



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE & SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE MEETING AGENDA

Date: Wed. April 8, 2026	Dial-In Option: (669) 900-9128
Start Time: 10:00am	Meeting ID: 850 2826 5664
Location: 1101 Pacific Ave, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA and Online via Zoom	Passcode: 094804

MEETING MINUTES

Attendees:

- Max Friedman (RTC)
- Marshall Ballard (RTC)
- Jason Thompson (RTC)
- Jacob Klein (RTC)
- Kathy Kleinschmidt (Caltrans D5)
- Eric Carver (Caltrans D5)
- Paul Guirguis (Caltrans D5)
- Heidi Crawford (Caltrans D5)
- Catalina Foster (Caltrans D5)
- Sheridan Nansen (Caltrans D4)
- Kelsey Rodriguez (Caltrans D4)
- Orlando Ramirez (Caltrans D4)
- Ruben Magallanes (Caltrans D4)
- Pete Rasmussen (Santa Cruz METRO)
- Bryce Danenhauer (CHP San Jose)
- Justin Bradford (CHP San Jose)
- Angela Galindo (CHP San Jose)
- Israel Murillo (CHP Santa Cruz)
- Brian Winterholder (Santa Clara Fire Department)
- Katelyn Costa (MTC)
- Lisette Jones (Assembly Member Gail Pellerin's Office)
- Cliff Barber (American Civil Constructors)
- Jeff Bates (Community of Redwood Estates)

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.

2. **Oral Communications** – None.



3. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – None.

4. **Information Items** – RTC staff provided a summary of major incidents on Highway 17 over the past year and an overview of current collision, economic, and enforcement trends.

Staff reported that there were 606 total collisions on Highway 17 in 2025. There were 5 fatal collisions, compared to zero fatalities in 2024. CHP Santa Cruz has issued 2,086 regular time citations and 930 overtime citations. CHP San Jose has issued 3,281 regular citations and 270 overtime citations. CHP Santa Cruz logged 930 overtime hours on Highway 17 while CHP San Jose logged 254. Staff also provided information on a comprehensive data analysis on the economic impact of collisions on Highway 17 from 2020 through 2025. The analysis estimated approximately \$1.4 billion in total collision impacts on Highway 17 over this five year period and an annual cost per mile of approximately \$10.5 million corridor-wide during this period.

Staff shared an update on the Freeway Service Patrol program and Call Box program. FSP operates two towing beats in Santa Cruz County, including one along Highway 17. On Highway 17, FSP provided 571 motorist assists in 2025. Most assists were related to flat tires, mechanical issues, and collisions. FSP operations schedules are being adjusted to match peak periods of traffic on Highway 17. Additionally, the call box program, with approximately 20 call boxes on Highway 17, is in the process of being decommissioned due to significantly reduced usage of the system.

5. **California Highway Patrol – Safe on 17 Updates** – Caltrans District 4 CHP representatives provided an overview of their goals and objectives for the Santa Clara County side of Highway 17. Officers described a few challenging areas throughout the corridor and described infrastructure improvements that could increase safety. Officers mentioned three CHP officers were injured in 2023 while assisting motorists on Highway 17 and provided details on the speed enforcement process. Additionally, CHP officers discussed truck enforcement and provided recommendations for additional speed limit signs.

Caltrans District 5 CHP representatives described several methods to increase safety on the Santa Cruz County side of Highway 17 including education, enforcement, and community outreach. CHP described several factors that contribute to crashes and described how social media can contribute to safety throughout the corridor. CHP also



described a few educational programs CHP is working on including a class called Start Smart.

Jacob Klein (RTC) asked which social media platforms CHP currently uses. CHP clarified that Instagram is the most popular platform, but they also use Facebook and Twitter.

Marshall Ballard (RTC) asked how the RTC can contribute to CHP's efforts. CHP described several ways the RTC is already contributing and described a past incident where government agencies posted on their social media platforms to inform the public about a closure. Max Friedman (RTC) asked for details on how to sign up for CHP's education programs. CHP clarified that contacting CHP directly is the best way to sign up for the programs.

6. **Update on 17 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan** – Caltrans D4 staff gave updates on recent developments for the State Route 17 Comprehensive Multimodal Corridor Plan including recent public workshops, survey results, and the overall timeline and next steps of the plan.
7. **Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Updates** – Caltrans D5 staff provided an overview of active and upcoming construction projects on Highway 17. Caltrans is investing in pavement preservation and high friction surface treatment installations, integrating safety countermeasures such as rumble strips through SB 1-funded SHOPP projects along the northbound lanes of Highway 17 at four locations. Caltrans D5 is also utilizing SHOPP funds to replace and repair drainage systems and culverts along Highway 17. Caltrans staff reported that this project has been pushed out one year with a construction period beginning in Spring 2029. Caltrans D5 staff provided an overview of all of the different traffic management systems (TMS) elements being employed along Highway 17 to improve safety and operations. This includes changeable message signs, traffic cameras, vehicle detection stations, and radar feedback curve warning signs. These TMS elements can be viewed through the Caltrans QuickMap app.
8. **Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Updates** – Caltrans D4 staff announced that they would provide updates on District 4 Highway Projects on Highway 17 via email to RTC staff and task force members.
9. **Discussion** – None.



10. Approved Next Meeting Date – The next Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, September 16, 2026, from 10 AM to 12PM. The meeting will be held in-person with remote option. Meeting details are listed on the [Safe on 17 meetings webpage](#).

Minutes respectfully submitted and prepared by: Max Friedman, Safe on 17 Program Manager