



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

MINUTES

Thursday, March 27, 2014, 1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Heather Adamson, AMBAG
Taylor Bateman, Scotts Valley Planning
Teresa Buika, UCSC
Russell Chen, County Public Works and Planning Proxy
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Santa Cruz METRO
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans District 5
Chris Schneiter, Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy
Majid Yamin, Scotts Valley Public Works
Brad Sadek, CHP (Ex-Officio Member)

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Cory Caletti
Ginger Dykaar
Rachel Moriconi
Karena Pushnik

OTHERS PRESENT

Sasha Tepedelenova, AMBAG
William Menchine, RTC Bike Committee D3 Alternate
Leo Jed, RTC Bike Committee CTSC
John Olejnik, Caltrans District 5 (by phone)
Ron Marquez, City of Santa Cruz consultant

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1. Call to Order –Chair Chris Schneiter called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
 2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
 3. Oral communications –Rachel Moriconi reminded project sponsors to email their Active Transportation Program (ATP) applications to staff if they would like RTC's Bicycle Committee or Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) to consider providing support letters.
 4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas – Handouts distributed for Item 12

CONSENT AGENDA: *Fontes moved and Yamin seconded approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed with Bateman, Chen, Fontes, Friedrich, McClendon, Adamson, Schneiter, and Yamin voting "yes". Buika abstained.*

5. Approved minutes of the February 20, 2014 ITAC meeting
6. Received Active Transportation Program (ATP) Call for Projects notice
7. Received information on the adopted 2014 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Scotts Valley: Majid Yamin reported that the STIP-funded Vine Hill School sidewalk and bicycle lane project will be ready for construction this summer.

Caltrans: Kelly McClendon reported that he is filling in for Mark McCumsey as District 5's liaison for Santa Cruz County. He reported on recent slide repairs, the Caltrans state of pavement report, and announced that the draft Freight Mobility Plan is online, with comments due April 3.

County: Russell Chen reported that the County has awarded a contract for the Valencia School Road storm damage repair project; the emergency culvert on Soquel Drive near Aptos Creek bridge is complete; and the County will be advertising the Cabrillo/Soquel pedestrian overcrossing project in April.

METRO: Erich Friedrich reported that the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) is scheduled for adoption in late April, with modifications being made in response to comments received. A second round of public input is being sought on the Pacific Station redesign and METRO is also looking at design options for Capitola and Watsonville transit centers.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that Watsonville opened bids for the roundabout at Cliff/Pennsylvania. City Council appreciated the presentation on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP).

AMBAG: Heather Adamson announced that the comment period for the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) ends on April 8.

Santa Cruz: Chris Schneiter reported that the Soquel-Park Way intersection project is nearly complete; construction of the Arana Gulch path continues. The City is looking at long term fixes to address a cave/sink hole on West Cliff Drive. Several projects will be going to bid this spring.

9. Transportation Planning and Programming Process Overview

Rachel Moriconi and Sasha Tepedelenova (AMBAG) provided an overview of the planning and programming process. Projects seeking certain state and federal funds must be included in regional plans and programming documents.

10. Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan

Ginger Dykaar provided an overview of the Draft 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). She highlighted to what level the plan makes progress towards and meets targets set forth for the RTP. She requested that ITAC members review the draft document, especially financial estimates for local revenues, the project list, project maps and technical appendices.

11. Passenger Rail Study Scope

Karena Pushnik reported that the RTC secured a Caltrans transit planning grant to analyze

passenger rail options for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. ITAC members provided input on the project scope, including sharing ideas on public outreach, possible station stops, integration with buses, safety, and road crossings.

12. Process for Advisory Committee and Complete Streets review of projects

Rachel Moriconi requested that the ITAC discuss what process would work well to ensure complete streets components (bicycle, pedestrian, and transit needs) are incorporated into the final design of projects. ITAC discussed existing opportunities to provide input on projects and suggested meeting up to once a year with RTC committees to review upcoming projects. Members indicated the need to receive input on projects early on in the design process, but that if projects receive insufficient funds, the scope may need to be scaled back. Will Menchine (Bike Committee) expressed concern that there are very few opportunities to provide input on project design. He urged project sponsors to consider how projects could be improved for bikes and pedestrians. Members emphasized they have limited staff and that local agencies' Capital Improvement Programs and annual budget process provide an overview of upcoming projects and opportunity for public input on projects.

13. SB 743: CEQA Alternative Traffic Analysis

Ron Marquez and Chris Schneider provided an overview of State law (SB743) which requires the Governor's Office of Planning & Research (OPR) to develop alternative traffic thresholds to measure how transportation impacts are analyzed under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Ron Marquez highlighted concerns with the proposed changes, noting that some may be hard to implement. Committee members noted challenges measuring vehicle miles traveled on a project-by-project basis, especially given limited origin and destination data and limited modeling capabilities for transit, bikes, and pedestrians. The ITAC decided not to submit formal comments, but to discuss the draft guidelines once they are available.

14. The meeting adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

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