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INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, May 19, 2005
1:30 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave.
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
Don Hill, County Planning Proxy
Tom Hiltner, SCMTD and SCMTD Proxy
Keith Hinrichsen, Caltrans District 5
David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works
John Presleigh, County Public Works
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Community Development and PVTMA Proxies

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi
Kim Shultz

OTHERS PRESENT

Donn Miyahara, Caltrans Local Assistance
David Murray, Caltrans Planning

Chair David Koch called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.

- 1. Introductions** -- Introductions were made.
- 2. Oral Communications** – None.
- 3. Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents**

City of Capitola – Steve Jesberg reported that 41st Avenue is currently being paved. Landscaping and other improvements are to be completed by Memorial Day, with new traffic signals arriving in June. Design work on the Bay Avenue Sidewalk project is 75% completed.

City of Santa Cruz – Mark Dettle reported that Beach Street design is completed and the project is scheduled for construction in September. Water and Front streets will be repaved in the near future.

County of Santa Cruz - John Presleigh reported that construction continues on 7th

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Avenue. The Harkins Slough bridge project will be completed within the next four to six weeks. Rehabilitation of several roadways in Soquel and Live Oak are scheduled. Soquel Avenue from Harbor High to Gross Road is scheduled for construction from the fall to spring. The County is working with the City of Santa Cruz regarding impacts to sewer lines.

SCMTD – Tom Hiltner reported that the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the MetroBase project is going out next month, with construction scheduled for August.

RTC – Rachel Moriconi reported that the Commission adopted the *2005 Regional Transportation Plan* at its May 5, 2005 meeting. The Commission is currently reviewing the draft Title Report for the rail line.

Watsonville – David Koch reported that the Watsonville Slough Bridge project is progressing. The city looks to advertise by the end of May and to construct the bridge over two seasons.

4. Additions/Changes to the Agenda – None.

CONSENT AGENDA (Presleigh/Hinrichsen)

5. Approved Minutes of the February 17, 2005 Meeting

6. Received Notes from the March 17, 2005 Meeting

7. Received Highlights from the April and May 2005 Commission Meetings

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Items for Improving Pedestrian Facilities

Corinne Hyland of the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) presented a model ordinance that local jurisdictions could consider using to ensure sidewalk facilities are repaired when properties change ownership and the Pedestrian Access Report to be used by the public to identify and track pedestrian facility improvement needs. She noted that all jurisdictions have good programs in place for notifying property owners when they become aware that repairs are needed.

After discussing the feasibility of implementing an ordinance that would mandate that sidewalks be inspected and repaired upon change of property ownership, Committee members noted that insufficient city/county staff exists to inspect each property and recognized that the real estate industry would have concerns. Instead, members noted that it may be more appropriate to increase public education about the fact that sidewalks are the responsibility of the property owner, not local jurisdictions. Members also suggested adding information to the standard notices provided when property changes ownership to ensure that new owners understand that if a sidewalk is damaged, they are

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assuming liability for it. They could also provide information on how to repair the sidewalks. They noted that inspectors and realtors should be made aware of these issues.

Regarding the Pedestrian Access Report, Ms. Hyland described the process by which the forms would be distributed and tracked. It was suggested to add “Traffic signal button not working” to the list of possible deficiencies on the report. Ms. Hyland noted that the form can be changed over time if other issues are regularly identified. Committee members suggested preparing a web friendly version of the form and providing links to each jurisdictions web-complaint forms. **The Committee voted unanimously (Dettle/Rodriguez) to approve the Pedestrian Access Report for distribution.**

The Committee voted unanimously (Dettle/Hiltner) to send a joint letter with the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) to realtors associations to discuss including information about property owner reasonability/liability for sidewalk repairs as part of property sales negotiations.

Committee members also shared the process they follow for installing curb cuts:

- *County of Santa Cruz* – Brought up to standard with any new project. \$60,000/year of developer fees are dedicated to installing curb cuts. Priority is given at striped pedestrian crossings, Live Oak, Soquel, and locations identified by the public. The County also tries to retrofit driveways to create bulbs around the driveway for sidewalks.
- *City of Santa Cruz*- Installed with new road projects and developments. There is no standard funding for curb cuts in the City’s budget. However, they are occasionally installed as part of its sidewalk construction fund. In locations where sidewalks are not appropriate, developers pay an in-lieu fee which allows the construction of sidewalks elsewhere.
- *City of Capitola*- Any improvement project, gas station remodels, and as funding is available.
- *Caltrans*—As part of major rehabilitation projects.
- *City of Watsonville* – Uses TDA funds and adds curb cuts as part of improvement projects and new development.

