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INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

MINUTES

Thursday, November 17, 2005
1:30 p.m.

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

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5
Sandra Coley, Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works
Mark Dorfman, SCMTD
Don Hill, County Planning Proxy
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works
John Presleigh, County Public Works
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Community Development Proxy
Chris Schneiter, City of Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Tom Hiltner, SCMTD
Majid Yamin, City of Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Claudia Espino, Caltrans District 5
Sharon Fasulo, Caltrans District 5
Steve Price, Caltrans District 5

Chair John Presleigh called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.

- 1. Introductions** - Introductions were made.
- 2. Oral Communications** – David Fairchild announced the Air District will be hosting presentations on forecasting traffic impacts of large land use projects on December 2, 2005.
- 3. Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents**

City of Santa Cruz – Mark Dettle noted that Beach Street is being paved for the bikeway project today, barriers being used to separate the bike lanes and car lanes are arriving soon, and that the project should be completed by the end of December.

Scotts Valley – Majid Yamin reported that the Scotts Valley/Glenwood Drive intersection

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project and Scotts Valley Drive repaving project are almost completed. Both are being striped within the next few days.

RTC - Rachel Moriconi encouraged members to let Pat Dellin or RTC's consultant know of anyone who might be interested in or would be a good candidate for the Executive Director position.

4. **Additions/Changes to the Agenda** – Item 6 was deleted from the agenda. At the request of Caltrans, Item 10 on the State Highway Operation and Protection Plan (SHOPP) was moved ahead of Item 8. Rachel Moriconi noted additions to Item 11 on the *2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*.

CONSENT AGENDA (Dettle/Yamin)

5. **Approved Amended Minutes of the October 20, 2005 Meeting**
The minutes were approved with an amendment to Item 3 - Status of ongoing projects to correct the City of Watsonville's report on the Harkins Slough project to read: "Watsonville ~~signed~~ is working on a cooperative agreement with Caltrans to complete an updated traffic study..." Todd Muck, AMBAG, abstained from approval of the minutes.
6. **Highlights from the November 2005 Commission Meeting** – Deleted from agenda
7. **Received Information Item:** Notice on Highway 1 Auxiliary Lane Meeting

REGULAR AGENDA

8. **Received Overview of and Provided Input on SAFETEA-LU Implementation Issues in California** – Discussed out of order after Item 10

Rachel Moriconi provided an overview of several issues being discussed at the statewide level regarding how the state should implement SAFETEA LU.

For the Strategic Highway Safety Plan many jurisdictions noted that they do have collision data that can be incorporated into the plan. **Staff agreed to provide more details and direction to members as it becomes available.**

Regarding the potential that Caltrans maybe given delegated authority for NEPA documents, ITAC members suggested that if it streamlines NEPA and CEQA into one process it would be helpful, but if it only shifts oversight for NEPA to Caltrans they would prefer to work with FHWA on NEPA. Members also expressed concerns regarding the impacts it could have on Caltrans operations budget, which could mean less funding for other programs. They suggested Caltrans test the delegation on a few projects in the state before expanding it to a large number of projects.

Regarding the High Risk Rural Roads safety funding program, ITAC members agreed that running the program similar to the HES program is good, but that overall the program's \$9

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million statewide is very little money.

In response to the proposal that Regional Transportation Plans only be updated every 5 years, John Presleigh requested, and RTC and AMBAG staff confirmed, that amendments can be made to the project lists throughout the five year period, as needed.

Ms. Moriconi also provided information on the Safe Routes to Schools and CMAQ Phase Out proposals. Additionally, in response to an inquiry from Teresa Buika, Ms. Moriconi provided information on the Section 5310 proposals and agreed to return to the next ITAC meeting with information on the Equity Bonus and email other pertinent information she receives on SAFETEA-LU implementation to ITAC members in the future.

9. Authorized Committee Chair to Send Letter to Governor and Local Legislators Regarding Proposition 42 Funds

After reviewing a proposed draft letter, the **ITAC unanimously approved a motion (Schneiter/Fairchild) authorizing the committee chair to send a letter on behalf of the ITAC urging the Governor and Legislature to direct Proposition 42 revenues (the state sales tax on gasoline) to transportation in the FY06/07 State Budget.**

10. Received Presentation on the State Highway Operation and Protection Plan (SHOPP) – Discussed out of order after Item 7

Claudia Espino, District 5 Advance Planning/Programming Chief, introduced Caltrans staff members Sharon Fasulo and Steve Price who work on the State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). Steve Price made a Powerpoint presentation on the SHOPP.

