



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

MINUTES

Thursday, January 22, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

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

Alternate Location: Caltrans District 5, Planning, San Luis Obispo

Online: Zoom

ITAC Members Present:

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Regina Valentine
California Department of Transportation	Paul Guirguis (online)
Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy	Kailash Mozumder
County Public Works	Casey Carlson
County Planning	Fernanda Dias-Pini
Ecology Action – Transportation Programs	Matt Miller
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	John Urgo
Santa Cruz Public Works	Matt Starkey
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
Scotts Valley Public Works and Planning Proxy	Andrew Lee
Watsonville Public Works	Miguel Lizzaraga
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Georgina Arias

RTC Staff Present: Marshall Ballard, Max Friedman (online), Rachel Moriconi, Jason Thompson, Janine Ramirez, Riley Gerbrandt, Amin AbuAmara

Non-Voting Alternates Present: Murray Fontes (Watsonville DPW), Oxo Slayer (UCSC)

Others Online:

Caltrans District 5 - Lillian Bennetzen, Jason Kline, Bing Yu, Zach Coldwell, Tanner Reed
Members of Public - Griffin McKenzie, Molly O'Dell, Michael Paisano, Nadene (no last name provided)
Ecology Action: Bennett Williamson
County Planning: Mark Connolly

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:31 p.m.
- 2. Introductions** were made. It was announced that Marshall Ballard will be taking over as ITAC staff lead from Rachel Moriconi.
- 3. Additions, deletions, or other changes to consent and regular agendas:** Item 8 (Work Zone Data Exchange) was moved to the start of

the regular agenda, followed by Item 7 (Project Status). A 20-minute recess was scheduled after Item 7 to celebrate Rachel Moriconi's 26 years of service.

CONSENT AGENDA

ITAC members unanimously approved a motion (Valentine/Gallogly) approving the consent agenda with members Mozumder, Carlson, Dias-Pini, Starkey, Gallogly, Lee, Lizzaraga, Meek, Guirguis, Valentine, Miller, Arias, voting "aye". Members from METRO were not yet present at the time of the vote.

- 4. Approved Minutes of the December 18, 2025 ITAC meeting**
- 5. Received January 2026 Regional Transportation Commission Meeting Highlights**
- 6. Received State Budget and Legislative Updates**

REGULAR AGENDA

- 7. Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx) and Connected Work Zones (CWZ) and Construction Coordination**

RTC Planner Marshall Ballard presented information on the FHWA Work Zone Data Specification. The WZDx initiative provides a well-defined pathway towards harmonizing work zone data across agencies and jurisdictions. It supports improved safety and operational awareness for construction crews, and both human drivers and connected vehicle driving systems by enabling consistent, third-party usable feeds of work zone activity. Adoption of the WZDx standard positions Santa Cruz County to support improving traveler information, enhance safety and mobility through better visibility of work-zone operations, and prepare for emerging vehicle technologies.

Claire Gallogly asked about staff roles and who would implement the system. Paul Guirguis sought clarification on whether this system was intended to provide more detail than what is available on Caltrans' current system, QuickMaps and he asked if the system is specific to real-time closures and asked for clarity on the level of detail required. Kailash Mozumder asked if the data should apply to all road classifications or just major roadways and closures that could significantly impact traffic. Several ITAC members expressed concerns about additional workload and frequently changing construction and dynamic lane closure schedules. Casey Carlson spoke about the Santa Cruz County's current practices and

expressed concerns about setting up a new platform. Regina Valentine commented on the benefits of using the same system as Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC). Jason Kline discussed practices from other regions and explained the benefits of specifications requiring contractors to report planned closures. Several ITAC members discussed coordination with navigation applications and utilizing news releases and social media posts to share information with the public. Claire Gallogly recommended contacting MTC about joining their network. Kailash Mozumder recommended the data should be filtered by functional classification (arterial/collectors). Matt Starkey suggested possibly setting up a call center where contractors call in closures. Members also suggested coordinating with GIS and public information staff at each agency, as well as water, sanitation, utilities, the Office of Response, Recovery & Resilience (OR3), and others.

Marshall Ballard will reach out to MTC, provide additional information and responses to questions raised at a future meeting.

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

ITAC members provided brief updates on transportation projects and planning in development, including grant applications and upcoming public outreach efforts.

- City of Santa Cruz: Claire Gallogly and Matt Starkey reported that one lane on the Murray Street bridge will be temporarily reopened to traffic. Claire announced the completion of several traffic calming pilot projects, an open house on the Active Transportation Plan at Gault Elementary school on Wednesday 1/28 from 5-7 pm, and design work on the rail trail.
- Scotts Valley: Andrew Lee reported the Scotts Valley Drive and Mount Hermon Road Complete Streets projects are in design and will be going to bid this spring for construction this summer.
- Capitola: Kailash Mozumder noted the Local Roads Safety plan is almost complete, the Active Transportation Plan is starting, construction of the 41st Avenue Multimodal project is planned for Summer 2026, the 41st Avenue Corridor Visioning project received public feedback, and the Bay Avenue Corridor project design will be reinitiated.
- SCMTD: John Urgo reported minor delays to awarding the design contract for the Rapid Corridor project in order to meet California

Transportation Commission (CTC) funding requirements. John also gave an update on the temporary hydrogen fueling process for METRO's buses. METRO, in partnership with the Watsonville and Midpeninsula Housing received an AHSC grant for the Watsonville Transit Center/housing project, that also includes funding for bus route 2.

