



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

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**MINUTES**

Thursday, May 21, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

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

**ITAC Members Present:**

California Department of Transportation	Paul Guirguis
Santa Cruz County Planning	Fernanda Pini (Alt.)
Santa Cruz County Public Works	Casey Carlson (Alt.)
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	John Uργο
Santa Cruz Public Works	Matt Starkey
Santa Cruz Planning	Claire Gallogly
Scotts Valley Public Works	Cody Wentworth (Alt.)
Watsonville Public Works	Miguel Lizarraga
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC)	Georgina Arais (Alt.)

**RTC Staff Present:** Marshall Ballard, Nisha Singh, Nick Danty, Tristan Sayre, Jason Thompson, Jaeden Gales, Sarah Christensen

**Others Present – In person:**

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

Regina Valentine (Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments),

**Others Online:** Michael Pisano (Soquel Resident) Tommy Travers (RTC),  
Sierra Topp (RTC),

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:32 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/Guirguis) *approving the consent agenda with members Starkey, Valentine, Guirguis, Uργο, Carlson, Wentworth, Pini, Miller, Gallogly, Lizarraga, Meek, and Arias voting “aye”.*

4. **Approve Minutes of the April 19, 2026 ITAC meeting**
5. **Receive Highlights from the May 7, 2026 Regional Transportation Commission Meeting**

### **REGULAR AGENDA**

6. **Receive presentation about TDA Funding**

Marshall Ballard, RTC Senior Transportation Planner presented a PowerPoint on the Transportation Development Act (TDA), which outlined TDA funding rules and priorities, SCCRTC Rules and Regulations, and TDA claims for local projects. Paul Guirguis asked a question regarding TDA funds being used as a match for grant. He also asked a question regarding cost savings and whether amendments to the TDA funds are possible. John Urgo asked question regarding the increase of TDA reserve funds. Matt Starkey asked if the distributions of TDA funding is set in statute. Claire Gallogly asked if reporting on TDA funds should be more frequent.

7. **Receive presentation of the Safe on 17 Annual Report**

Max Friedman, RTC Transportation Planner, presented a PowerPoint on the Safe on 17 Annual Report. Max provided information regarding the goals history, and program strategies regarding Safe on 17. He also discussed the Freeway Service Patrol, SAFE funding, economic impacts of collisions, and the decommissioning of call boxes. Max also provided a demonstration of the Highway 17 Crash Dashboard. The full report will be brought forward at the June 2026 RTC meeting. Mark Starkey asked a question regarding the economic impact of the collisions and if it has been applied to Highway 1. Matt Miller asked a question regarding the large number of collision decreases in the first five years of the Safe on 17 program. A member of the public asked a question regarding the decommissioning of the call boxes and if the Safe on 17 Crash Dashboard is publicly available.

8. **Receive update and act on the Work Zone Data Specification for Construction Projects**

Marshall provided a verbal update on the Work Zone Data Exchange (WZDx). Staff recommend that RTC collect information from each jurisdiction regarding their permitting system to facilitate the development of a data extract, translate and load (ETL) application by a software developer. Representatives from Scotts Valley and Watsonville expressed support.

**ITAC members unanimously approved a motion (Gallogly/Lizarraga) approving the staff recommendation.**

9. **Reimagine METRO and Potential Services Cuts in FY28 Cost Saving Measures and Service Reduction Framework**

John Urgo, from METRO, presented information on the Reimagine METRO service expansion pilot and potential service reduction scenarios. Matt Miller asked if the capital projects are still useful with potential service cuts. Paul Guirguis asked a question regarding the potential ballot measure and if there will be service cuts even with approval of the measure. Paul also asked why METRO is in this financial situation despite the increased ridership. Claire Gallogly asked how people involved with housing have responded to the potential service cuts. Miguel Lizarraga asked if METRO can use public advertisement to advocate for the measure. Justin Meek agreed that potential service cuts could affect housing development. Marshall Ballard asked when did Youth Cruz Free start and if LCTOP funding goes away, can the Youth Cruz Free program continue? Claire Gallogly asked what the plan is to educate members of public on the benefits on METRO before the ballot measure in March 2028. Justin Meek asked if the average trip length is collected. Miguel Lizarraga asked if METRO has information other agencies can distribute. Marshall Ballard asked if METRO has used VMT evaluations to assist in service reduction planning.

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

**City of Santa Cruz Public Works:** Murray Street bridge set to close June 10<sup>th</sup> until just before October. The East path under the bridge is closed until October. Over the Summer, there will be curb ramp and storm drainage improvements at various intersections downtown. The Pacific Beach Roundabout project is finished. The City is working with METRO on their rapid corridor project. City is working on interim designs for Rail Trail project. They are working on Safety Action Plan. They adopted Active Transportation Plan.

**City of Watsonville:** A Caltrans project is underway in construction in Watsonville city limits on Highway 129 and 152. Lee Road phase 1 in construction. Harkins Slough bridge project will begin construction next month. ATP Cycle 8 large combination application includes segments 18 and 19 of the Rail Trail and a road diet on Main Street.

**City of Scotts Valley:** Safety Action Plan was approved by City Council this month. Scotts Valley Drive and Mount Hermon corridor improvements

complete street project will begin construction shortly. A Safe Streets for All application was submitted.

**County of Santa Cruz:** County has begun the 2026 pavement management project. Safety Action Plan approved. The County is moving forward with an Active Transportation Program application. The Guidelines are currently being updated and are taking feedback.

**Caltrans:** Caltrans is anticipated award announcements for Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program.

**METRO:** No update.

**Ecology Action:** Conducted audits at schools in Watsonville for ATP applications. Capitola ATP outreach began two weeks ago and will continue through summer.

**City of Capitola:** 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue multi-modal project and will begin construction in June or July. The 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue Corridor Plan is almost finalized. Their first Local Road Safety Plan safety plan was approved. City will apply for an Active Transportation Program Grant and Safe Streets for All grant.

**SCCRTC:** Safe Streets for All grant was submitted yesterday. Tristan Sayre and Nick Danty are new staff members of the RTC.

## 11. **Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda**

John Urgo (as a member of the public) encouraged people to sign the initiative to get METRO on the ballot for March 2028.

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

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm **June 18, 2026**. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

Future agenda items:

- Planning for Climate Resilience of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line
- Ad hoc Data Group report
- Safe on 17 established goal revision
- Hazard Report updated process and feedback

## 13. Adjourn – 4:02 p.m.

*Minutes respectfully submitted by Jaeden Gales, Transportation Planner*