Mr. Price provided an overview of the SHOPP, including the approval and allocation process, the difference between a 10-year SHOPP Plan and four year SHOPP program, and the specific categories within the SHOPP – including the Safety, Roadway Rehabilitation, Bridge Preservation, Roadside Rehabilitation, Facilities, and Mobility Programs. He emphasized that funding shortfalls significantly affect the ability of Caltrans to fund all of the needs for the state highway system. He noted that there is no guarantee that projects in the 10-SHOPP will actually receive funding, as priorities and funding levels for the SHOPP are dependent on annual decisions made by the State, including specific statewide goals and performance measures.

He stated that Caltrans seeks to establish an open dialogue with regions when developing the SHOPP and discussed some of the challenges and benefits for both Caltrans and partner agencies in realizing an effective process for providing input on the SHOPP project list. Caltrans does not want to give false hope to the community that any specific project will actually be included in the documents, since the drafts go through several reiterations prior to release of the official draft documents. He noted that SHOPP project ideas and questions should be directed to Ms. Espino in the future, who is acting as the main point of contact for District 5.

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He noted that District 5 is working on developing a schedule for releasing the SHOPP project lists. However, it is too late for partner agencies to provide input on the 2006 SHOPP and 2005 10-year SHOPP update. He anticipates that partner agencies may be able to provide input in advance of release of the next Statewide Draft 10-year Plan and 2008 Program.

In response to a question about what projects District 5 was proposing for the 2006 SHOPP, Mr. Price noted that the list will be available once the Draft 2006 SHOPP is released by Sacramento. He encouraged the ITAC and SCCRTC to review the 10-year SHOPP and provide input to Ms. Espino on what should be added to the plan and elevated for programming in the 2008 SHOPP.

Mr. Fairchild suggested Caltrans focus on upgrading the substandard roadway on Highway 17. Mr. Price responded that Highway 17 only qualifies for preventative maintenance right now, however a study was initiated to evaluate the entire corridor, that shows improving safety and rehabilitating the roadway would cost approximately \$450 million, which is beyond the funding abilities of the SHOPP.

Mr. Presleigh expressed concern that District 5 had not shared their preliminary proposals for the 2006 SHOPP prior to submitting the lists to Caltrans Headquarters. Rachel Moriconi urged Caltrans to seek input from local agencies on setting project priorities for the SHOPP.

Mr. Presleigh indicated his frustration that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) consistently identifies local roadway rehabilitation as its lowest priority, yet consistently funds SHOPP rehabilitation projects. ITAC members noted that local safety projects are also given lower priority by the CTC. Mr. Price responded that traffic volumes, rather than incidents often determine priorities.

As follow up, ITAC members will review the 10-Year SHOPP and work with District 5 to establish project-level priorities in the future.

A 5 minute break was taken after Item 10, but before Item 8, at which Caltrans staff left the meeting.

11. Reviewed and Provided Input on Draft 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Rachel Moriconi reviewed staff recommendations for programming new State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds in the *2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*. She reminded ITAC members that they had reviewed and recommended approval of the list of Regionally-Significant Projects at their October 2005 meeting. She asked members to now review and provide input on the proposed funding year for each of those project, as well as projects identified for the local jurisdictions' shares of funds. She emphasized that program years should match conservative, rather

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than optimistic, project schedules. She also noted that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) may require project funds to be shifted to later years to match statewide fund estimates. Members agreed to provide input on the proposed funding years to staff by Monday, November 21, 2005.

Ms. Moriconi noted that the RTC will receive the draft project list, including local public works departments' proposals for their shares of funds at its December 1, 2005 meeting. She also noted that some sponsors have requested that the new STIP funds for some local projects be traded for RSTP funds, especially for projects that otherwise would not undergo the federal process. She agreed to work with agencies individually to identify any existing projects for which they would be willing to trade their RSTP funds for the STIP funds.

- 12. Adjournment and Next Meeting** – At the request of Chair Presleigh, the December 15, 2005 meeting was moved from 1:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz. Chair Presleigh adjourned the meeting at approximately 3:18 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner

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