- Ecology Action: Bennett Williamson reported that Ecology Action is working with the cities of Santa Cruz and Capitola on Active Transportation Plans. Bennett also reported that the Watsonville Vision Zero Corridor Plan is almost ready for public review. Bennett noted the countywide Safe Steets For All public comment period was extended to January 23, 2026. Matt Miller provided updates on the CARB Grant (Adelante Watsonville) that includes an Earn an E-Bike program, and the Complete Streets Collaborative.
- County of Santa Cruz: Fernanda Dias-Pini reported the Pro-Housing designation application was submitted. Casey Carlson provided updates on storm damage and prioritization of the bridge program due to funding deadlines. He also provided updates on road operations projects, including the Green Valley Path ribbon cutting. Soquel Avenue/San Jose Road paving project will start Summer 2026 along with Trout Gulch Road and several local roads in San Lorenzo Valley. Casey reiterated that Jeff de los Santos is now leading the traffic section for public works. Casey reported the Soquel Multimodal project first phase is almost complete and the second phase is starting design.
- Watsonville: Murray Fontes provided updates on the ATP Cycle 6 Safe Routes for Downtown Watsonville project design; preliminary design for Main Street/Freedom Blvd. intersection which includes a roundabout. The Highway 1/Harkin Slough Road pedestrian bridge will go out to bid later in the year. Miguel Lizzaraga reported several paving projects were completed as part of the 2025 Pavement Rehabilitation project. The next phase will include Freedom Boulevard and Green Valley Road. Justin Meek reported AHSC grant was awarded, and the city is working on a new ATP grant application to implement the road diet concept and sections of the rail trail along Rodriguez and Beach Streets. City staff will be meeting the County Administrative Officer (CAO) and Supervisor Hernandez to collaborate on complete streets projects, including trails to the beach. Rachel Moriconi suggested County planning or public works staff participate in the meeting.

- UCSC: Georgina Arias reported UCSC is applying for the BUILD grant. Oxo slayer announced USCS initiated a public EV charging study. UCSC is analyzing a fleet Electric Vehicle (EV) charging plan and is installing EV chargers at the Silicon Valley campus. Oxo reported fleet chargers are planned to be installed on the norther campus. He reported UCSC is applying for a grant to install fast chargers at the campus entrance and announced the UCSC planning team is working on a network master plan, including coordination with METRO.
- AMBAG: Regina Valentine reported the 2050 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS) and draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) are out for public comment. Public comments are due January 30, 2026. Regina also announced a public hearing on January 27, 2026.
- RTC: Rachel Moriconi reminded ITAC members to review the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) project list and financial estimates. Rachel reported the RTC will support coordination meetings concerning the SB1-funded Soquel Drive and Rapid Corridors projects County and METRO and encouraged coordination with Watsonville staff regarding projects on Freedom Boulevard.
- Caltrans: Paul Guirguis reported the Equity and Engagement team will perform outreach on the draft Caltrans engagement playbook. He also announced the Complete Streets Climate Change and Equity Branch has been directed to set up a complete streets Advisory Committee and requested ITAC members identify potential contacts and complete the Caltrans SB960 survey.

Recess 2:42 – 3:10pm

9. Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project (ZEPRT) Updates

RTC Engineer Riley Gerbrandt presented an update on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project's Final Concept Report and next steps.

Riley Gerbrandt responded to questions from ITAC members regarding project cost estimates and peer review; next steps for design plans; areas identified in the Climate Adaptation Resilience project; environmental clearance and how it would relate to splitting the project; and asked about the NEPA and CEQA timing in relation to the Progressive Rail ACL

agreement termination.

10. Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) Coastal Rail Trail Southern Segments Project Update

RTC Engineer Riley Gerbrandt and Janine Ramirez reported that the RTC issued a Request for Proposals (RFP 2603) for the MBSST Coastal Rail Trail Southern Segments Project Approval/Environmental Document (PA/ED), with proposals due January 27, 2026. They requested ITAC members provide input on interagency coordination needs and inform Riley if they would like to participate in the Project Development Team that will assist and advise project delivery.

Paul Guirguis asked for clarification on the timeline related to the climate resiliency grants. Matt Starkey suggested that costs and value engineering be a significant consideration during the preliminary design.

11. Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda:

Email correspondence: The local Personal Rapid Transit Advocacy group provided information about their website and encouraged anyone who would like to contribute to PRT plans for Santa Cruz County to visit <https://santacruzprt.org>.

12. Next Meeting and Future Items:

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30 p.m. on **February 19, 2026**. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee. Future agenda items:

- Construction Mitigation (Bike Committee)
- WZDx information from San Francisco Bay Area Metropolitan Transportation Commission
- Chair/Vice Chair Elections (March)
- Planning for Climate Resilience of the Rail Corridor (April)

The meeting adjourned at 3:43 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jason Thomson, Transportation Planning Tech

<https://rtcsc.sharepoint.com/sites/Planning/Shared Documents/ITAC/2026/Jan/ITAC Minutes-Jan2026-draft.docx>