

INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, May 20, 2004

1:30 p.m.

City of Watsonville, A&B Conference Room

250 Main Street

Watsonville, CA 95073

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, UCSC

Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Planning

Sandra Coley, Pajaro Valley TMA

Dave Fairchild, MBUAPCD

Michelle Fodge, City of Scotts Valley Planning and Public Works Proxy

Thomas Hiltner, Santa Cruz Metro Transit District

Steve Jesberg, Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy

David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works

Charles Sanchez, Caltrans District 5

Bill Williamson, County Public Works and Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Moriconi

Chair David Koch called the meeting to order at 1:43 p.m.

1. Introductions -- Introductions were made.

2. Oral Communications

Rachel Moriconi distributed a notice that the SCCRTC's Transportation Monitoring Report (TMR) is now available for review online. Traffic counts will be updated monthly on the Commission's website. Teresa Buika noted that UCSC will be conducting counts at over 40 locations throughout the City of Santa Cruz and the University this summer in order to get a better picture of traffic volumes during summer months. In response to an inquiry from Dave Fairchild, the Committee discussed the differences between Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) and Average Daily Traffic (ADT).

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

City of Capitola – Steve Jesberg reported that the 41st Avenue/Gross Road project will go to bid in a month. The project is being coordinated with the County.

County of Santa Cruz – Bill Williamson reported that the County will be constructing the two Kings Creek bridges, East Cliff bluff improvement, and Harkin Slough projects this summer. He noted that the El Rancho Drive rehabilitation project is out to bid. He noted that Caltrans staff, including Mike Guiliano's staff, Steve Price, and Bret Masse, have done an excellent job working with the County to deliver this project. He noted that the global steel shortage may impact some projects.

SCMTD – Tom Hiltner reported that the Transit District anticipates making another round of major service cuts in the fall. He noted that public hearings on the proposed service cuts will be held on June 14th in Scotts Valley, June 15th in Santa Cruz, and June 17th in Watsonville.

Caltrans – Charles Sanchez reported that the Governor's May Budget Revisé has given renewed life to the Transportation Congestion Relief Program (TCRP), which could help move the Santa Cruz Metro Center (Pacific Station) project forward.

MBUAPCD – Dave Fairchild reminded everyone that AB2766 grant applications are due June 1 at 4:00 p.m. He is available to answer questions about the application.

UCSC – Teresa Buika reported that the Hagar/Coolidge signal project is underway and will help reduce the number of rear end collisions at the intersection.

Pajaro Valley TMA – Sandy Coley reported that the TMA is promoting the Metro bus system through its "Hop on the Bus Gus" program and has partnered with La Manzana to distribute bus passes to people who have never used the bus before. The TMA continues to implement the "Going Places Making Choices" program and distributing several bicycle lights.

SCCRTC -- Rachel Moriconi reported that the Regional Transportation Commission has released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) on the Recreation Rail project. A public hearing on the DEIR is scheduled for the evening of June 17, 2004 at the County Board of Supervisors Chamber.

4. Additions/Changes to the Agenda – None

CONSENT AGENDA (Buika/Williamson)

5. Approved Minutes of the March 18, 2004 meeting

6. Accepted Highlights of the April and May 2004 Commission meetings

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Accepted Obligation Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2004

Rachel Moriconi reported that staff has prepared the annual Regional Obligation Plan for Caltrans which lists which federally funded RSTP, CMAQ, TEA, and STIP projects will be ready to obligate funds before the end of the federal fiscal year (FFY). She asked project sponsors to review the list and inform staff of any necessary changes. She asked that recipients of HBRR and HES funds inform Darleen Panico, Caltrans Local Assistance, of any projects that will obligate those funds before the end of the federal fiscal year.

It was noted that the Obligation Plan is based on estimates and that exact dates for obligating funds are flexible.

8. Provided Input on the Draft Expenditure Plan for a Local Transportation Sales Tax Measure

Rachel Moriconi provided an overview of the Draft Expenditure Plan and Ordinance for the proposed local Transportation Sales Tax Measure, including the distribution plan and estimated annual allocations to each jurisdiction.

In relation to the share of funds for local jurisdictions, Teresa Buika questioned what each jurisdiction currently spends on transportation within their budgets. Bill Williamson responded that transportation makes up \$2.5-10 million, depending on various grants, of the County Public Works Department's approximately \$40 million annual budget. David Koch stated that the City of Watsonville spends between \$450-500,000 on transportation each year, but should be spending \$1.5 million/year in order to keep up with needs. He stated that the sales tax measure funds to local jurisdictions will bring them closer to meeting their needs.

