developed for the 1999 Application, fund at least one project per agency, with a minimum award of \$100,000 per project (Schneider/Jesberg).**

#### 7. **Adjournment**

Chair Koch adjourned the meeting at 3:52 p.m.

The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for February 19, 2004 at 1:30 P.M. in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz.

Respectfully Submitted

\_\_\_\_\_  
Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner