



JOINT MEETING OF  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS SYSTEMS (TOS) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
AND  
SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE

**DRAFT MINUTES**  
Wednesday, September 10, 2014  
10:00am-12:00pm

**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz**

**TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Task Force Meeting Participants**

Captain Les Bishop, San Jose CHP  
Lt Brian Hawkins, Santa Cruz CHP  
Marshall Ballard, VTA  
Officer D.J.Sarabia, San Jose CHP  
Arthur De La Cerda, Caltrans D4 Maintenance  
Pedro Alcazar, Caltrans D4 Maintenance  
Bertha Roman, Caltrans D5  
Russell Ellingworth, Caltrans D5 Maintenance  
Christopher Cook, Caltrans D5  
Jarrett Winter, Santa Clara County Fire Department  
Ramin Bolourchian, Caltrans D4 TMC  
Mitchell Nelson, representing Supervisor Ken Yeager, Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors  
Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors  
Kelly McClendon, Caltrans D5, Planning  
Brandy Rider, Caltrans D5, Planning  
Earl Sherman, Caltrans D4  
Officer Brad Sadek, Santa Cruz CHP  
John Leopold, Santa Cruz County District Supervisor  
Bernard Walik, Caltrans D4  
Devin Porr, Caltrans D5  
Nick Saleh, Caltrans D4  
Jacques Van Zeventer, Caltrans D5 (teleconference)  
Colin Jones, Caltrans D5 (teleconference)  
Kim Schultz, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
Amy Naranjo, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
Luis Mendez, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
Ginger Dykaar, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission



1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – none.
3. **Reviewed and Accepted Minutes of the March 12, 2014 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting**
4. **Received Information Items**

Amy Naranjo presented the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Program Update. Ladd's Towing is the tow operator for FSP for Hwy 1 and 17 from September 2013 through July 2017. Matching funds for FSP service on Highway 1 and 17 for FY 13/14 have been secured from RSTP funds. During FY 13/14, there were 1,944 hours of FSP service with 792 assists on Highway 17 and on Highway 1, there were 1,746 hours of FSP service with 721 assists.

Amy Naranjo presented the 511 update. RTC staff is developing a 511 website "Cruz 511" to provide traffic condition and multimodal transportation information that is tailored to Santa Cruz County residents and visitors. The website will include traffic condition information using Caltrans QuickMap as well as multimodal, rideshare and emergency information. Quickmap provides information on planned construction projects one week ahead of time.

Ginger Dykaar presented information on the 2013 Safe on 17 Annual Report. The 2013 Safe on 17 Annual Report reviews the work done by the CHP, Caltrans, RTC and other stakeholders to continue to improve safety on Highway 17. The total number of collisions in 2013 tied with 2009 for the lowest on record since 1996. Copies of the report are available on the RTC website ([www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org)).

Articles/Public Feedback – The majority of articles of significance to Hwy 17 in the news were about the big-rig collision near Lexington reservoir on July 10, 2014. In the articles, members of the public expressed concern about the continued use of Hwy 17 for trucks especially during commute hours. Caltrans response to this concern has been that there are no other alternative routes for trucks to travel between SC and the South Bay.

5. **Received Update on California Highway Patrol Safe on 17 Program Statistics and Public Information Efforts**

Captain Bishop with San Jose CHP stated that San Jose CHP will work on distributing the hours for extra enforcement throughout the year. June was a banner month with 984 citations. Officer Sadek of Santa Cruz CHP stated that collision stats and citations for 2014 are on par with previous years.



CHP San Jose and CHP Santa Cruz incorporate the message of safety on highway 17 in all of their public affairs activities, whether it is recruiting booths or information tables, senior or teen driver training classes.

Ginger Dykaar discussed the extra enforcement hours. Santa Cruz CHP extra enforcement hours are distributed fairly evenly throughout the months of the year. San Jose CHP extra enforcement hours were concentrated in the spring of this year with about 2/3 of the total hours for the year during the month of June. She emphasized the importance for having a thought out plan for how best to use these extra resources for minimizing the number of collisions on highway 17.

## **6. Received Major Incident Review**

San Jose CHP Captain Bishop reviewed the big-rig incident on Hwy 17 near Lexington Reservoir. He complemented his lieutenant and Caltrans for working together to set up a contraflow so that at least one lane of traffic was available in each direction during this incident.

## **7. Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update**

Bertha Roman from CT D5 presented the Laurel Curve Shoulder Widening Update –The shoulder in the NB direction, north of the intersection with Laurel Rd will be widened and a retaining wall constructed in order to increase site distance and to allow more time for steering correction around this curve. The radius of the curve will stay the same. The majority of the work will occur during the day but there will not be any lane closures during the daytime. Work should be completed within one year.

Brandy Rider and Kelly McClendon presented the Access Management Study that has begun for the Hwy 17 corridor from the City of Scotts Valley to Summit Rd. The plan will identify issues related to access, mobility and safety, develop potential improvements and assess feasibility of implementation. An executive steering committee as well as a technical advisory committee will be formed to provide input throughout the development of the plan. The plan will be developed over an 18 month to two year period. The end result of the plan will be a number of alternative packages at various different scales that address access, mobility and safety of the Hwy 17 corridor. Caltrans D4 may be interested in being included on this effort as well as VTA.

Commissioner John Leopold asked to make sure that the public was involved at the early stages of the project as well as the middle and end and Ms. Rider assured him that would be the case.

Summit Slide Repair - Construction has been completed and the project will be finalized once plants have been established.

## **8. Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update**



Nick Saleh, Principal Engineer from D4, presented the project update for Santa Clara County side of Hwy 17. There are no major active projects currently for Hwy 17 on the Santa Clara County side. Nick mentioned that good alternate routes to Hwy 17 are not available, as was evident during the big-rig collision on July 10, 2014. There will be highway safety improvement projects on Hwy 9 and Hwy 152 in order to address the safety issues on these alternate routes. Hwy 17 may be affected as traffic is diverted from Hwy 9 and 152.

Caltrans staff stated that the Hwy 85 ramp metering project is schedule to be ready by the end of 2014 or early 2015 which may impact Hwy 17. Marshall Ballard, VTA, is actively seeking funds for additional ramp metering projects on the Santa Clara County side of Hwy 17.

Jarrett Winter from Santa Clara Fire Dept asked about plans for tree trimming on the Santa Clara county side of Hwy 17. Earl Sherman, Caltrans D4, said that maintenance crews have been addressing the trees as a way to reduce the fuel sources that are close to the highway but there are only short windows when trees can be trimmed since work needs to be done during the daytime. Contact information will be exchanged between Jarrett and Earl.

## **9. Received Traffic Operations Systems Updates**

Traffic Management Center (TMC) Update - Ramin Bolourchian stated that if anyone sees any problems with the changeable message signs (CMSs), to please contact the TMC.

Communications Update - Ginger Dykaar stated that she worked with Nicole Stewart from CHP dispatch to evaluate the response times for the CMSs relative to the start of the incidents. For all of these incidents, the CMSs were turned on within 30 minutes of the initial call received from the CHP communicating that there was an incident. There was one incident on Hwy 17 NB where the CMS on Hwy 1 near 41<sup>st</sup> Ave did not turn on likely due to it not being operational.

Equipment Update- Jacques Van Zeventer stated that Caltrans D5 has a project to install closed circuit television cameras (CCTVs) on Hwy 1 between Soquel/Morrissey and Freedom. Not all cameras will appear on Caltrans main website as a live traffic feed due to bandwidth constraints, but they all will be available on the Caltrans Quickmap as images that are refreshed every 2 minutes. Eight cameras are scheduled to be on Quickmap by early 2015. A smaller subset of live streaming videos from the CCTVs may not be available until later in 2015. Funding to maintain the TOS equipment is extremely limited. Jacques will investigate whether Motor Vehicle Detection Systems (MVDSs) are operational between Freedom Blvd and Watsonville.

QuickMap Update - Jacques Van Zeventer discussed Caltrans "QuickMap." Caltrans Quickmap is a traffic map page that contains real-time traffic speed data, lane closures,



CHP incidents, CCTV images and CMS sign messages. He also reported that there is a link available with planned lane closures for motorist who live in an area or commute through an area where construction will take place. He suggests that truckers use this data so that they know what road closures may occur in the future.

**10. Received Additional Items**

Ginger Dykaar stated that the current contract with CHP for extra enforcement goes through June 2015. RTC staff will be discussing with MTC and the RTC a possible three-year extension to the contract.

**11. Approved Next Meeting Date**

Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 11, 2014 10:00 to 12:00 at San Jose CHP, 2020 Junction Ave, San Jose, CA 95131.

Respectively submitted by

  
Ginger Dykaar