



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

MINUTES

Thursday, April 16, 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 Public Works	Steve Wiesner
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	John Urgo
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	Derek Toups
Santa Cruz Public Works	Matt Starkey
Santa Cruz Planning Proxy	Claire Gallogly
Scotts Valley Public Works	Rodolfo Onchi
Watsonville Public Works	Miguel Lizarraga
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Oxo Slayer

RTC Staff Present: Marshall Ballard, Jason Thompson, Shannon Munz, Joel LaCagnina, Riley Gerbrandt, Grace Blakesly (online), Jaeden Gales (online)

Others Present – In person: Matthew Welker (Caltrans), Seth Whitey (METRO Consultant)

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

Georgina Arias (UCSC), Fernanda Dias-Pini (County Planning)

Others Online: Michael Pisano (Soquel Resident), Rebecca Downing (RTC Commissioner), Kapeel Daryani (Metropolitan Transportation Commission), Nisar Ahmed (Metropolitan Transportation Commission), Dario Moreno (Caltrans), Chris Zotovich (Caltrans).

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Starkey 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 (Guirguis/Weisner) *approving the consent agenda with members Valentine, Guirguis, Wiesner, Toups, Gallogly, Lizarraga, Meek, Starkey, Onchi and Slayer voting “aye”. (Urgo not present for vote)*

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

REGULAR AGENDA

- 6. Receive demonstration about the Workzone Data Specification (WZDx) User Interface.**

Marshall Ballard, RTC Supervising Transportation Planner announced that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) approved allowing the RTC and partner agencies to join their WZDx platform. Kapeel Daryani, MTC Mapping Data Services Manager provided a demonstration of the WZDx platform, including the map and list views, event creation, and how to designate roles for jurisdictions. Kapeel noted the system is used to share road closure data with Google and Waze.

Paul Gurguis asked how the public can view the data. Miguel Lizarraga asked about automation with existing non-compliant permitting software. Matt Starkey asked how payment for the platform is handled in MTC's region and if there are any jurisdictions similar to Santa Cruz county that are currently using the system that could help ITAC members understand the amount of work involved with data input. Miguel Lizarraga asked about the process for follow up questions. Justin Meek asked if the platform is used for emergency road closures and if the counties in MTC's region are participating.

- 7. Receive presentation on the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Equity Outreach Toolkit**

Shannon Munz, Community Outreach Specialist presented the equity outreach toolkit (Adopted 2025). In 2023, the RTC received a Caltrans planning grant to develop the toolkit that provides guidance on how to

ensure community engagement activities are inclusive and produce meaningful feedback.

Claire Gallogly asked about how the toolkit can be used in planning grants as a region. Paul Guirguis commented on the benefits of using the toolkit for Caltrans' planning grant applications, noting it's important to highlight how a project will measure outreach success. Paul also mentioned the importance of checking the grant application criteria before submitting an outreach plan. Marshall Ballard suggested the outreach toolkit be saved on the ITAC External SharePoint for local jurisdictions to review and provide input. Marshall Ballard also noted the possibility of using Microsoft Lists to facilitate receiving input from local jurisdictions. Matthew Welker asked if the RTC will request consultants use the toolkit when working on projects for the RTC.

8. Receive update on Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Update

Riley Gerbrandt, RTC Transportation Engineer presented a brief history of the ZEPRT project and a memo which summarizes trail segments (13-20) including descriptions of work and updated conceptual cost estimates. Riley also announced the project will be presented to the Elderly and Disabled Technical Advisory Committee and the Bicycle Advisory Committee in May 2026.

Claire Gallogly asked about the segments order of implementation. Paul Gurguis asked for clarification on the cost of implementation. Oxo Slayer asked for details about the cost estimating. Matt Starkey asked which segments have active freight, noting those segments should be prioritized. Paul Gurguis asked for clarification on the PAED phase for segments 13-20 and the possibility of splitting segments from the whole project. Justin Meek commented on the drainage issues associated with segments 18 and 19 and the possibility of an interim trail in south county.

9. Receive update on Rural Highway Safety Plan (RHSP) monitoring

Brianna Goodman, RTC Transportation Planner presented the implementation and monitoring plan for the RHSP and proposed ITAC serve as the monitoring body.

Claire Gallogly asked if it is appropriate for the cities to participate in the monitoring. Paul Gurguis asked if the RHSP is part of a conglomeration of other plans. Marshall Ballard noted the economic part of the plan and how it benefits the transportation network as a whole. Steve Weisner noted that

other parties should be involved in the monitoring program including law enforcement and the Santa Cruz County Health Department. Matt Starkey asked for clarification on the purpose of the monitoring agency and asked if it would be appropriate for the RTC to serve as the monitoring agency. Regina Valentine recommended including other entities in the conversation. Paul Gurguis asked for details about the implementation portion. Jim Helmer asked when the Local Roadway Safety plan will go to the Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors and if it will include the projects in the 2023 and 2025 consolidated list of approved projects.

ITAC member unanimously approved a motion (Urgo/Starkey) approving the staff recommendation. Paul Guiguis and Regina Valentine amended the motion to include public health and safety professionals and law enforcement in the monitoring body for the RHSP with members Guirguis, Valentine, Slayer, Gallogly, Lizarraga, Urgo, Onchi, Starkey, Meek, and Wiesner voting "aye".

Oxo Slayer asked if the RHSP would be brought back to ITAC annually?

10. Receive update and discuss the Transportation Data Needs Survey results and subsequent Ad-hoc Data group next steps.

Marshall Ballard, RTC Supervising Transportation Planner announced the first meeting of the ad hoc data group will be on April 20, 2026 at 11:00am and named the members from each jurisdiction that will be participating. Marshall highlighted the results from the recent data needs assessment survey.

Oxo Slayer commented that UCSC did not respond and expressed interest in submitting a survey if possible. Steve Weisner encouraged the jurisdictions to think about data needs when working on their budget. Marshall Ballard noted RTC is performing a data mining activity into current RTC data to identify relevant data.

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

County: Steve Weisner announced the county is looking at grants for implementation funding through the Safe Streets for All (SS4A) program. The County of Santa Cruz is planning to take their draft ideas and application to the board on May 19th, 2026, with the adoption of Safety Action Plan. The County of Santa Cruz is looking into future Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and Active Transportation Program (ATP) grants. The pavement management program will be starting soon which will

include the Soquel Drive and San Jose Road resurfacing project extending to Olive Springs Road and will include new striping and amenities associated with bicycles and pedestrians. The County of Santa Cruz is also planning on going out to bid for the Roberston Street and Soquel Drive Signalization Project.

Caltrans: Paul Guirguis mentioned the annual mowing operation will start early this year, the SS4A applications letters of support from Caltrans are due May 12, 2026 and introduced Matt Welker, Caltrans Engagement Specialist.

AMBAG: No updates.

UCSC: Oxo Slayer noted a conversation with Rick Hyman from the Bicycle Advisory Committee around how UCSC deals with roadway work that affects bicycle and pedestrian circulation. He mentioned a design charette for circulation of the master plan project noting the draft master plan is expected Summer 2026. Oxo announced UCSC will open the 2120 Delaware addition in May 2026 for employees and students, the Heller Drive Housing Project will go to regents in May 2026. Georgina Arias announced the ribbon cutting for UCSC's two new EV buses.

City of SC: Claire Gallogly announced the City's Active Transportation Plan is going to the City's board for adoption on April 28th, 2026, the Safety Action Plan will go to the City's Commission and Council in July and August 2026, and the ATP Cycle 8 and SS4A grants are underway. Matt Starkey announced the Murray Street Bridge full closure is scheduled for June 2026, small catch basin sidewalk curb ramp projects will take place Summer 2026, and the Front Street construction for new traffic signals into the METRO center will start in Summer or Fall 2026.

Watsonville: Miguel Lizarraga announced Vision Zero will go to City Council at the end of April 2026. The final review started for the Clifford Avenue PS&E and construction is anticipated to start late 2026, the Harkins Slough Bridge contract is going to City Council for award in late April 2026 and construction is expected to begin in May 2026, and the City of Watsonville is working on their ATP Cycle 8 applications which includes segments 18 and 19 of MBSST. Justin Meek added that the general plan has a tentative release near the end of July 2026 and the final financing for the Watsonville Metro project is expected to get tax credits in the next couple of months.

METRO: John Urgo announced the design phase for the rapid corridor project kicked off. METRO will coordinate with Cities and Santa Cruz County. METRO is 50% through design for the Watsonville Downtown Transit Center and has started scenario planning if the proposed ballot measure does not pass.

Transit ridership is expected to finish this year at the highest it has been since 2009. Claire Gallogly asked about the timeline of the ballot measure.

Scotts Valley: Rodolfo Onchi announced the Scotts Valley Drive corridor improvements and traffic signal improvements along arterials will be completed in Summer 2026 and the Safety Acton Plan will go to City Council for adoption in May 2026.

RTC: Marshall Ballard announced the baseline agreement for Segment 12 Freedom Boulevard to State Park Drive project was accepted by the California Transportation Commission and no comments are expected, the RTC is working on an ATP grant for e-bike safety, the RTP will go to the RTC Commission for adoption in June 2026, the RTC is coordinating with the City of Capitola on an ATP grant truffle, and mentioned the SS4A Boulder Creek application. Joel LaCagnina announced consultant interviews took place for MBSST Segment 12. Steve Weisner asked for clarification on how the project will be split.

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

John Urgo commented that METRO is seeking signatures for the current METRO ballot measure.

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

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm **May 21, 2026**. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee. Future agenda items:

Safe on 17 Annual report
WZDx next steps

14. Adjourn – 3:42 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jason Thomson, Transportation Planning Tech