9. Received Information on the 2004 Transportation Monitoring Report

Kim Shultz noted that the *2004 Transportation Monitoring Report* will be mailed out within the next week but is also available online. Staff reviewed the various information and elements included in the report. Staff noted that an RFP is being prepared to contract out collection of count data in the future and identified ITAC members who will be participating in the consultant evaluation committee.

10. Received Information on State and Federal Transportation Funding Issues

Kim Shultz reported on the Governor's May Revise proposal to release Proposition 42 funds for FY05/06 and recent federal actions regarding TEA-21 reauthorization. He emphasized that proposals recognize that infrastructure provides an economic boost and that transportation funding needs have been given more visibility. In response to inquiries on how the Governor's proposal to release Proposition 42 funds will impact Santa Cruz County, staff responded that other counties with Traffic Congestion Relief Program (TCRP) projects will benefit most, but that it is still good because some funds will trickle down to cities and counties for deferred maintenance and could make the California Transportation Commission (CTC) more receptive to allocation and AB3090 requests. Mark Dettle advocated for the state to increase the HBRR state match program as a means to develop millions in projects and access large amounts of federal funds.

Rachel Moriconi noted that the 2004 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fund Estimate assumed Proposition 42 revenues would be realized and that even with the Governor's proposal there will be a two-tiered 2006 STIP. Also, FHWA has threatened to freeze the Federal Transportation Improvement Program (FTIP) if they believe that the program is not financially constrained because STIP funds are lower than originally projected. She noted that statewide efforts are underway to request that FHWA be reasonable about which programs are frozen from amendments, but that project sponsors should inform AMBAG by May 25 if they anticipate needing any amendments for HBRR, HES, and other programs over the next few months. She noted that AMBAG's recently approved *Expedited Project Selection Procedure Agreement* will allow some flexibility for delivery projects early even without a formal FTIP amendment.

Ms. Moriconi noted that as part of the 2006 STIP the CTC will be programming new Transportation Enhancement Activity funds. She noted that Caltrans is soliciting project ideas for the state's share of these funds. After staff provided a list of possible projects, John Presleigh expressed interest in development of an application for sidewalks on Highway 9 through Felton to San Lorenzo Valley High School. Mark Dettle and Tom Hiltner agreed that pedestrian facilities near Highway 1/9, including crossing Highway 1 at San Lorenzo River would be a good candidate. Watsonville staff noted that the City is interested in extending its downtown pedestrian improvement project, possibly as part of Caltrans' planned Highway 152 reconstruction project. Each agency agreed to work with Caltrans to prepare applications for these projects.

11. Received SCCRTC's Legislative Agenda

Kim Shultz provided an overview of the SCCRTC's State and Federal Legislative Agenda. He asked members to review the list of bills being monitored and inform him of any additional items that should be considered by the Commission. He highlighted those that focus on providing new project delivery options and funding mechanisms. David Koch expressed concern about the Assembly Democrat's proposal to replace the sales tax on gasoline with a ¼-cent sales tax on all goods. John Presleigh suggested that federal

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review of projects, by agencies such as U.S. Fish and Wildlife, provide the toughest blockage for delivery of projects. It was noted that Caltrans does have delegated authority from the federal government for some reviews. David Koch suggested adding to the Federal Legislative Agenda to push for change in policy to let locals make direct contact with the federal agencies. Members also noted issues with the process by which pedestrian facilities must be reviewed by the State Architect. Mr. Shultz agreed to review the issue and prepare a letter for the RTC and local jurisdictions to send regarding this process.

12. Discussed Proposed Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) Program Advance Project Delivery Policy

Rachel Moriconi presented a proposal to allow project sponsors to proceed with projects programmed to receive RSTP funds in advance of RSTPX approval by the Commission. She described some of the risks project sponsors would be assuming if they choose to proceed ahead of approval of exchange funds. Several ITAC members agreed that they would like to have this option to deliver projects sooner. In order to give ITAC members additional time to review the proposed policy language, **action was tabled to the next ITAC meeting.**

13. ITAC Election of Chairperson and Vice Chairperson – Rachel Moriconi thanked David Koch for serving as the ITAC Chairperson since 2002. **The committee unanimously elected (Koch/Dettle) John Presleigh, County Public Works, as the new ITAC Chairperson and elected (Koch/Hinrichsen) Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville, as Vice Chairperson.**

14. Adjournment – David Murray announced that Keith Hinrichsen will be transferring over to Caltrans Right-of-Way as of June 15th. Members thanked Mr. Hinrichsen for the work he has done with Santa Cruz County. Chair Koch adjourned the meeting at 3:08 p.m.

The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for June 16, 2005 at 1:30 P.M. in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner

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