

DRAFT

INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

Special Meeting Date:
Thursday, March 22, 2007
1:30 p.m.

SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

MINUTES

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)
Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5
Piet Canin, Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association
Sandra Coley, Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Mark Griffin, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG)
Thomas Hiltner, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
David Koch, City of Watsonville Public Works
John Presleigh, County Public Works and Planning Proxy
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Planning Proxy
Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Public Works
Majid Yamin, City of Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Cory Caletti
Rachel Moriconi
Karena Pushnik
Kim Shultz

OTHERS PRESENT

Corinne Hyland, Community Traffic Safety Coalition
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works
Brian Graham, Caltrans District 5 System Planning
Donn Miyahara, Caltrans D5 Loc. Assistance

Chair John Presleigh called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

- 1. Introductions** – Introductions were made.
- 2. Oral Communications** – Rachel Moriconi invited members to attend a special meeting to review the cost increases on the Highway 1/17 Merge Lanes project, to take place immediately following the ITAC meeting. Cory Caletti reported that the proof for the Bikeways map is undergoing final review and requested some agencies review the map.

3. Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents

SCMTD – Tom Hiltner reported that the Short Range Transit Plan is underway and Wilbur Smith has conducted stakeholder interviews with most ITAC member agencies.

City of Santa Cruz – Chris Schneider reported that the Soquel Avenue Bicycle Lane project grand opening has occurred; some minor elements of the project are being implemented. The Murray/East Cliff rehabilitation project has started construction with the major work, including detours between Ocean Street and the city limit, to start the second week of April. The Safe Routes to Schools project near De Laveaga Elementary School is also starting.

Scotts Valley – Majid Yamin reported that the contract for the Hacienda Drive Sidewalks and Bike Lanes project has been awarded and will start construction in early April.

Watsonville – Maria Rodriguez reported that the Watsonville Slough Bridge opened a few weeks ago and that construction of the Struve Slough Bridge is still underway. David Koch reported that Caltrans' Highway 152/Main Street reconstruction project is proceeding quickly.

Capitola – Steve Jesberg reported that the repaving projects on 41st Avenue and Park Avenue will begin shortly.

County – John Presleigh reported that the contract for El Rancho Road will be awarded soon. He also reported that a "State of County Pavement" report will be presented at the Board of Supervisors' April 17 meeting. He noted that a recent phone survey of County residents found that there is currently insufficient support for raising fees or taxes to pay for road repairs in the unincorporated areas and that more education is needed about the county's pavement system. Steve Wiesner reported that the Amesti Safe Routes to Schools project and Valencia Creek habitat restoration projects are out to bid. They also reported that the seven storm damage repair projects, including Vine Hill, Cathedral, and Bear Creek have been completed and that they will be receiving \$1.8 million in Emergency Relief (ER) funds for repairs that have been done.

4. Additions/Changes to the Agenda – None.

CONSENT AGENDA (Dettle/Buika)

- 5. Approved Minutes of the January 18, 2007 meeting**, as amended by Mark Dettle to reflect the following change to item 7, "Mark Dettle suggested that the pavement work condition survey be done every other year..."

6. Received Information Items:

- a. Caltrans *California Transportation Plan 2030* Fact Sheet
- b. Highlights of the March 2007 RTC Meeting

REGULAR AGENDA

7. Provided Input on Implementation of Construction Safety Guidelines

Corinne Hyland from the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC) provided an overview of the “Recommended Guidelines to Protect the Safety of Bicyclists, Pedestrians, and Disabled Travelers during Road Construction” and requested advise from the ITAC on how to get contractors to implement the guidelines. She shared examples of locations where the guidelines have not been followed.

Members suggested changes to the guidelines and provided examples of things that they do, including:

- Making guidelines one page on what to do, in bulleted format, that could be distributed on a colorful sheet of paper to contractors
- Using “Share the Lane” signs, when construction closes off bicycle lanes
- Putting “Sidewalk Closed Ahead” signs at crosswalks
- Talking to inspectors
- Incorporating guidelines into construction specifications
- Reviewing Caltrans Construction Manual regarding addressing bicycle/pedestrian safety during construction
- Talk to utilities
- Address during design and/or Notice to Proceed through a Traffic Control Plan. If left to contractor to address could result in change orders or mediocre implementation
- Increase funding for design to address alternative
- Discuss at preconstruction meetings
- Have ADA community involved in project review, require contractors to maintain ADA compliance
- Share guidelines with building departments, unions, and contractors

Ms. Hyland thanked members for their input and requested members contact her at chyland@health.co.santa-cruz.ca.us or (831) 454-7558 with any additional suggestions.

8. Received Update on the Transportation Funding Task Force Draft Transportation Funding Plan

Karena Pushnik reported that a Draft Plan, prepared by convener Fred Keeley and RTC staff based on issues identified by members of the Transportation Funding Task Force (TFTF) and the public at workshops last spring, was released in late January. The draft plan included three potential alternatives for addressing funding shortfalls for transportation. She noted that over the past several weeks the Transportation Funding Task Force has been developing an initial list of projects to include in the final plan. Meetings to develop a final plan will continue over the next month or two. Most ITAC member agencies are represented on the Task Force and members were encouraged to discuss the plan with their representatives.

John Presleigh stated that it is critical for there to be more funding for road maintenance and that if the public is not willing to pay more to maintain the system, roads will continue to crumble at an accelerated rate. Piet Canin and Sandra Coley noted that at all the community meetings, local road repairs were identified as very important.

Karena Pushnik reported that polling will be discussed at the next TFTF meeting. Sandra Coley requested that any time polls are mentioned that information on who sponsored the poll, when it was conducted, and how many people were surveyed be provided.

Karena Pushnik noted that the final plan will need to balance needs versus what the community is willing to pay for. Chris Schneider noted that some people do not want to pay more, but rather would like elected officials to reprioritize how funds are spent. Mark Dettle stated that the gas tax should be increased up to thirty cents to pay for transportation improvements, and that it could influence what transportation choices people make. Kim Shultz inquired if there are any elasticity studies on increasing the gas tax thirty cents. John Presleigh noted that County Engineers Association of California (CEAC) is supporting legislation to index the gas tax.

9. Assembly Bill 60 – Three Foot Buffer Zone for Cyclists

Cory Caletti provided an overview of Assembly Bill 60 which would require motorists to pass cyclists proceeding in the same direction with a minimum clearance of three feet. Violators would have to pay a \$250 fine. Similar laws exist in several other states. She noted that the Bicycle Committee has recommended the RTC take a position of support on the bill. She requested input from the ITAC on the bill.

John Presleigh stated that CEAC is opposing the bill citing concerns about head-on collisions. He suggested that if more area is needed for bicyclists that roadways be widened. Chris Schneider suggested it was impractical that motorists would wait to pass cyclists. Mark Dettle said that in some areas, lanes would have to be eliminated to allow enough room for both cyclists and motorists. Kim Shultz reported that current law does not define what is the “safe” distance for passing and there is no mechanism in place to enforce it. In response to questions from Piet Canin and Teresa Buika, staff agreed to research if there was an increase in head-on collisions in states where this law has been implemented and how other states are enforcing the law. Several members noted that there is a need for increased public education on sharing the road.

The ITAC decided to table the item to a future meeting (Schneider/Coley).

10. Draft 2006 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Augmentation

Rachel Moriconi reviewed how much funding from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) programs is available for programming in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP). She discussed several factors that could influence how much money is ultimately available. She reported that staff recommends programming \$4 million in projected funds to local projects, as identified by local jurisdictions and \$13.4 million to regionally-significant projects.

John Presleigh requested assurance that local jurisdictions receive \$4 million, stated that there needs to be a higher investment in the local system, and suggested that the Highway 1/17 cost increases should not come out of the STIP.

Chris Schneider moved to recommend that the Regional Transportation Commission:

- 1. Approve the staff recommendations for programming projected State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Congestion Mitigation and Air**

- Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ), and Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) and amendments to other projects;**
- 2. Make the \$4 million for local projects the highest priority for funding;**
 - 3. Have cost increases on the Highway 1/17 come from non-STIP sources; and**
 - 4. Make the \$500,000 for the Highway 1/9 Intersection design work a higher priority for the STIP than the construction phase of the Mar Vista Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge.**

Mark Dettle seconded the motion.

Jennifer Calate stated her opposition to the motion. John Presleigh stated that he could not support making the Highway 1/9 project a higher priority than construction of the Mar Vista bridge. ITAC members discussed the priorities for STIP funds and the Highway 1/17 cost increases. **The motion passed with John Presleigh and Jennifer Calate voting “no”.**

11. Continued Discussion on Project Coordination

Due to time constraints with a subsequent meeting scheduled for the same room, this item was tabled to the next ITAC meeting.

12. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Chair Presleigh adjourned the meeting at 3:09 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for April 19, 2007 at 1:30 PM in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.

Respectfully Submitted _____
Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner