



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

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**DRAFT MINUTES**

Thursday, January 15, 2015, 1:30 p.m.  
SCCRTC Conference Room  
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

**ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Heather Adamson, AMBAG  
Taylor Bateman, Scotts Valley Planning  
Russell Chen, County Planning Proxy  
Mark Dettle, Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy  
Claire Fliesler, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)  
Erich Friedrich, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)  
Murray Fontes, Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy  
Scott Hamby, Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning  
Steve Wiesner, County Public Works

**STAFF PRESENT**

Grace Blakeslee  
Cory Caletti  
Rachel Moriconi  
Karen Pushnik

**OTHERS PRESENT**

Katie Beach, Caltrans District 5  
Jennifer Wilson, Caltrans District 5  
Theresa Rogerson, CTSC  
Eliza Yu, AMBAG

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- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Wiesner called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.
  - 2. Introductions:** Self introductions were made.
  - 3. Oral Communications:** None.
  - 4. Additions/Changes to consent and regular agenda:** Caltrans Monthly Construction Report distributed for Item 6.

**CONSENT AGENDA:** *Fontes moved and Chen seconded approval of the consent agenda. The motion passed unanimously with Adamson, Chen, Dettle, Fontes, Fliesler, Friedrich, and Wiesner voting "yes".*

5. Approved minutes of the November 20, 2014 ITAC meeting.

**REGULAR AGENDA**

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

County of Santa Cruz: Russell Chen reported that several storm damage repair projects have been completed, including on Branciforte Drive. Work continues on the Nelson Road bypass and North Rodeo Gulch retaining wall. Steve Wiesner reported that the roundabout in Rio Del Mar is 85% complete. The Twin Lakes multimodal project will start construction in the spring. El Rancho Road storm damage repairs are scheduled for construction this summer.

SCMTD: Claire Fliesler reported that planning for the joint City of Santa Cruz-METRO Pacific Station project continues, and there will be a charrette on the project in mid-February. Erich Friedrich reported that bus stop projects will be led by the METRO planning staff. METRO is developing standards for bus stops and will bring the draft standards to ITAC for input.

AMBAG: Eliza Yu reported that AMBAG is soliciting proposals for its rural transit initiative related to Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) implementation and integration into General Plans.

RTC: RTC staff reported that construction continues on the La Selva railroad bridge. The passenger rail study consultants are working on ridership, cost and revenue estimates. RTC is preparing an application for the Federal Lands Access Program to fund a portion of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) which would link Wilder Ranch State Park to Coast Dairies.

Caltrans: Jennifer Wilson reported that Caltrans is almost done upgrading guardrails on Highway 1 from Aptos to Highway 9. The shoulder widening on Highway 17 at Laurel Curve construction continues. Caltrans will be repaving Highway 1 north of Western Drive and installing rumble strips from Shaffer Road to Swanton Road this spring. Modifications at the railroad crossing at Highway 129 are moving forward. In response to questions from ITAC members, staff will ask Caltrans to provide updates on the proposed wildlife corridor under Highway 17 and the Highway 152 maintenance project at a future meeting.

Scotts Valley: Scott Hamby reported that the Shugart Park Safe Routes to Schools access pathway and Vine Hill School Road/Tabor Drive sidewalks and bike lanes project are nearly complete.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the City of Watsonville is in the process of hiring an environmental services consultant for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST).

City of Santa Cruz: Claire Fliesler reported that she will be leaving METRO to work for the City of Santa Cruz. Mark Dettle reported that the City of Santa Cruz hosted an Arana Gulch pathway grand opening. The slip out repair on Chestnut Street, Laurel Street pavement rehabilitation, and West Lake Safe Routes to Schools projects are almost done. Construction continues on the roundabout at the wharf and the pathway to the San Lorenzo Trestle bridge. Proposals for environmental and design work on Segment 7 of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (Santa Cruz Wharf to Natural Bridges Drive) are due February 2. City staff is also working on Ocean Street and Murray Street Bridge projects.

**7. Received Update on the Highway 9 Pollution Source Control Project**

Katie Beach, Caltrans District 5, provided an overview of the Highway 9 project aimed at reducing sediment from erosion and slides. Highway 9 will be closed for approximately 5 months south of Felton to Paradise Park north of Santa Cruz. There will be one-way traffic control at three other locations in Boulder Creek and Brookdale. She provided an overview of outreach efforts and detour plans and requested that agencies share information on the project with their constituents. Scott Hamby encouraged Caltrans to coordinate closures with the San Lorenzo Valley water project. County Public Works staff recommended contacting the encroachment offices for information on any other potential construction projects planned in the area.

**8. Reviewed draft “Recommended Guidelines to Protect the Safety of Bicyclists and Pedestrians During Road Construction, Maintenance or Encroachment”**

Theresa Rogerson from the County of Santa Cruz solicited input on the Community Traffic Safety Coalition’s draft guidelines for protecting bicycles and pedestrians during construction and maintenance projects. She noted that the update includes input from the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC), the E&D TAC Pedestrian Safety Workgroup, and the Bicycle Committee. She requested that agencies provide the final guidance to their staff and contractors. Members suggested looking at options for installing advance warning signs that do not block sidewalks or bikeways; providing good examples of ways to minimize hazards; and including information as part of the traffic control plan/encroachment process. It was noted that Caltrans is developing videos to train contractors.

**9. Received update on the Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan**

Eliza Yu, AMBAG, provided an overview of the Monterey Bay Area Public Participation Plan which guides the public participation process for regional planning and programming actions. Karena Pushnik shared a list of public outreach efforts used by the RTC to maximize public engagement. She noted that the RTC is seeking a grant to develop more visualization tools to describe projects to the public. Attendees discussed successful public outreach methods including: workshops, blogs, videos, providing information at other events – such as First Friday, farmers markets, block parties, and parades, utilizing pictures to draw people to displays, surveys with graphic, and working with existing organizations to provide information to community groups.

**10. Discussed the Unified Corridors Plan**

Grace Blakeslee provided an overview of the Unified Corridors modeling effort, which includes development of a Santa Cruz County-specific travel model. She requested input on what information would be most useful from the model. Members indicated that the list included in the packet was comprehensive. Mark Dettle asked that the model also provide information required in grant applications.

## **11. Received Legislative Update**

Rachel Moriconi requested input on the RTC's draft 2015 State Legislative Priorities and provided a summary of the Governor's budget proposal. Committee members suggested coordinating with local jurisdictions' elected officials when they meet with federal and state representatives. Members discussed proceeds from the Cap and Trade Program and that indexing the gas tax is critical given that dropping gas prices will significantly reduce revenues available to maintain and operate local roads.

## **12. Transportation Funding Opportunities**

Rachel Moriconi summarized updates proposed by the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for the Active Transportation Program (ATP). Staff agreed to set up a meeting in February with project sponsors to discuss opportunities to partner on applications and data collection.

Heather Adamson, AMBAG, provided an overview of the Cap and Trade-funded Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities Program (AHSC). She noted that project readiness and reducing single-occupancy vehicle use are key criteria for ranking projects. Concept applications are due in February and the Strategic Growth Council will be hosting technical assistance workshops in early February.

## **13. Adjournment:** The meeting adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

*Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi*