



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 22, 2013
1:30 p.m.
SCCRTC Conference Room
1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA

ITAC MEMBERS PRESENT

Anais Schenk, AMBAG
Taylor Bateman, City of Scotts Valley Planning and Public Works Proxy
Chris Schneider, City of Santa Cruz Public Works and Planning Proxy
Murray Fontes, City of Watsonville Public Works and Planning Proxy
Erich Friedrich, Santa Cruz METRO

STAFF PRESENT

Grace Blakeslee
Rachel Moriconi

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark McCumsey, Caltrans District 5 (via phone)
Donn Miyahara, Caltrans District 5 (via phone)
Garin Schneider, Caltrans District 5 (via phone)
Reed Searle, City of Santa Cruz TPWC

-
1. Call to Order –Chair Chris Schneider called the meeting to order at 1:35pm.
 2. Introductions – Self introductions were made.
 3. Oral communications – None
 4. Additions to consent and regular agendas – Handout distributed for item 6

CONSENT AGENDA (Fontes/Schneider) approved

5. Approved minutes of the June 20, 2013 ITAC meeting

REGULAR AGENDA

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

Santa Cruz: Chris Schneider reported that the city would be opening bids for the Broadway/Brommer-Arana Gulch multiuse path on August 27, with construction scheduled to begin in October and take 14-16 months. The City plans to go out to bid for the Soquel-Park Way traffic signal project nearing completion of the Highway 1

auxiliary lanes construction. Cape seals on roadways on the lower west side of the city are underway, with work on Branciforte scheduled to start in September. Work on the Mission Street extension project is underway, with K-rail removed; striping and bollards are being installed.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the City of Watsonville is resurfacing Airport Boulevard on both sides of the highway and several slurry seal projects will begin soon. The City's Safe Routes to Schools pedestrian signal project will start this fall. Highway 152 relinquishment is still being evaluated. The City continues to work with Caltrans on Highway 1/Harkins Slough Road and Main Street/Green Valley Road area planning.

Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO): Erich Friedrich reported that construction of the operations facility continues, with a Spring 2015 completion schedule. The existing conditions section of the Short Range Transit Plan (SRTP) is finishing up, with the consultant to work on the service planning section next. METRO and the City of Santa Cruz have initiated design work on the Pacific Station project and will be soliciting input from the public on design options. METRO also has four new buses with Q-pod ADA areas, however these will be the last new buses for a while without changes to state and federal funding.

RTC: Rachel Moriconi reported that the La Fonda Bridge opening will take place on Saturday August 24. The RTC authorized award of a contract to rehabilitate several rail bridge structures on August 15. The RTC also approved the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project list on August 15. The RTC received a Caltrans Planning Grant to conduct a passenger rail study.

Caltrans: Mark McCumsey referenced the District 5 monthly construction report that was distributed at the meeting and noted that the bids have been received for the Highway 1 Guardrail Upgrade (project #7), with construction scheduled for this fall.

7. Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidelines

Grace Blakeslee reported that Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidelines have been updated to reflect comments received. She appreciated Chair Schneider for his review of the draft document on behalf of the ITAC. She highlighted changes made to the document, including text about challenges and constraints for complete streets, opportunities to add complete streets components within roadway rehabilitation projects, and economic benefits of complete streets. She noted that while examples of complete street designs are not applicable in all areas, the document is intended to identify opportunities for complete streets components. The document is scheduled for completion in September. She noted that some funding is available for training local agencies on complete streets. She highlighted the project checklist, which is meant to serve as a guide for agencies to use when developing and evaluating projects. Local jurisdictions will be asked to adopt the guidelines.

In response to questions from ITAC members, Ms. Blakeslee noted that complete

streets analysis was part of the project list development for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) and Regional Transportation Plan (RTP). The goal of complete streets is to support reduction in vehicle miles traveled. The Guidelines may be included as an appendix to the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS).

Ms. Blakeslee noted that while many jurisdictions include some complete streets components within their projects, the document provides guidance for agencies to consider adjacent land uses and appropriate complete streets components when defining project scope. Anais Schenk added that the guidelines provide tools to consider and recognize complete street benefits within projects.

Taylor Bateman noted that California Fire Codes combined with right-of-way limits can pose a challenge for implementing complete streets and suggested addressing legal challenges within the guidelines. Chris Schneider noted "green street" trainings that include complete street components might be useful to local agencies. He recommended not establishing a certification process for complete street projects.

The ITAC approved a motion (Fontes/Friedrich) recommending that the Regional Transportation Commission adopt the Monterey Bay Area Complete Streets Guidebook (*Bateman abstained*).

8. Update on 2014 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS)

Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC approved the draft project list for the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) on August 15, 2013, identifying projects that could reasonably be funded through 2035 using projected revenues (constrained) and projects which are not currently financially feasible given revenue shortfalls (unconstrained). She noted that the RTC-approved project list will be incorporated into the tri-county Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) and preferred scenario for the Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Anais Schenk reported that the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG) evaluated two hybrid scenarios for land use and transportation projects and is modeling the proposed preferred scenario now. The preferred scenario includes mixed use, economic/job growth aimed at improving job-to-housing balance in low income residential areas, and growth in "opportunity areas" within 1/2 mile of transit stops along high quality transit corridors that have headways of 15 minutes or less. AMBAG is scheduled to adopt the preferred scenario in September, and then will start environmental analysis of the MTP and RTPs for each of the counties in the Monterey Bay region.

9. Local Assistance Updates

Garin Schneider and Donn Miyahara joined the meeting by phone and provided updates

on behalf of Caltrans Local Assistance. Mr. Schneider noted that Caltrans is surveying agencies regarding expectations for Local Assistance oversight on federal-aid projects. He noted that District 5 currently has two vacancies that he does not currently have the budget to backfill, which could impact how long it takes to process local project oversight. Ms. Moriconi noted the survey is partly in response to regional agency concerns that an increased amount of funds are being taken off the top of Regional Surface Transportation Program (RSTP) apportionments to fund Caltrans' Local Assistance. **She requested that agencies complete and submit the survey via rmoriconi@sccrtc.org** and she would forward to state representatives. Chris Schneiter commented that District 5 Local Assistance does a great job, but expressed concern about Local Capital Outlay review time for projects on the state highway system.

Garin Schneider also noted that Caltrans has developed a summary sheet of common issues identified during FHWA and other audits that have resulted in some local agencies in the state losing federal funds. He urged agencies to especially note changes to Chapter 10 of the Local Assistance Procedures Manual (LAPM) related to contracts and subconsultant contract language, especially if there are contract change orders.

Mr. Schneider also noted that Buy American provisions for non-federally-funded right-of-way will not apply until December 31, 2013. Changes to Buy American requirements are expected in the future, however for most local projects the impact of the MAP-21 requirements are less significant than originally anticipated.

10. Next meeting: The next meeting of the ITAC is scheduled for September 19, 2013 at 1:30 PM at the RTC Conference Room in Santa Cruz. The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

Minutes prepared by: Rachel Moriconi

||rtcserve2\shared\ITAC\2013\Aug2013\Aug13ITACmin.doc