

DRAFT

INTERAGENCY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ITAC)

Thursday, November 15, 2007

1:30 p.m.

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

MINUTES

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Jennifer Calate, Caltrans District 5
Sandra Coley, Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy
Mark Dorfman, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and 2nd Metro Proxy
Mark Griffin, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
David Koch, City of Watsonville Planning Proxy
Maria Esther Rodriguez, City of Watsonville Public Works
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works and Planning Proxy
Majid Yamin, City of Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi
Kim Shultz

OTHERS PRESENT

Donn Miyahara, Caltrans District 5 Local Assistance
Corinne Hyland, Community Traffic Safety Coalition
Mary Lawrence, Community Traffic Safety Coalition

Chair Maria Rodriguez called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.

- 1. Introductions** – Introductions were made.
- 2. Oral Communications** – Rachel Moriconi announced that applications for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program are due to the California Resources Agency on November 30, 2007; that Caltrans District 5 is hosting a Planning Grants Workshop on December 5; and that the RTC Open House is on November 27, 2007.

Corinne Hyland announced that there will be a workshop on designing for pedestrian safety On January 31 and February 1 at the Watsonville City Hall. Members were encouraged to attend and RSVP to Cory Caletti.

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

City of Santa Cruz – Mark Dettle reported that the City of Santa Cruz is working on a traffic

signal coordination project and continuing construction of the Capitola Road/Soquel Drive intersection project.

City of Scotts Valley – Majid Yamin reported that the City has begun work on the RTC-funded Traffic Signal Modernization project.

SCMTD – Mark Dorfman reported that the MetroBase Fueling Facility on River Street is nearly complete and will open soon pending final agreements with the contractor. Construction of the MetroBase maintenance building and Short Range Transit Plan are both moving forward. He also reported that Metro is planning to use Proposition 1B funds to advance the next phase of the MetroBase project.

AMBAG – Mark Griffin reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) is being updated on a quarterly basis and that the new process for amendments is working well.

County of Santa Cruz- Steve Wiesner reported that the County completed the Amesti signal project, is finishing up the El Rancho Road Reconstruction project, and has several paving projects underway.

City of Watsonville – Maria Rodriguez reported that the construction of the Struve Slough Bridge continues; that the Green Valley rehabilitation project has been completed; that the citywide pavement program is underway, and that the Blackburn/Highway 129 signal reconfiguration project is underway.

RTC- Rachel Moriconi announced that the Transportation Funding Task Force approved a funding proposal for a future transportation sales tax measure. She thanked ITAC members that attended TFTF meetings over the past two years.

4. Additions/Changes to the Agenda – None.

CONSENT AGENDA (Dorfman/Dettle)

5. Approved Minutes of the June 21, 2007 meeting

6. Received Highlights of Regional Transportation Commission meetings

7. Received “Designing for Pedestrian Safety” Workshop Announcement

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Update on the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Grace Blakeslee provided an overview of the 2008 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) programming process, reporting that the RTC issued a call for projects for \$5.4 million in projected 2008 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds.

Mark Dorfman reported that the Transit District does not plan on applying for any 2008 STIP funds.

ITAC members from public works departments, concerned about their agencies' staff time constraints, the limited funding available, and the significant needs of existing projects, indicated they would prefer to have a distribution to local jurisdictions by formula rather than a competitive process. They expressed concern that there did not seem to be a significant amount of funding available that would justify an extensive process to prioritize projects. They further expressed concerns about completing applications for projects that may not be funded, suggested that project applications only be required for projects selected for funding, suggested that project sponsors not be required to go to their board's for authorization to request funds for certain projects, suggested the RTC maximize the amount available to local projects, and suggested that the RTC board be shown alternative funding scenarios for local projects based on various regional project programming totals and using formula distribution of funds to local jurisdictions. Members noted that although they understand the value of regionally important projects to the commission and local jurisdictions, they are hopeful the commission will consider maximizing funding of local projects in lieu of less critical regional projects.

Staff reported that information requested in the application, such as project description, need, funding, schedule, and performance information is required by the state for programming STIP funds and that any projects proposed for STIP funds need to go through the public review process. Members confirmed that they understand the need to submit all of the required paperwork to obtain the funds. Noting that the funding needs for several regionally significant projects are still being developed, staff indicated that it would not be possible to determine a specific amount to distribute to local jurisdictions at this time. Staff noted that the process approved by the RTC on November 1, will allow the RTC to consider local needs in combination with regional needs.

The ITAC approved a motion (Dettle/Koch) recommending that the RTC distribute the balance of 2008 STIP funds available, after funds are distributed to the Corralitos area and regional projects, to local jurisdictions based on population, with a reasonable minimum amount given to the smaller cities.

After discussing alternate timelines for submitting project proposals, it was determined that due to the deadline for submitting the RTIP to the CTC and requirements to have the draft RTIP go through a public process, project sponsors will still need to submit funding requests by December 21, but that they could have additional time go to their boards if their agencies do not require board authorization prior to submitting funding requests. The ITAC recommendation will be submitted to the RTC in January, when regional project needs are more definitive.

9. 2008 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP)

Claudia Espino, Caltrans District 5's Advance Planning Branch Chief, provided a list and map of 19 candidate safety, roadway maintenance, and mobility projects submitted by District 5 to Caltrans Headquarters for consideration for programming in the 2008 State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP). She also distributed SHOPP development timelines, and a list of currently programmed SHOPP projects. She emphasized that projects compete statewide

and that minimal new funding is available for the 2008 SHOPP. She encouraged the ITAC to contact Caltrans' project managers with questions on specific projects.

In response to a request from Mark Dettle, Ms. Espino agreed to provide a status of possible safety improvements for the terminus of Highway 17 at Ocean Street. Grace Blakeslee reported that Caltrans is working on improving signage in the area.

Rachel Moriconi encouraged everyone to review the project list and inform Caltrans of needs and opportunities to coordinate local projects such as transit stops, pedestrian, and intersection improvements with Caltrans SHOPP projects. In response to a question from Maria Rodriguez, Ms. Espino stated that Caltrans would be open to adding additional features to projects, though it might not be possible to use SHOPP funds for the enhancements. She noted that contacting the project managers and asking to be on the Project Development Team (PDT) is the best way to participate in project development. Jennifer Calate stated that she is available to work as a liaison between local jurisdictions and project managers.

10. Highway 1 Corridor System Management Plan (CSMP)

Claudia Espino presented information on the Corridor System Management Plan for Highway 1 which is currently under development. She noted that the plan is a requirement for receipt of Proposition 1B Corridor Mobility Improvement Account (CMIA) funds, which is being used to fund the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project and Salinas Road/Highway 1 Interchange projects in the region. She reviewed a variety of corridor management tools that can be used and the general timeline for the plan development.

She reported that the northern limits of the plan will be the Highway 1/Mission Street at King Street intersection. She requested input from attendees on parallel routes that should also be analyzed in the plan. Parallel routes identified by the group included Soquel Avenue, Soquel Drive, Park Avenue to East Cliff, Water Street, Capitola Road, and Harkins Slough Road. Over the next few months, local entities will be asked to also identify major intersections that should be included in the plan.

Ms. Espino reported that cities along the corridor, the County, the Transit District, AMBAG, and SCCRTC will be among the entities involved in development of the final plan. Mark Dettle requested to be added to the development team.

11. Draft 2008 State and Federal Legislative Agenda and 2007 Update

Rachel Moriconi presented the SCCRTC's draft 2008 State and Federal Legislative Agenda and requested members to review their own agencies' agendas and submit any recommended additions or changes the first week in December. Mark Dettle suggested that focus needs to be given to reducing greenhouse gas emissions through driving fees, not just gas taxes.

12. Update on Central Coast Intelligent Transportation System (CCITS) Implementation Plan

Grace Blakeslee gave an overview of the Central Coast Intelligent Transportation System (CCITS) Implementation Plan. She noted that the ITS plan ties into other planning efforts and

will allow ITA projects to access federal funds in the future, though no specific federal funds are currently available. She provided examples of ITS projects on local streets, including signal detection and advanced crosswalks. She noted that the local project list would be updated annually. Mark Dettle requested a standard list of the types of projects that could be listed in the CCITS plan and suggested that video detection could be used to monitor corridors. Steve Wiesner noted that the County has video detection on several sections of Soquel Drive.

13. SAFETEA-LU Public Participation Plan

Rachel Moriconi reported that SAFETEA-LU requires the development of a Public Participation Plan for regional transportation plans and programming documents. She solicited ideas from ITAC members on how best to engage the community, local project sponsors, and other entities in the development of long and short-range transportation plans.

ITAC members provided the following suggestions:

- Establish special commissions to engage the public in a less formal setting
- The Transportation Funding Task Force did a good job of involving a broad group of people
- Establish special bilingual committees
- Have translators at meetings
- Contact LaGanga
- Pajaro Valley Transportation Management Association is working on a “one-stop shop” website for members of the public to get information
- Get information out so people know about events/meetings
- Do assessment of what is needed to expand cultural diversity at meetings/in process
- Outreach through faith-based community
- Use health services programs to combine outreach efforts
- Target large employers and schools, large growers, UCSC, County building
- Make people know why it matters to them- money, pet projects
- Notify agencies, especially smaller ones, about what meetings are the highest priority to attend, especially if meetings are in the evening
- Broadcast hearings on the internet/use webcasts

Mark Griffin noted that AMBAG is currently finishing up the draft Public Participation Plan.

14. Adjournment and Next Meeting

Chair Rodriguez adjourned the meeting at 3:40 p.m. The next regular meeting is scheduled for December 20, 2007 at 1:30 PM in the SCCRTC Conference Room, 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA.