



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

MINUTES

Thursday January 16, 2014, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, UCSC
Piet Canin, Ecology Action
Russell Chen, County Public Works and Planning Proxy
Mark Dettle, City of Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz METRO
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Santa Cruz METRO
Steve Jesberg, City of Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
Anais Schenk, AMBAG

STAFF PRESENT

Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Donn Miyahara Caltrans District 5 (via phone)
Garin Schneider, Caltrans District 5 (via phone)

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1. Call to Order – Vice Chair Steve Jesberg called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
 2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
 3. Oral communications – None
 4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – Staff distributed a handout summarizing the California Transportation Commission’s draft Active Transportation Program Guidelines for Item 8.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. Approved minutes of the November 21, 2013 ITAC meeting (**Fontes/Buika** – Jesberg abstained, all other members present voted yes).

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that resurfacing a ¼ mile section of Airport Blvd near Highway 1 has been completed.

County: Russell Chen reported that a guardrail is being installed on Graham Hill Road near the City of Santa Cruz. The County is going out to bid for several storm damage repair projects. Valencia School Road will be shut down during construction.

AMBAG – Anais Schenk reported that draft Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) will be released for public review next month. AMBAG staff will present the draft MTP, Environmental Impact Report (EIR), and Regional Housing Needs Assessment (RHNA) at the next ITAC meeting.

SC METRO: Erich Friedrich reported that construction of the new operations building on River Street/Highway 9 is expected to be completed in one year. The Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) is out for public review through mid-March, with adoption anticipated in late March/early April. Claire Fliesler reported that the conceptual design for Pacific Station, based on extensive public input, is scheduled to be finished in June.

Ecology Action: Piet Canin reported that in expanding safe routes to schools programs there are now monthly bike/walk to school day events taking place at several schools across the county. Ecology Action is using a Caltrans planning grant to conduct bicycle/walking audits near schools.

Capitola: Steve Jesberg reported that construction of the lower parking lot near City Hall in Capitola Village is expected to be completed in six weeks.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC adopted the 2014 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) on December 5 and that projects programmed for Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) funds can be immediately implemented. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) will make the final determination on State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) projects on March 20. She also announced that the Highway 1 Soquel-Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project ribbon cutting event is at 10:00 a.m. on January 22 at the La Fonda bridge.

7. Plug-In Electric Vehicles Presentation

Piet Canin, Ecology Action, presented information on plug in electric vehicle (PEV) infrastructure in the Monterey Bay area including a video <http://vimeo.com/72300996>. Members shared information about charging stations at UCSC, Capitola, and Watsonville and grant opportunities through California Alliance for Health, the Air District, and Energy Commission. More information about the Monterey Bay Electric Vehicle Alliance is online at <http://www.mbeva.org/>.

8. Active Transportation Program Update

Rachel Moriconi provided a summary of draft guidelines for the new Active Transportation Program (ATP), which consolidates state and federal Bicycle Transportation Account, Safe Routes to Schools, and Transportation Enhancement programs. She emphasized that the guidelines will not be finalized by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) until March 20, but that applications for funds will be due to Caltrans and the CTC May 21, 2014 and that project sponsors should identify projects that could compete well on a statewide basis considering the program goals and proposed scoring criteria. She responded to questions from committee members regarding the program, noting that the CTC is hoping to fund projects that can start construction by the end of FY15 in this first cycle, the match will likely be approximately 12%, but a higher match is recommended, and that the minimum project size is

currently \$250,000.

9. Local Assistance Update

Garin Schneider, Caltrans District 5, reported that the Local Assistance HSIP (safety) program is on hold and that Caltrans will not be issuing a call for projects until additional trainings with local jurisdictions statewide are held. He also reported that Caltrans is hosting several conference calls to go over new rules regarding the federal "Buy America" policy. Local engineers are encouraged to participate and work with Donn Miyahara closely as they implement projects. Regarding the FHWA/FTA notice that projects within existing right-of-way or under \$5 million are categorically exempt from NEPA, this does not apply to all projects – especially if they have potentially significant impacts. Donn Miyahara reported staff changes for Local Assistance environmental division.

10. Legislative Updates

Rachel Moriconi provided highlights of the Governor's January budget proposal related to transportation and legislative priorities for 2014. She requested that agencies inform her of any legislative issues the RTC should pursue or monitor.

11. The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm. The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for February 20, 2014 at 1:30 PM at the RTC Conference Room in Santa Cruz.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

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