



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

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**MINUTES**

Thursday, April 17, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

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

*Online: Zoom*

**ITAC Members Present:**

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Regina Valentine
California Department of Transportation	Paul Guirguis
County Public Works	Steve Wiesner
Capitola Public Works	Kailash Mozumder
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	John Urgo & Derek Toups*
Santa Cruz Public Works	Matt Starkey
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
Scotts Valley Public Works	Andrew Lee
Scotts Valley Planning Proxy	Cody Wentworth
Watsonville Public Works	Murray Fontes*
University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Georgina Arias

**Non-Voting Members online (not AB2449 or Brown Act):**

Justin Meek, Watsonville Community Development

**RTC Staff Present:** Rachel Moriconi; Grace Blakeslee, Amin AbuAmara, Amy Naranjo (online), Max Friedman

**Others Present – In person:**

Kathryn Kleinschmidt, Caltrans D5 Traffic Safety Systems  
Forrest Baker and Matt Capuzzi, Capuzzi Consulting  
Tai Bell, B-Cycle Santa Cruz

**Others Online:**

Lola Quiroga, Jim Helmer, Teresa Buika

*\*John Urgo joined the meeting at approximately 1:40pm during Item 11 and left approximately 45 minutes later. Derek Toups was online until he officially joined the meeting in person at approximately 2:00pm during Item 11 and served as the METRO representative for the remainder of the meeting. Murray Fontes left the meeting at 3:10pm and Steve Wiesner left at 3:30pm during Item 10.*

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:32pm.
- 2. Introductions** were made.

- 3. Consider any AB 2449 requests by voting members to participate remotely.** There were no AB 2449 requests by voting members to participate remotely. Members present online were attending as non-voting members.
- 4. Additions, deletions, or other changes to consent and regular agendas:** Item 8 was tabled to a future meeting and Item 11 was moved to the beginning of the regular agenda after Item 7.
- 5. Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda:** None.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

***ITAC members present unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Mozumder) approving the consent agenda with members Valentine, Guirguis, Weisner, Lee, Gallogly, Mozumder, Starkey, Fontes, Wentworth, and Arias voting "aye".***

- 6. Approved Minutes of the March 20, 2025 ITAC meeting**
- 7. Approved Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) recommendation that the RTC program \$100,000 to Community Bridges Lift Line for one DC fast charger and the balance of FY24/25 LCTOP to METRO's Hydrogen Fuel Cell Electric Bus project and to reprogram funds previously programmed to the "Fare Free Pilot" project to the hydrogen fuel cell bus project.**

## **REGULAR AGENDA**

- 8. TABLED: Review, Discuss, and Provide Updates on the Caltrans 3-Year Plan**

### **11. Transportation Funding Updates**

Max Friedman, Grace Blakeslee and Rachel Moriconi provided updates on funding opportunities, uncertainties and priorities. This included information about Measure D regional-category projects, pending grants, and financing; grant opportunities such as the federal Safe Streets for All (SS4A), federal appropriations, state Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC), Proposition 4, and RTC discretionary funds. Committee members and staff discussed potential cost increases and funding needs for trail, highway, and rail projects; local road, safety, bicycle, and pedestrian project priorities and concerns that large regional projects may reduce funding available for other capital projects;

challenges funding environmental mitigations and maintenance; and that available funding is insufficient to cover transportation needs countywide.

**Next Steps:**

- Agencies were encouraged to identify priority projects for future grant programs, including RTC discretionary grants, possibly in combination with development of their Measure D 5-year plans and Capital Improvement Programs, taking into consideration priorities identified through public outreach on other planning efforts and local, regional, state, and federal goals; including projects that will significantly improve safety and reduce crashes, improve multimodal access and mobility, advance equity, reduce emissions, maintain the existing transportation network and services.
- RTC staff will provide updates this spring on evaluation criteria, fund estimates and the schedule for the RTC's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) consolidated grants, with the call for projects anticipated summer 2025, applications due in September, and RTC approval of projects in November.
- Agencies interested in applying for [SS4A](#) funds are encouraged to submit [pre-applications, including review of Action Plans](#) by May 9 and watch webinars for the program.
- B-cycle and Bike Santa Cruz County have expressed interest in partnering on grant applications.

## **9. Organizational Structure of Caltrans Office of Transportation Planning**

Paul Guirguis provided an overview of the Caltrans District 5 Office of Transportation Planning and key staff, which includes the planning branches: System Planning, Investment Planning, Regional Planning, Complete Streets/Climate Change/Equity, and Engagement. The presentation was emailed to ITAC members and posted on the ITAC meeting webpage. He encouraged use of the new Caltrans Engagement website: <https://engage.dot.ca.gov/>.

