



**Joint SAFE on 17 &
Traffic Operations Systems Oversight Committee (TOS) Meeting**

Draft Minutes of the Meeting

**10:00am, Wednesday, October 12th, 2005
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

Name	Agency	Phone #	Email address
1. Christina Manriquez	CHP-Santa Cruz	831-662-0511	CManriquez@chp.ca.gov
2. Kim Bonfilio	CHP-Santa Cruz	831-662-0511	KBonfilio@chp.ca.gov
3. Mike Marlatt	CHP-San Jose	408-467-5400	MMarlatt@chp.ca.gov
4. Steve Perea	CHP-San Jose	408-467-5400	SPerea@chp.ca.gov
5. Luis Pavel Mendez	SCCRTC	831-460-3200	lmendez@sccrtc.org
6. Grace Blakeslee	SCCRTC	831-460-3219	gblakeslee@sccrtc.org
7. Tom Barnett	CalTrans-Dist 5	831-476-1351	Tom_Barnett@dot.ca.gov
8. Richard Rosales	CalTrans-Dist 5	805-549-3792	richard_rosales@dot.ca.gov
9. Deb Larson	CalTrans-Dist 5	805-441-5875	Deb.Larson@dot.ca.gov
10. Nevin Sams	CalTrans-Dist 5	805-549-3017	Nevin_Sams@dot.ca.gov
11. Mike Fincher	CalTrans-Dist 4	408-452-7125	Michael_Fincher@dot.ca.gov
12. Earl Sherman	CalTrans-Dist 4	408-452-7125	
13. Pranav Shah	CalTrans	510-286-5531	pshah@dot.ca.gov
14. Todd Lee	CalTrans	510-286-6917	
15. Paul DeOcampo	SCPD	420-5009x4820	
16. Don Ray	SantaClara SO	408-868-6621	
17. Danielle Stanislaus	MTC	510-817-5737	dstanislaus@mtc.ca.gov
18. Donna Ziel	SCCRTC Commission Alternate	831-336-5043	Zield43@yahoo.com
19. Jack Ladd	FSP	831-234-1975	NA
20. Siobhan Sanders	CalTrans		siobhan_saunders@dot.ca.gov

Meeting Minutes:

- 1. Captain Manriquez and introductions.**
- 2. Minutes Accepted**
 - a. April 6, 2005 Safe on 17 meeting
 - b. August 3, 2005 TOS Oversight Committee meeting

3. **Information Items-** Grace Blakeslee of Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) reviewed the information items listed on the agenda and offered to send a web link to any interested persons regarding the Information Technology System World Conference to be held in San Francisco during the week of November 6th.

Luis Mendez of the SCCRTC provided an update on the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes Project. Luis Mendez thanked Caltrans for working with the RTC to secure the funding for the Highway 1/17 Merge Lane Project. He advised that construction is scheduled to start in the Spring 2006. A traffic management plan will be put in place during construction.

4. **California Highway Patrol-** Santa Cruz Area and San Jose Area CHP offices provided a review of collision and enforcement statistics for the 2nd and 3rd quarters of 2005. Steve Perea of the San Jose Area corrected an error in the provided enforcement statistics. Luis Mendez informed the group that Santa Cruz County Supervisor Mark Stone expressed interested in a ride-a-long with CHP some time ago.
5. **Safe on 17 Annual Report and Future Funding -** Grace Blakeslee reviewed the 2004 Safe on 17 Annual Report and highlighted that the program continues to achieve its goal of reducing collisions on Highway 17. She informed the Committee that the Annual Report was accepted by the Commission at their October Commission Meeting. At the same Commission meeting, the Commission approved the staff recommendation to continue funding extra enforcement on Highway 17 in Santa Cruz in the amount of \$50,000 per year period between January 2006 and December 2008 as part of the Safe on 17 program. Grace Blakeslee thanked CHP for their continued support for this program. She will work with CHP Headquarters and Santa Cruz and San Jose area CHP offices to extend the contract.

The Metropolitan Transportation Commission SAFE staff person in attendance, Danielle Stanislaus, noted that MTC staff also recommended continued funding for extra CHP enforcement on the Santa Clara County side of Highway 17 in the amount of \$50,000. The MTC SAFE Operations Committee will vote on continued funding on November 3, 2005.

6. **Caltrans Discussion/Update -** Deb Larson of Caltrans District 5 discussed ongoing progress of numerous safety projects on Highway 17 including the Dynamic Curve Warning Sign, guardrail and drainage upgrades. She provided a handout which listed the status of various Caltrans District 5 projects for Highway 17. She reported that the Glenwood Curve and Laurel Curve projects are moving forward. The guardrail projects will be considered as part of the 2006 State Highway Operation Protection Program (SHOPP).

Michael Fincher of Caltrans District 4 reported that a drainage project similar to the Glenwood Curve Drainage Improvements is planned for Highway 17 near Idylwild. In

addition, Caltrans District 4 will be completing tree trimming and re-striping at various locations on the Santa Clara County side of Highway 17. Tree trimming and re-striping should be completed in approximately 5 weeks.

Richard Rosales, Project Manager for the Glenwood Curve Drainage Improvement Project, advised that Caltrans is in the project development stage of the project. The project is on schedule for construction to begin in the summer of 2007. A Glenwood Curve Project Development Team meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm October 12th, 2005.

Luis Mendez asked if any of the Committee members had received input on the site distance improvements on the Santa Clara County of Highway 17 near the summit. The Santa Clara County CHP Captain Marlatt and Luis Mendez both mentioned that it was a good safety improvement.

7. Review Operations and Status of the Traffic Operations Systems

- a. TOS Components – Review of System Activations Report** - - Todd Lee from the Caltrans Traffic Management Center (TMC) reviewed the System Activations Report. Luis Mendez noted that a message was missing from the Changeable Message Sign Report on page 3 for September 17, 2005. Todd Lee said he would look into what the posted message was.

On behalf of Jim Richardson, Todd Lee requested that the RTC inform the TMC when the Santa Cruz County transit strike is over. Luis Mendez then provided a brief update on the transit strike.

Grace Blakeslee inquired what determined if a sigalert was issued. Todd Lee responded that usually sigalerts are issued if an incident is predicted to cause a 30 minute or more delay.

- b. Major Incident Review** – No major incidents were discussed.

- c. Monitoring Station on Highway 17** - Pranav Shah of Caltrans District 4 stated that the monitoring stations software still needs upgrading in order to view loop detector data collected on Highway 17 at the TMC. Currently, the data can be viewed on the Performance Measurement System (PeMS), but is not displayed for Caltrans' TMC. (PeMS collects and stores data from loop detectors and converts this data into information. The PeMS website is managed by PATH at UC Berkeley.) Caltrans is discussing funding for a consultant for the software upgrades. No time line as of yet for the this project.

- 8. Communications with Local Law Enforcement** –Captain Manriquez informed the group that the Baymask system for communications with local law enforcement was recently implemented. This is new equipment at the Monterey Dispatch Center which allows interpretability of different types of radios and radio frequencies. The CHP will

attempt to use it with the Santa Cruz County Sheriff's red station tactical channel which is not used on a regular basis.

9. **Freeway Service Patrol (FSP)**– Grace Blakeslee introduced Jack Ladd of Ladd's Towing, the current FSP tow operator for Beats 17 and 24 (Highway 17 and Highway 1). Grace Blakeslee noted that administration and oversight for the Santa Cruz County FSP program recently shifted from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) to the RTC. She will invite Jack Ladd to attend future Traffic Operations System Oversight Committee meetings to discuss any FSP program related issues. In addition, Grace Blakeslee will provide the Committee with relevant FSP program updates. She concluded that the RTC realizes that the FSP program is an important part of safety and congestion relief on Highway 17 and therefore thinks that it is appropriate for the FSP contractor to attend TOS Oversight Committee Meetings.

Jack Ladd asked for clarification on who at CHP to call for overtime approval when overtime is needed to complete an assist. Examples of when overtime would be approved versus times when it wasn't necessary were discussed by Luis Mendez, Captain Manriquez and Jack Ladd. Captain Manriquez informed Jack to call the on duty officer to request overtime.

10. **Santa Cruz County Call Box Upgrades** - Grace Blakeslee reviewed planned upgrades to the Santa Cruz County call boxes (124 boxes). Call boxes will be upgraded to include TTY devices and to function using a digital, rather than an analogue, cellular signal. Upgrades are scheduled to begin this December. In addition to the call box upgrades, site surveys will be done at every call box to determine their level of accessibility for the mobility impaired.
11. **Additional Items** – Siobhan Sanders asked if any of the Caltrans TOS Committee Members had seen the draft policy for Changeable Message Signs. She wanted Committee members to be aware that a draft policy was circulating in case they were interested in providing input. Siobhan said she would share the draft policy that she had with other interested members.

Donna Ziel recounted a situation at which a call box was used to locate her location when her car was broken down on the side of the road.

12. **Next meeting set for March 15, 2006 and will be a joint Safe on 17/TOS Oversight Committee, hosted by San Jose CHP.**