In response to an inquiry from Tom Hiltner regarding the transit element of the funds to local jurisdictions, staff noted that some jurisdictions could choose to use a portion of their share of funds on holiday shuttles, summer shuttles, transit centers, or transit stops.

Tom Hiltner questioned how the Commission decided to direct \$5 million to express buses. Ms. Moriconi reviewed the process by which the Expenditure Plan Subcommittee considered poll information, Highway 1 cost estimates, and other projects to split the anticipated funds among each project category.

Teresa Buika expressed concerns that \$5 million would not sufficiently cover the cost of express buses on Highway 1. She noted that UCSC and the Metro had determined that it would cost \$550,000 to run express buses between Watsonville and UCSC. Dave Fairchild suggested that if express buses are not adequately funded, the HOV project will not be adequately utilized.

Teresa Buika added that there is an urgent need for more Park and Ride lots, especially in south county. She noted that the analysis that has been done on park and ride lots show that they will cost a lot.

David Koch suggested broadening the scope of the Highway 1 project to ensure park and ride lots and Highway 1 Express buses are adequately funded as part of the project. Dave Fairchild added that since the entire county is asked to pay for the Highway 1 project, there is a need to ensure that it can be used. Teresa Buika suggested the Expenditure Plan clarify how much of the \$8 million would be directed to Commute Solutions versus Park and Ride lots.

Regarding the Rail-Trail project Dave Fairchild suggested that construction of a bicycle/walking path is only \$150,000 per mile. Rachel Moriconi noted that the County's Wilder Ranch trail cost estimate was approximately \$1 million/mile and that the cost estimate of \$1 million/mile for the rail-trail came from the MTIS. Bill Williamson indicated that the cost for the Wilder Ranch path included right-of-way and bridges. Dave Fairchild expressed concern that the public may oppose \$21 million for a single bike project.

In response to a question from Teresa Buika, staff clarified the funds for Senior/Disabled transportation would be distributed by the Commission to the agencies that provide paratransit service. Since those agencies may change over time, the measure does not specify specific agencies. Staff noted that a portion of those funds could also be used for sidewalk curb cuts.

The Committee discussed alternate options for splitting the funds for local jurisdictions. Dave Fairchild reported that in Monterey County the split is based 50% on population and 50% on road miles. He noted that lane miles may also be useful. He recommended the Commission ask Dean Munn from AMBAG how many road miles are in each jurisdiction. David Koch suggested considering ADT in the formula. Steve Jesberg reported that the City of Capitola may recommend a formula that takes into consideration where sales tax revenues are generated, since retail tends to be a significant traffic generator, basing 80% of the formula on population and 20% on sales tax generators. Staff pointed out that areas that serve areas such as the University and Cabrillo College could be disadvantaged by such a formula. The ITAC decided not to recommend any changes to the formula to the Commission.

Committee members requested clarification of what would happen if the Highway 1 Widening/Carpool Lane project ends up costing more. Ms. Moriconi reviewed the amendment provisions of the Expenditure Plan and Ordinance with the committee. The committee found the description relating to approval by the majority of the cities that also make up the majority of the population confusing.

Teresa Buika suggested the title of the Fact Sheet on the sales tax measure be revised since the tax measure will not really generate enough money to fund all of Santa Cruz

County's transportation needs. She suggested it be revised so as not to misrepresent what the sales tax measure can actually do.

The Committee unanimously recommended the Commission address the following issues related to the Proposed Transportation Sales Tax Measure (Fairchild/Fodge):

- Increase funds for Express Buses and Park and Ride Lots in order to facilitate use of the High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane
- Ensure that the ballot language, expenditure plan and any literature on the measure distributed to the public does not misrepresent the measure, since it will not cover all of the transportation needs in the region or completely fund the projects listed.
- Modify the sections of the Expenditure Plan and Ordinance regarding amendments. Needs to more clearly state that a majority of the cities will always need to approve the amendments and those approving cities must collectively total a majority of the incorporated population of the county.
- Review the cost estimate for the Coastal Bicycle/Pedestrian Trail along the rail line. The cost estimate of \$1 million/mile for construction is high compared to the cost of other bicycle facilities. *Staff has since reviewed the costs estimates from the MTIS and Bob Scott, Commission Engineering consultant and confirmed the cost estimate of \$1 million/mile is appropriate.*

9. 2004 STIP Update and Governor's May Revise

Rachel Moriconi reported that the Governor's May Revise has increased funding for transportation and that CTC staff anticipates that additional funding may be available for STIP projects in the next year. She noted that the Commission is working with its legislators, Transit District staff and others to request that the CTC include the MetroBase project in the 2004 STIP.

10. Adjournment

Chair Koch adjourned the meeting at 3:03 p.m.

The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for June 17, 2004 at 1:30 P.M. in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner