



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

MINUTES

Thursday, March 19, 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
County of Santa Cruz Public Works	Steve Wiesner
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	John Urgo
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	Derek Toups
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
City of Watsonville Public Works	Miguel Lizzaraga
City of Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Oxo Slayer

RTC Staff Present: Marshall Ballard, Jason Thompson, Jaeden Gales, Joel LaCagnina, Max Friedman, Jacob Klein

Others Present – In person: Jeff Wooton (Santa Cruz METRO) Georgina Arias (UCSC)

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

Fernanda Dias-Pini (Santa Cruz County-Planning), Casey Carlson (Santa Cruz County-Public Works)

Others Online:

AMBAG – Will Condon, Heather Adamson,
Members of Public – Michael Paisano, Jim Helmer

1. **Call to Order:** Vice Chair Urgo called the meeting to order at 1:36 p.m.
2. **Introductions** were made.
3. **Additions, deletions, or other changes to consent and regular agendas:**

CONSENT AGENDA

ITAC members unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Meek) *approving the consent agenda with members Valentine, Guirguis, Wiesner, Toups, Urgo, Gallogly, Lizzaraga, Meek, Slayer voting “aye”*.

4. **Approve Minutes of the February 19, 2026 ITAC meeting**
5. **Receive Highlights from the February 2026 Regional Transportation Commission Meeting**

REGULAR AGENDA

6. **Receive information about Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program for FFY 2027 to FFY 2030**

AMBAG Planner, Will Condon presented the Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program (MTIP) for FFY 2026-27 to FFY 2029-30. Will explained what the MTIP is and why it is a requirement of Metropolitan Planning Organizations. He described the process of updating the MTIP, how the plan relates to other transportation plans, the types of transportation projects included, and presented the schedule.

7. **Receive updated information about the Work Zone Data Specification**

RTC Staff members Jason Thompson and Marshall Ballard presented information from the meeting between RTC and Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) staff. Jason described the questions and answers document included with the staff report and discussed key takeaways from the meeting. Marshall noted the benefits and limitations of coordinating with navigation applications such as Google and Waze and described how existing GIS systems can use the WZDx feed. Marshall mentioned utility companies and contractors are not currently using MTC's system but noted there is an option to include them.

Steve Wiesner asked for clarification on the approval required for MTC to include Santa Cruz County in their system. Derek Toups explained the challenges associated with MTC adding jurisdictions outside its areas and recommended contacting San Diego County. Miguel Lizzaraga suggested RTC request a demo from MTC.

8. **Receive information and discuss about the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Data Science Program**

RTC Planner, Marshall Ballard presented the RTC's Data Science Program. He discussed the RTC's goal to update the processes for managing regional transportation data. He noted the existing data the RTC manages and discussed the potential to enhance data sharing throughout the county. He highlighted potential Big Data resources and announced he will set up workshops with Streetlight and Miovision. Marshall also announced he will be sending out a survey to determine data needs from each agency.

Steve Wiesner mentioned other products that could be considered and suggested the RTC lead the data effort for the entire county. Steve made a motion to form an ad hoc committee focused on data needs and discussed the idea of all agencies contributing to a new data program. Heather Adamson clarified that Marshall's presentation is specific to Santa Cruz County's regional travel demand model. Claire Gallogly asked if the Big Data effort should be a countywide effort or a regional effort. Heather Adamson announced AMBAG submitted a Caltrans planning grant for Big Data, noted some liability challenges with using Big Data, and recommended including AMBAG's staff in the Ad Hoc data committee.

ITAC members unanimously approved a motion (Wiesner/Gallogly) to form an Ad Hoc committee to address data needs with members Valentine, Guirguis, Wiesner, Toups, Urgo, Gallogly, Lizzaraga, Meek, Slayer voting "aye".

9. **Grants, Funding and other notices updates**

RTC Planner Max Friedman presented a summary of upcoming grant opportunities highlighting the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities (AHSC) grant which is due May 4, 2026, and the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant which is due in Spring 2026. Max noted the RTC is planning to apply for the SS4A grant for the Boulder Creek Complete Streets project. Max corrected the schedule for the Environmental Enhancement and Mitigation Program (EEM) grant which will be available in 2027 instead of 2026 and announced the RTC submitted an application for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail & Trail Project (ZEPRT) environmental component to the Community Project Funding and noted the window is now closed. Max also announced the Active Transportation Plan (ATP) grant opens either March 19, 2026, or March 20, 2026 and the deadline is anticipated to be June 22, 2026.

Derek Toups noted the Transit Development Act (TDA) is not included in the summary and asked for clarification on RTC's budget for the TDA grant.

Claire Gallogly announced the City of Santa Cruz will apply for the ATP cycle 8 for a city-wide sidewalk project and the Soquel Corridor redesign. Claire also announced the City of Santa Cruz will apply for the SS4A grant for the City's Safety Action Plan, a city-wide lighting assessment, and speed reduction measures. Georgina Arias announced UCSC will be applying for ATP cycle 8 for a non-infrastructure bicycle education program. Miguel Lizzaraga announced the City of Watsonville will be submitting two applications for the ATP grant, the Main Street road diet and bike and pedestrian infrastructure on Beach Street and Rodriguez Street. Steve Wiesner announced the County of Santa Cruz will apply for the AHSC grant, the ATP grant, the SS4A grant, and asked about Caltrans Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) cycle 13 schedule, noting the County will apply for this grant as well. John Urgo announced METRO will apply for the AHSC grant and Derek Toups announced METRO will apply for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant. Marshall Ballard announced the RTC will apply for the ATP grant for e-bike and bike education and the SS4A grant for the Boulder Creek Complete Streets project. Marshall also announced the RTC recently submitted a cyber security grant. Derek Toups announced METRO is on the eligibility list for a transit security grant.

10. **Solicitation of interested parties to serve as Chair and Vice Chair of ITAC for the new term**

Claire Gallogly nominated Matt Starky to serve as chair and Justin Meek to serve as vice chair. **ITAC members unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Wiesner) to elect Matt Starky as Chair and Justin Meek as Vice Chair with members Valentine, Guirguis, Wiesner, Toups, Urgo, Gallogly, Lizzaraga, Meek, Slayer voting "aye".**

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

METRO: John Urgo announced a designer was procured for the Rapid Corridor project. Steve Wiesner commented on the importance of public outreach and several ITAC members discussed outreach strategies.

UCSC: Oxo Slayer announced an EV charging study, increased EV charging on campus, the installation of level 3 chargers for the UCSC fleet, upcoming housing projects, the widening of Coolidge Drive, and noted UCSC is halfway through a campus wide circulation of the Master Plan. Georgina Arias announced UCSC will be acquiring a new EV bus on March 23, 2026 with a second bus coming a few weeks later. Georgina also noted some issues with charging infrastructure.

Watsonville: Miguel Lizzaraga announced the Highway 1 Bridge on Harkin

Slough Road bids are closing the week of March 27, 2026, the Lee Road phase 1 will start in April 2026, the design for the Clifford Drive Traffic Calming project will be completed in April 2026 and the project is anticipated to start in summer 2026. Miguel also announced the Freedom Boulevard improvements and the Pennsylvania Drive trail are in design and anticipated to start construction in 2027. Miguel asked for a transit design standards document for bus stops and John Urgo noted METRO is applying for a Caltrans planning grant to update their standards document. Justin Meek announced a study session on Vision Zero and Complete Streets on March 24, 2026.

County: Steve Wiesner announced Soquel Drive phase 2 is in negotiation for project management services and anticipates awarding the contract in late April or early May 2026. Design is anticipated to start in summer 2026. Steve also announced the Safety Action Plan and the Local Resident Street Safety Plan is anticipated to go to the board before the end of the fiscal year. Steve provided updates on a federal bridge replacement project for the San Lorenzo Way Bridge which will go out to bid in summer 2026.

Santa Cruz: Claire Gallogly announced the Murray Street bridge is open in one direction, the Active Transportation Plan is scheduled to go to the city's board in April 2026 followed by the Safety Action Plan, the Bay/Porter project is at 60% design, and the city will continue coordination on several upcoming construction projects.

AMBAG: Regina Valentine announced public outreach for the Pajaro bridge study will begin in spring 2026 and the draft existing conditions report is under review. Regina also announced the MTP/SCS, and associated EIR are being finalized based on public comments and are anticipated to be adopted and certified in June 2026.

Caltrans: Paul Guirguis announced two temporary signals for pedestrian traffic will be installed on Highway 9 north of Boulder Creek and one temporary signal south of Boulder Creek in April or May 2026. Oxo Slayer asked if any upcoming transportation plans include a sidewalk between Ben Lomond and Felton.

RTC: Marshall Ballard announced the Rural Highway Safety plan and North Coast TDM plan are almost complete.

12. **Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda**

Jim Helmer commented about the need for a bicycle and pedestrian advisory committee along with a transit and accessibility committee in Santa Cruz County. His point of clarification was that the Bicycle Advisory Committee

(BAC) only serves bicyclists and would better serve the County by including pedestrians. He also noted the E&DTAC although does advise on pedestrian and transit needs, doesn't seem like its function from its name or guidance information.

13. **Next Meeting and Future Items:**

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm **April 16, 2026**. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee. Future agenda items:

14. Adjourn – 3:01 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jason Thomson, Transportation Planning Tech

[https://rtcsc.sharepoint.com/RTC Staff Reports/RTC2026/05/Consent/Minutes/ITAC-Minutes_Mar2026.docx](https://rtcsc.sharepoint.com/RTC%20Staff%20Reports/RTC2026/05/Consent/Minutes/ITAC-Minutes_Mar2026.docx)