



JOINT MEETING OF
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS SYSTEMS (TOS) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
AND
SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE

DRAFT MINUTES
Wednesday, March 12, 2008
10:00-12:00

Santa Clara County Department of Child Support Services
2851 Junction Avenue
San Jose, CA 95134

TOS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE AND SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Masoud Akbarzadeh, Santa Clara County Airports and Roads
Grant Boles, Santa Cruz CHP Officer
Donna Carter, Caltrans District 5 Public Information Officer
Suzana Cruz, Caltrans District 5 Public Information Officer
Megan Doyle, Santa Clara County Supervisor District 4 Ken Yeager's Office
Russell Ellingworth, Caltrans District 5 Maintenance
Mike Fincher, Caltrans District 4 Maintenance Supervisor
Joanna Fox, Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Deb Larson, Caltrans District 5 Traffic Safety
Ann Meyer, Caltrans District 4 Construction
Dave Nelson, Caltrans District 4 Maintenance
Gary Richards, San Jose Mercury
Richard Rosales, Caltrans District 5 Project Management
Eric Rozenoft, CHP Oakland TMC
Robert Salazar, Caltrans District 4 Maintenance
Siobhan Sanders, Caltrans District 5 Project Management
Pranav Shah, Caltrans District 4 Traffic Operations
Earl Sherman, Caltrans District 4 Maintenance
Todd Thibodeau, San Jose CHP Officer
John Thomas, Caltrans District 4 Project Management
Jacques Van Zeventer, Caltrans District 5 TMC
Cathy Wayne, San Jose CHP Captain
Jennifer Wilson, Caltrans District 5 Construction
Kane Wong, Caltrans District 4 TMC
Scott Wood, Santa Cruz CHP Lieutenant

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee

Captain Wayne called the meeting to order at 10:10 a.m.



1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** - Grace Blakeslee requested that Item 10 be removed from the Agenda because Caltrans staff person Brandy Rider, who was expected to report on this item, was not able to attend the meeting.
3. **Accepted Minutes of the September 19, 2008 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting**
4. **Accepted Information Items** – Grace Blakeslee highlighted that, according to the Santa Cruz Sentinel article from January 16, 2008, the Santa Cruz CHP now has more officers to deploy in the field. Officer Boles noted that the new officers underwent training during the fall and winter. Grace Blakeslee pointed out the articles that appreciated the CHP for their presence on Highway 17.
5. **Reviewed California Highway Patrol Collision and Enforcement Statistics** – Officer Thibodeau reported that the total number of collisions recorded on the Santa Clara County side of Highway 17 in 2007 were lower than the number of collisions recorded in previous years. He highlighted the high number of extra enforcement hours deployed on Highway 17 in Santa Clara County in November and December during 2007. The number of citations given during these months was also higher than average.

Officer Boles reported that several new officers have joined the Santa Cruz CHP team. Fewer officers were deployed on Highway 17 during some of the months reviewed because of the time required by experienced officers to conduct training for the new officers. The number of injury collisions was higher for the months of October and December in 2007 than in 2006. Officer Boles informed attendees that, in response to complaints about speeding and aggressive driving during the morning commute hours, the CHP deployed more officers earlier, beginning at 5:00am.

Officer Boles stated that, during the period reviewed, the Santa Cruz CHP informed the public about the importance of safety on Highway 17 when making public presentations and distributed flyers at driver education programs. Officer Thibodeau reported that, during the period reviewed, the San Jose CHP educated high school students about safe driving, including safe driving on Highway 17, through driver education programs. Grace Blakeslee informed the group that this winter she distributed Safe on 17 brochures to driver education programs and traffic safety schools in Santa Cruz County and San Jose. She requested that members let her know about schools or programs that may be interested in receiving Highway 17 safety materials to distribute to their students.

6. **Reviewed Operations and Status of the TOS** – Grace Blakeslee reviewed the system activations for this period and commented that the majority of collisions and associated delays appeared to have been communicated to motorists using the CMS signs in Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties. She applauded the responsible parties for coordinating their efforts in order to provide the motoring public with this travel and safety information. She mentioned



that one major incident which occurred on November 4, 2007 and involved a truck colliding with the cement barrier near Ocean Street was not noticed using the CMS signs, although a lengthy backup occurred.

Jacques Van Zeventer stated that Caltrans utilized the CMS signs to inform motorists about the temporary flooding that occurred in the Highway 1/17 project area. He reported that the message posted on the CMS sign on northbound Highway 1 was difficult to read because some bulbs were not working properly. He also reported that the Highway Advisory Radio located at Highway 1 and Chestnut was not flashing to alert motorists that a message was being broadcasted; nor was the Emergency Message Sign northbound on Highway 17. He suggested that there be further discussion between Caltrans District 4 and 5 about the maintenance of this equipment.

7. **Received Information about Highway 17 Construction Projects** – Richard Rosales provided an update on the Glenwood Curves Project. He informed the group that the project is expected to begin construction at the beginning of April and is expected to last 15 months. He stated that the project includes drainage, shoulder and barrier improvements. He introduced the resident engineers for the project, Jennifer Wilson and Ann Meyer.

Jennifer Wilson reviewed the traffic management plans for the project. She discussed the role of the removable barrier in allowing for a relatively quick transition between the various lane configurations required to complete the work and the configurations required keep traffic flowing. Grace Blakeslee suggested that Caltrans ensure that the lanes are wide enough to accommodate trucks and wide loads.

Deb Larson reviewed recently completed Highway 17 projects and Highway 17 projects in the pipeline. She indicated that a new "End Freeway" sign with mileage information will be added southbound on Highway 17 near Pasatiempo. She reported that another new sign will be installed on Highway 17 approaching Laurel Road southbound to alert motorists to the upcoming curve and the safe driving speed. In addition, she informed the group that signs near the Ocean Street Exit will be upgraded. Ms. Larson also noted that the Vinehill Drainage Project has been programmed in the SHOPP for construction in FY08/09 and guardrail projects near Santas Village Road and other locations on Highway 17 are scheduled to be completed in FY09/10.

John Thomas reported that the Wet Weather Improvement Project planned near the summit on the Santa Clara County side of Highway 17 is on schedule and is expected to begin construction in 2010.

Grace Blakeslee suggested that project managers consider the availability of the Highway Safety Improvement Program grant funds for projects on Highway 17 if funding is an issue.

8. **Received a Highway 1/17 Project Update** – Siobhan Sanders stated that the Highway 1/17 Project was on schedule to be completed in 2009. She reported that the construction crews are currently working on the replacement of the Branciforte Overcrossing and will begin



work on the Emeline Bridge soon. The Pasatiempo Exit is expected to be temporarily closed once the Emeline Exit is reopened.

9. **Received Information about the San Francisco Bay Area and Santa Cruz 511 Programs** – Joanna Fox reported that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) Area recently launched “My 511” and “Predict-a-Trip” functions to the existing 511 Program. These are programs that allow users to customize the information provided by the 511 system. She reported that MTC also recently integrated what is known as the #399 program into the 511 program. This new function allows motorists to reach the services currently provided through a call box using the 511 phone number. She explained that drivers who select the new “non-emergency service” function offered through the 511 phone number will be transferred to the private call answering center which answers call box calls and will receive the same services offered through the call box program.

Grace Blakeslee reported that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is moving forward with assessing the feasibility of a 511 system. She indicated that staff will be convening a group of stakeholders to discuss the primary users of a 511 system and to establish a vision for phasing in a 511 system. She reported that phone and web 511 services were expected to be deployed. She informed the group that data currently collected and broadcasted by Caltrans and CHP is expected to be utilized by a new 511 system. She expects to be working with individuals responsible for collecting and broadcasting this information to make it easily available to motorists using a 511 number.

10. **Congestion System Management Plans** – This item was deleted from the agenda.
11. **Received Update about the Santa Cruz County Call Box Program Update** – Grace Blakeslee reported that the TTY and digital upgrades to the Santa Cruz County call boxes have been completed. She also reported that many of the call box housings were replaced and that the call boxes should be looking good. She indicated that staff expected to move forward with additional improvements to the call box sites in the next 6-9 months.
12. **Received Information about Additional Items** – Mike Finch and Russell Ellingworth thanked the CHP for their help in running the traffic breaks that allow maintenance workers to complete their work on the highway safely. Mike Finch noted that new maintenance worker safety rules were enacted in response to the death of maintenance workers that had occurred on California highways.
13. **Accepted Proposed Date for the Next Meeting:** Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee meeting - September 17th, 2008

Meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted _____
Grace Blakeslee, Transportation Planner