## **10. Caltrans Engineering and Traffic Surveys and Speed Limits on State Route (SR) 9 and SR 17**

Kathy Kleinschmidt, Caltrans District 5 Traffic Safety Systems presented the results of Caltrans' recent draft Engineering and Traffic Surveys, and recommended updates to posted speed limits on Highway 9 and Highway 17. She noted that the requirements for setting speed limits on state highways are less flexible than those for local roads. She noted that there are several traffic calming measures that can be used to lower speeds, described in the [Caltrans Traffic Calming Guidelines](#). The presentation was emailed to ITAC members and posted on the ITAC meeting webpage.

Next Steps: The County and City of Santa Cruz may decide to hold public hearings on proposed speed limit changes for Highway 9 and Highway 17 within 60 days of receiving packets from Caltrans. Caltrans will consider any comments received from the County and City of Santa Cruz prior to finalizing the draft speed limit recommendations and making modifications. Kathy will share information about the [California Manual on Setting Speed Limits](#) update when it becomes available.

## **11. Moved up on agenda to after Item 7**

## **12. Status of transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents**

ITAC members provided updates on their current transportation projects.

- Capitola (Kailash Mozumder):
  - 2025 Pavement Maintenance Project – is out to bid, funded by Measure D, SB1 and general funds.
  - 41st Ave Corridor planning has started with stakeholder and public outreach to come soon.
  - Bay Ave Corridor planning will start later this summer.
  - 41st Ave Multimodal Project design work is underway with Caltrans, with a presentation planned for the April 24th City Council meeting.
  - Park Ave Traffic Calming/Rail Trail – Town Hall was held on April 2 and a special meeting is being held April 17.
- METRO (Derek Toups):
  - Metro is pursuing multiple grants to fund the acquisition of property to construct a new bus operation maintenance facility in the South County area to improve operational efficiency and support its hydrogen bus transition.
  - Work continues on design and grant applications for Watsonville Transit Center redevelopment, with construction as soon as 2027 if an AHSC grant is secured.
  - METRO received and started testing new hydrogen fuel buses.
- Scotts Valley (Andrew Lee):
  - Public outreach on the Scotts Valley Drive continues.
  - Signal timing updates are planned for Mount Hermon Road.
  - Pavement projects planned.

- Santa Cruz (Claire Gallogly and Matt Starkey):
  - Ribbon cutting for Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7, phase 2 is scheduled for May 21.
  - The City's Touch-a-Truck event is also being held on May 21 for National Public Works Week.
  - Murray Street Bridge lane closure and construction started; with signal timing being adjusted on parallel roads and other traffic management solutions being implemented.
- AMBAG (Regina Valentine)
  - AMBAG is developing a Pajaro Bridge Infrastructure Resilient Design Study (Pajaro BIRDS), which is a bridge resiliency plan for the Highway 1 bridge over the Pajaro River.
  - A workshop on the Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) was held in Watsonville.
  - [AMBAG is hiring](#) a new Director of Finance and Administration. The position is open until filled.
- RTC (Rachel Moriconi):
  - The RTC is holding stakeholders meeting on the Rural Highway Safety Plan and North Coast Transportation Demand Management projects at the end of April and in May. ITAC members are encouraged to attend.
  - RTC plans to launch its bicycle incentive program in June, including discounts for manual and electric bicycles.
  - The Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee is meeting to review audits and fund expenditures for the last fiscal year.
  - Additional public workshops on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project (ZEPRT) will be held in mid-May.
  - Auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 between 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue and Soquel Drive are open.
  - The RTC is holding a public hearing on transit unmet needs at its May 1 meeting.

### 13. Chair and Vice Chair Elections

Claire Gallogly nominated Matt Starkey and John Urgo to serve a second term as chair and vice chair. There were no other nominations. ***Members present unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Toups) electing Matt Starkey to serve as ITAC Chair and John Urgo to serve as Vice Chair through March 2026, with Arias, Gallogly, Mozumder, Lee, Wentworth, Toups, Guirguis, Valentine, and Starkey voting yes.***

#### **14. Next Meeting and Future Items:**

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm on **May 15, 2025, at the RTC conference room, 1101 Pacific Ave, Ste 250A.** ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Rachel Moriconi, Senior Transportation Planner*

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