



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

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, August 15, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

In Person: RTC Conference Room, 1101 Pacific Ave, Ste 250, Santa Cruz

Online: Zoom

ITAC Members Present:

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Regina Valentine
California Department of Transportation	Paul Guirguis
Capitola Public Works & Planning Proxy	Kailash Mozumder
County Public Works & Planning Proxy	Steve Wiesner
Ecology Action-Transportation	Matt Miller
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District & Proxy	Derek Toups
Santa Cruz Public Works & Planning Proxy	Matt Starkey (chair)
Scotts Valley Planning	Taylor Bateman
Scotts Valley Public Works	Rodolfo Onchi
Watsonville Public Works & Planning Proxy	Murray Fontes
University of California at Santa Cruz	Georgina Arias

Alternates In-person: Oxo Slayer, UCSC

Non-voting Members Participating Remotely:

Fernanda Dias Pini, County Planning
Justin Meek, Watsonville Community Development

RTC Staff In-person: Rachel Moriconi, Sarah Christensen

RTC Staff Participating Remotely: Tommy Travers

Others Attending In-Person: Mateo Donato, Capitola Intern

Others Attending on Zoom: Lola Quiroga, Brian Peoples, Nadene Thorne

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Matt Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:30pm.
- 2. Roll Call/Introductions** were made.
- 3. Consider any AB 2449 requests by voting members to participate remotely.** None.
- 4. Additions, deletions, or other changes to consent and regular agendas.** A handout for Item 10 was posted on the ITAC meeting webpage: <https://www.sccrtc.org/meetings/inter-agency/>. The Item 9 presentation slides were posted after the meeting.
- 5. Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

The committee unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Guirguis) approving the consent agenda.

- 6. Approved Minutes of the June 20, 2024 ITAC meeting**
- 7. Received Measure D Annual Report**

REGULAR AGENDA

- 8. Status of transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents**

City of Santa Cruz: Matt Starkey reported that the city will start updating its Active Transportation Plan this Fall. A consultant has been selected to work on the Bay Corridor redesign project, which will be coordinated with the forthcoming Caltrans' maintenance project on Mission Street. The city is working on its Downtown Expansion Plan, focused on adding housing, a new sports arena, and transportation infrastructure in the area south of Laurel/Center/Pacific. The Murray St. Bridge project construction is expected to be awarded soon; any roadway closures will be coordinated with METRO and other agencies.

Scotts Valley: Taylor Bateman introduced Rodolfo Onchi, the city's new Public Works Director. Rodolfo reported on Scotts Valley Dr. feasibility study for complete street upgrades and updating signal coordination on Mount Hermon Dr.

UCSC: Georgina Arias reported that UCSC is working on a zero-emissions transition plan with the Center for Transportation and Environment.

Oxo Slayer reported that a campuswide circulation plan is beginning in the fall, which will provide plans for roundabouts, bike facilities, and other transportation infrastructure. UCSC is also working with METRO and consultants to set up a layover break area for METRO drivers in order to provide non-stop service from campus to Capitola Mall.

Capitola: Kailash Mozumder reported that the Upper Village sidewalk project construction is expected to be completed in October and reported on safety improvements at the Bay Ave/Hill intersection.

METRO: Derek Toups reported that a new CEO began a few months ago. METRO is procuring 53 hydrogen fuel buses and building a hydrogen fuel facility and is working on a facilities master plan to accommodate zero emission buses that require more space and infrastructure. He also

reported that METRO is planning to apply for a Federal Transit Administration grant for Enhancing Mobility Innovation and hopes to work with bCycle, local jurisdictions and other partners.

RTC: Sarah Christensen reported on the Highway 1/41st Ave-Soquel Dr. project which is heading into stage 2 in September. For the Highway 1 project between Bay/Porter-State Park interchanges, contractors continue work on retaining walls and columns; with the project estimated to be completed in 2025. The project team is working through utility issues for the Highway 1/Mar Vista bike and pedestrian bridge construction; construction of the Highway 1 Bay/Porter-State Park and Mar Vista project is scheduled to be complete in 2026. The RTC and Caltrans are applying for grant funding for the Highway 1 State Park to Freedom project. There will be METRO improvements countywide included with the project. In response to questions, Sarah reported that the project team would like to open the Chanticleer Bridge early but are unsure about when that would be allowed. Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC received a Caltrans grant for climate resilience planning at four locations along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and noted the Taxpayer Oversight Committee's Fiscal Year 2022/23 Measure D Annual Report, which includes information provided by project sponsors, was included on consent agenda. The RTC is also recruiting members for its Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee.

Caltrans: Paul Guirguis reported that draft guidelines for the next round of Sustainable Transportation Planning grants will be available for review soon, with the call for projects likely to go out in September and applications due approximately 8 weeks later. The biannual report on Caltrans projects will be published in September. It will include the 3-year workplan for highway projects that will be led by local agencies. Paul also highlighted the maintenance repaving project on portions of Highway 9, noting that for paving projects it is typically not possible to integrate new and additional elements to the project scope.

County of Santa Cruz: Steve Wiesner reported on construction of the Green Valley multiuse path and the Highway 152/Holohan intersection project, which is being implemented in partnership with Caltrans. The Soquel Dr. Buffered Bike Lane Project, which is part of the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor, is expected to be completed in Spring 2025. The County is integrating new controls and signal synchronization on Soquel Dr. and fiber elements in partnership with the City of Santa Cruz. He also reported on roads that were damaged by storms between 2017 and 2023; noting that FEMA is delaying payments and put a freeze on new funds, leaving 6-7 locations where the road is still completely severed and 85 more storm damage repair locations. FEMA delaying payments on storm damage projects is significantly impacting the

County's budget; the County used \$80 million in bonds for response last year.

Oxo Slayer appreciated County DPW on their assistance on encroachment permits for the Hagar Family Student Housing project at UCSC.

Watsonville: Murray Fontes reported that the signal at Freedom Blvd/Sydney is online. Green Valley Road work will be pushed out to next year. The Ohlone Pkwy repaving has also been completed. He reported Watsonville is also having issues with federal funding, with the Lee Road Trail Project delayed; FHWA is requiring a PLA, which can add a year to the process.

Committee members also shared information about challenges with the countywide bCycle bikeshare program, noting that bCycle has delayed launch in Watsonville and other areas.

Justin Meek reported on joint outreach with RTC for the rail and trail project, including at Farmers Markets. He noted challenges with the Pajaro River levee project and that the City is looking at collaborative options with the Army Corp of Engineers for the trail system. The General Plan update is moving forward, and the NOP will be released next month. City staff is actively working on a grant agreement with Federal Highway Administration for Reconnecting Communities grant funding.

AMBAG: Reginia Valentine reported that AMBAG is seeking public input on the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP); the freight study is going to board in September; and work continues on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) update.

9. Dutch Cycling Embassy 2024 Study Visit Debrief

Matt Miller, Ecology Action, and committee members who participated in the Dutch Cycling Embassy study visit in the Netherlands shared information and lessons learned. Slides from the presentation were posted on the meeting webpage.

Public comments were made by Brian Peoples.

10. 2050 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Project Lists

Tommy Travers and Rachel Moriconi requested members review regional project lists (handout) and inform staff of any additions or changes to the list, especially any planned projects on state highways.

11. Funding Program Opportunities and updates

Rachel Moriconi noted that the California Transportation Commission (CTC) is issuing a call for projects for SB1 competitive programs and that the Federal Highway Administration is soliciting applications for Reconnecting Communities and Safe Streets for All grants.

12. Next Meeting and Future Items:

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm on **September 19, 2024 at the RTC conference room, 1101 Pacific Ave, Ste 250**. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 4:05 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Anna Kalthoff and Rachel Moriconi

S:\ITAC\2024\Aug\ITAC Minutes-Aug2024.docx