



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

DRAFT MINUTES

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

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Teresa Buika, UCSC
Russell Chen, County Public Works and Planning Proxy
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Santa Cruz METRO
Jeanne LePage, Ecology Action
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans District 5
Bhupendra Patel, AMBAG
Chris Schneiter, Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Cory Caletti
George Dondero
Ginger Dykaar
Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Maura Twomey, AMBAG
Eliza Yu, AMBAG
Jeanie Ward-Waller, Safe Routes to Schools National
Partnership (by phone)

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1. Call to Order –Chair Chris Schneiter called the meeting to order at 1:32 p.m.
 2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
 3. Oral communications –George Dondero reported that RTC and other entities are exploring a possible sales tax ballot measure for transportation projects.
 4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – None.

CONSENT AGENDA: *Fontes moved and Schneiter seconded approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Buika, Chen, Fontes, Friedrich, LePage, McClendon, Patel and Schneiter voting "yes".*

5. Approved minutes of the March 27, 2014 ITAC meeting
6. Received Passenger Rail Study Update

REGULAR AGENDA

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

UCSC: Teresa Buika reported that the University received an Active Transportation Program (ATP) grant for the Great Meadow Bicycle Path Safety project and is starting work on the environmental document.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the roundabout at Cliff/Pennsylvania was completed August 16. City Council approved the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Master Plan. The City is applying for a Caltrans Partnership Planning grant to develop a Complete Streets plan for its downtown corridors, including access from neighborhoods.

County: Russell Chen reported that the County has completed work on Glen Canyon Road and storm damage repair construction is underway on several roadways including Branciforte Drive, Nelson Road, North Rodeo Gulch, Highland, Vienna, and East Zayante. Striping of Empire Grade Road will be complete soon.

METRO: Erich Friedrich reported that work on the operations facility continues, with the project scheduled for completion in Spring/Summer 2015. Design engineering is underway for bus stop improvements at Green Valley Rd/Airport Blvd. METRO will seek input from the ITAC on upgrades planned for several additional bus stops later this year.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC is hiring a new administrative assistant. Ginger Dykaar reported that the RTC is seeking planning grants to develop a performance monitoring report and public engagement related for Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) implementation. George Dondero reported that the La Selva railroad trestle is under construction.

AMBAG: Bhupendra Patel reported that AMBAG approved the 2014 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) and the statewide programming document (FSTIP) is now available for public review. AMBAG will be amending Active Transportation Program (ATP) projects into the MTIP in November, with FHWA approval anticipated in December. AMBAG is developing a Highway 101 Corridor Study, which takes into consideration regional and inter-regional freight issues, including Highway 129 and 152 connections. AMBAG is working with METRO and MST on a planning grant application for a bus on highway shoulder analysis. AMBAG also is working on an application on regionwide Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) implementation.

Caltrans: Kelly McClendon distributed the semi-annual update of State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects and Caltrans Mile Marker performance measure booklet.

Santa Cruz: Chris Schneider reported that the City repaved Western and La Fonda, with Laurel Street currently under construction. Design work is underway on the Wharf Roundabout and San Lorenzo River Trestle access. Construction of the Arana Gulch path is nearing completion. The Westside Safe Routes to Schools project is almost done.

8. Active Transportation Program (ATP) Lessons Learned and Input for Cycle 2

Rachel Moriconi provided an overview of the California Transportation Commission's (CTC) Cycle 1 Active Transportation Program (ATP) program and requested feedback on the program to be shared with CTC and Caltrans staff. Maura Twomey of AMBAG and Jeanie Ward-Waller from the SRTS National Partnership who reviewed applications for Cycle 1, shared their observations about Cycle 1, including key characteristics of high ranking applications and recommendations for Cycle 2. ITAC member comments included: streamline and simplify the application; rating

process was unclear; provide more time to prepare applications; projects in large metropolitan areas given unfair advantage, being able to compete in both the statewide and their region's process; ratings seemed to have urban bias, especially for safety; need to inform sponsors at award if an approved project will be receiving state or federal funds; Local Assistance Procedures and guidelines need to provide better clarification; having to receive CTC approval for each stage of project will cause delays; split infrastructure and non-infrastructure programs. Rachel Moriconi encouraged sponsors to submit comments and suggestions for the program directly to Caltrans and CTC staff.

Erich Friedrich left the meeting.

9. Overview of AMBAG Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM)

Bhupendra Patel made a presentation on the Regional Travel Demand Model (RTDM) which is required for development of the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) / Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to demonstrate if the plan and programmed projects meet air quality conformity standards and state greenhouse gas emission targets. The model is also used to estimate travel patterns, predict travel growth, and evaluate impacts of transportation and land use projects. The new model is more activity-based, looking at the number of trips based on type of destinations in an area, where people go (work, shop, recreation), and how they get there (mode); looks at trips per person per household based on household demographics; utilizes more realistic economic and growth projections; utilizes better road data, supplied by public works departments, as well as updated Census and California Household Travel Survey information.

10. Draft Updates to CEQA Guidelines on Transportation Impact Analysis (SB 743)

Grace Blakeslee reported that the state's Office of Planning and Research (OPR) is required by state law (SB 743) to develop alternative measures for how transportation impacts are analyzed under CEQA. OPR recommends using vehicle miles traveled (VMT) rather than Level of Service (LOS) to evaluate traffic impacts. The deadline to provide comments on the "discussion" draft guidelines is November 21. She noted that some agencies have expressed concerns that the examples of how to estimate VMT are overly simplified and that insufficient data and modeling capacities exist to calculate project-level VMT. Teresa Buika requested a copy of the letter RTC previously sent to OPR on SB743. It was cautioned that regional average VMT standards should not be set as the threshold of significance as they are not appropriate on a more localized level.

11. Cap and Trade Program Updates

Rachel Moriconi provided a summary of the transportation-related Cap and Trade programs approved by the legislature in June 2014 and proposals for defining disadvantaged communities, which would exclude most of Santa Cruz County from competing for significant amounts of Cap-and-Trade funds. She encouraged project sponsors to review and provide input to the Strategic Growth Council on the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program draft guidelines by the October 31.

12. California Strategic Highway Safety Plan

Rachel Moriconi reported that Caltrans is in the process of updating the Strategic Highway Safety Plan. Members received the Fact Sheet, Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ), and

presentation slides on the plan. She encouraged ITAC members to participate in upcoming Caltrans' webinars on the plan.

13. The meeting adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

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