



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission
Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)**

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, November 21, 2013
1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Taylor Bateman, City of Scotts Valley Planning
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Russell Chen, County Planning Proxy
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Santa Cruz METRO
Paul Hierling, AMBAG
Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Public Works
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works
Majid Yamin, City of Scotts Valley Public Works

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Cory Caletti
Luis Mendez
Rachel Moriconi
Kim Shultz

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5 (via phone)

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1. Call to Order – Chair Chris Schneider called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
 2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
 3. Oral communications – Grace Blakeslee appreciated agencies for attending the Complete Streets Workshop on November 13, noting that all of the planning and public works departments in Santa Cruz County sent representatives.
 4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – Staff distributed a handout with updated staff recommendations for Item 8.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved minutes of the October 17, 2013 ITAC meeting, with one minor change to show UCSC smart bike lockers were installed at 24 locations (**Buika/Wiesner**).

REGULAR AGENDA

6. Status of ongoing transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents - Verbal updates from project sponsors

Scotts Valley: Majid Yamin reported that the RSTP-funded Scotts Valley Drive rehabilitation project is done.

SC METRO: Erich Friedrich reported that METRO has been working to redesign Pacific Station and has received 700-800 comments from the public through a variety of outreach methods. Construction of the operations building continues.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC adopted the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Master Plan on November 7.

County: Steve Wiesner reported that the Graham Hill Road project was completed and storm damaged Paulsen Road and Smith Grade are now open.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the citywide street slurry seal projects are finishing up. The Airport Blvd project from Highway 1 to Rampart is under construction. The city is going out to bid to construct a roundabout at the Clifford/Pennsylvania intersection.

Santa Cruz: Chris Schneiter reported that construction has started for the Broadway-Brommer/Arana Gulch multiuse path. Construction of the Soquel Ave-Park Way traffic signal project, which includes adding left turn lanes, will begin in mid-December.

AMBAG – Paul Hierling reported that that modeling work for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)/Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) continues.

Caltrans: Mark McCumsey (via phone) announced that the Caltrans discretionary planning grant applications and guidelines are now available, with applications due February 3, 2014.

7. Santa Cruz METRO Short Range Transit Plan Presentation

Erich Friedrich reported that the METRO draft Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) will be available online very soon. It is a 5-year plan that includes recommendations for paratransit, marketing, capital/financial, policy, and service. Key policy recommendations include setting policies for evaluating new service; establishing Transit Emphasis Corridors that include high quality, frequent service, and some roadway infrastructure modifications; formal standards for evaluating productivity and efficiency of routes; standards for deviating routes if needed; and modification to spacing between bus stops. He reported recommendations for modifying some specific routes and marketing to “choice” riders are also included in the plan. Meeting attendees made suggestions for Transit Emphasis Corridors, reducing trip travel times, providing information to riders via smart phones, ensuring route changes still serve major origins

and destinations, and including driver bilingual and sensitivity training. It is anticipated that the draft plan will be released in mid-December for a 45-60 day review period. RTC staff recommended that local jurisdictions review and provide feedback to METRO staff on infrastructure modifications proposed for Transit Emphasis Corridors.

8. Recommendations for the 2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

Rachel Moriconi presented staff recommendations for programming approximately \$5.9 million in State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), \$3.5 million Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP), and \$5.3 million in Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) funds. She commended project sponsors for their work on the applications. She distributed revised recommendations for Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) funds based on RTC direction at the Transportation Policy Workshop, as well as preliminary recommendations regarding which funding source to program to each project. She noted that based on board direction at the TPW and discussions with City of Scotts Valley staff, that RTC staff would be recommending an additional \$46,000 for the Mt. Hermon Road/Scotts Valley Drive intersection, by reducing funds slightly to other projects.

ITAC members expressed general support for the preliminary staff recommendations, but suggested increasing or decreasing funds to some projects. Chris Schneider stated that the Highway 1 San Lorenzo River bridge project is important and needs funds to start environmental review. He stated that the bridge is more vulnerable to the environment than other Highway 1 facilities and is important to the University. Murray Fontes noted he was satisfied with the preliminary staff recommendations, but concerned about revised recommendations which eliminate funding for Watsonville's Walker Street section of the MBSST. Steve Wiesner expressed concern that more funding was not recommended for County projects, though recognized other needs in the region. He expressed concern at funding non-road projects with STIP and RSTP and suggested increasing funds for the Casserly Road bridge by \$150,000. Majid Yamin noted that while the City of Scotts Valley could increase its match by \$46,000 for the intersection project, he suggested increasing the amount programmed by \$92,000.

The committee unanimously approved a motion (Dettle/Yamin) recommending that the RTC approve the revised staff recommendations (including TPW direction for the MBSST funds) with the following changes:

- **Reduce the reserve of STIP funds for the Highway 1 41st-Soquel Auxiliary Lanes from \$2 million to \$1.5 million;**
- **Add \$454,000 for Highway 1 San Lorenzo River Bridge environmental review;**
- **Add \$46,000 for the Scotts Valley Dr/Mt Hermon Road intersection.**

9. The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for December 19, 2013 at 1:30 PM at the RTC Conference Room in Santa Cruz.