

INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, March 18, 2004

1:30 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room

1523 Pacific Avenue

Santa Cruz, CA 95060

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, UCSC

Sandra Coley, Pajaro Valley TMA

Ken Anderson, City of Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy

Gabriel Gutierrez, Cabrillo College

Thomas Hiltner, Santa Cruz Metro Transit District

Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy

David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works

John Presleigh, County Public Works and Planning Proxy

Charles Sanchez, Caltrans District 5

Chris Schneiter, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Sean Co

Rachel Moriconi

Chair David Koch called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

1. Introductions -- Introductions were made.

2. Oral Communications

Sandra Coley announced that the website for the Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association (TMA) is now up and running at www.pajarovalleytma.org

3. Status of Ongoing Transportation Projects, Programs, Studies and Planning Documents

County of Santa Cruz – John Presleigh reported that the County will initiate construction on the two Kings Creek bridges, Harkin Slough Bridge, and the Gross Road projects this summer. He added that the 7th Avenue sanitation and sidewalk project is currently under construction and that the East Cliff roadway rehabilitation project between 5th and 12th Ave will begin construction in April. Finally, he noted that the County is working with Caltrans to secure funding for the El Rancho Drive bridge and embankment repair project

and plans to go to construction on the project this summer.

Santa Cruz – Chris Schneider reported that the Market Street bridge project is completed and the roadway reopened. He also noted that construction on the Multimodal Station/Depot Site project has begun.

UCSC – Teresa Buika reported that the University’s Transit Study report is nearly completed.

4. Additions/Changes to the Agenda – None

CONSENT AGENDA (Schneider/Presleigh)

5. Approved Minutes of the February 19, 2004 meeting

6. Received Update on the Highway 1 Widening/HOV Project

7. Accepted Highlights of the March 2004 Commission meetings

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Recommended the Commission Approve Respreading of STIP Projects for the 2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Rachel Moriconi reminded members that the Commission is in the process of adopting the *2004 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*. She noted that due to the statewide STIP funding shortfall, the California Transportation Commission (CTC) has directed region’s to show local STIP projects could be respread through FY08/09. Also, the CTC has indicated that there may only be room to program \$148,000 in new funds to projects in the 2004 STIP. Despite this possible shortfall of funds, Ms. Moriconi recommended the 2004 RTIP program fund to the MetroBase project and ongoing regional programs.

She also reviewed how projects currently programmed to receive STIP funds could be respread to meet state programming targets and when projects would actually be ready for fund allocations. Finally she reviewed how AB3090 Reimbursements and GARVEE bonds could help ensure the El Rancho Road, Santa Cruz Branch Rail Right-of-Way Acquisition and Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes projects remain on schedule and reduce the need for other projects in the region to be delayed.

The committee discussed how AB3090 Reimbursements and the Caltrans Finance Bank Revolving Loan program works. Staff agreed to send information on the programs to public works representatives. John Presleigh noted that the funds for Proposition 42 continue to be shifted into the State General Fund and suggested all member advocate that the funds remain in transportation, in order to reduce delays to STIP projects. Mr. Presleigh noted that STIP funds for the El Rancho AB3090 Reimbursement should be

shown in FY06/07 in the RTIP.

The Committee unanimously approved the staff recommendation (Presleigh/Schneider) recommending the Commission:

- 1. Program \$7.8 million to the MetroBase project, \$86,000 to the Freeway Service Patrol project, and \$520,000 to Project Planning, Programming, and Monitoring (PPM);**
- 2. Forward the First and Second Choices for respreading existing STIP projects (as shown in the attachments to the staff report) to the CTC as part of the 2004 RTIP.**

Members also agreed to once again review the draft 2004 RTIP project lists and inform staff of any additional changes needed by Monday March 22, 2004.

9. Recommended Projects for Transportation Enhancement (TE) Funding

Rachel Moriconi reviewed the ten projects competing for \$1.8 million in federal Transportation Enhancement (TE) funds and reviewed the recommendations made by and concerns of the Commission's Bike and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committees. She noted that the Commission will program approved projects into the 2004 RTIP at its April 1, 2004 meeting and that selected projects will be subject to the same use-it-or-lose-it deadlines as STIP projects.

Teresa Buika expressed her interest in seeing the University's Water Pollution Mitigation project funded, even though the scoring criteria for the program favored bike and pedestrian projects. She noted that water pollution prevention projects are eligible for TE funds. John Presleigh recommended she contact State Fish and Game regarding possible grant funds and suggested names of his staff and consultants for more information.

Tom Hiltner questioned how the Coastal Rail Trail project scored well even though the Right-of-Way had not yet been secured. He stated that he would not recommend funding for the project. Staff responded that the status of right-of-way is not part of the scoring criteria and that most bicycle and pedestrian projects within urbanized areas scored well.

The Committee recommended the Commission approve funding for projects as noted below (Presleigh/Schneider), with Tom Hiltner and Teresa Buika voting "no:"

- Soquel Avenue Bike Lanes (Santa Cruz): \$320,000 (to be redirected to San Lorenzo River Bike/Ped Bridge Design if alternate funding is secured for the Soquel Ave project)**
- Coastal Rail Trail: \$400,000**
- Bay Ave/Monterey Ave Sidewalks (Capitola): \$141,000**
- Watsonville Wetlands Trail Project: \$345,000**
- Hacienda Drive Bike Lanes (Scotts Valley): \$200,000**
- Wilder Ranch Bikeway (north of Wilder Ranch): \$400,000**

10. Recommended Approval of the Draft 2004 *Regional Transportation Plan* Project Lists

Sean Co reminded members that the Commission is in the process of updating the 2004 RTP. He asked members to once again review the projects on the Constrained and Unconstrained lists and inform staff of any necessary updates by March 22, 2004. He highlighted the new projects added to the lists, emphasizing that most project sponsors did not identify any new projects for the 2004 document. After identifying some minor amendments needed and duplicate projects on the lists, **the ITAC recommended the Commission approve the draft lists for inclusion in the Draft RTP (Buika/Presleigh).**

11. Adjournment

Chair Koch adjourned the meeting at 2:25 p.m.

The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for April 15, 2004 at 1:30 P.M. in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner