



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

MINUTES

Thursday, September 17, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

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

Online: Zoom

ITAC Members Present:

Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments	Paul Hierling
Capitola Public Works	Kailash Mozumder
Ecology Action	Matt Miller
Santa Cruz County Public Works	Fernanda Pini
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	Pete Rasmussen
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO)	John Uργο (1:39pm)
Santa Cruz Planning	Claire Gallogly
Santa Cruz Public Works	Matt Starkey
Scotts Valley Public Works	Andrew Lee
Watsonville Community Development	Justin Meek
Watsonville Public Works	Miguel Lizarraga
UCSC	Oxo Slayer

RTC Staff Present: Marshall Ballard, Nick Danty, Max Friedman, Sierra Topp, Jaeden Gales

Others Present – In person: Officer Murillo (CHP)

Non-Voting Members online (not AB2449 or Brown Act): Georgina Arias (UCSC), Derek Toups (METRO)

Others Online: Michael Pisano (resident), Adam Dankberg (Kimley-Horn), Gina Nguyen (Kimley-Horn), Tommy Travers (RTC staff), Brianna Goodman (RTC staff)

1. **Call to Order:** Chair Starkey called the meeting to order at 1:33 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/Starkey) *approving the consent agenda with members Pini, Mozumder, Lee, Lizarraga, Meek, Rasmussen, Hierling, Miller, Urgo, and Slayer voting “aye”.*

- 4. Approve Minutes of the August 20, 2026 ITAC meeting**
- 5. September 3, 2026 Regional Transportation Commission Meeting Highlights**

REGULAR AGENDA

- 6. Oral Communications on Matters Not on the Agenda**

Officer Murillo (CHP) presented a PowerPoint that is provided to schools in Santa Cruz County. The presentation highlights increase in e-bike injuries, different classes of e-bikes, e-bike laws, risks of riding e-bikes, concerns with youth and e-bikes, safety tips, and resources.

Presentation: <https://www.sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/09/E-bike-Safety-Presentation-SCZ.pptx>

Jaeden Gales (RTC staff) provided information regarding the upcoming [California Transportation Commission’s Local Streets and Roads Program Annual Project Expenditure Reporting technical training](#).

- 7. Receive presentation about a Santa Cruz Metro Bus Stop Master Plan**

METRO is seeking input from ITAC members regarding METRO’s Bus Stop Master Plan as well as their public outreach plan. The Bus Stop Master Plan will comprehensively evaluate bus stops throughout the county and identify improvements to make transit stops safer, more accessible, comfortable, and easier to use. Adam Dankberg and Gina Nguyen of Kimley-Horn presented a PowerPoint regarding the Bus Stop Master Plan on behalf of METRO.

- 8. Receive presentation about Safe on 17 and discuss revising the safety goal**

Max Friedman (RTC staff) provided a presentation that provided information regarding the SAFE on 17 program as well as crash data on Highway 17. Nick Danty (RTC staff) provided information regarding the SAFE on 17 Task Force goal revisions. Max and Nick provided a survey for ITAC members to

solicit their feedback on the goal revision.

9. **Receive presentation on the GO Santa Cruz County TDM program updates**

Sierra Topp (RTC staff) and Max Friedman (RTC staff) provided a presentation regarding the GO Santa Cruz TDM program to highlight the following; TDM overview, program overview, goals and priorities, and a regional comparison.

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

AMBAG: The Pajaro Bridge is moving forward in the design phase. The Bridge will be lengthened and widened to accommodate an upgraded levy system. Elkhorn Slough Corridor Climate Resiliency project has draft alternatives which are available now. Design is finishing on the Watsonville Transit Center project.

City of Capitola: 41st Multimodal project is almost complete. The paving project on Reposa Avenue is finished. The city is wrapping up phase 1 of Active Transportation Plan and finishing outreach at the end of the month.

City of Santa Cruz: There will be an open House for the Water Street Separated Bike Lane project on the 23rd at Branciforte Middle School. On 9/28/26 traffic to Live Oak is opening on Murray Street Bridge. In October, Safety Action Plan is going to the City Council for adoption. The city is pursuing two HSIP grants; one for pedestrian improvements at Gault Elementary and one Bicycle set-aside project to add bike lanes and connect bikeways. A lane diet for bike separated bike lanes on Soquel is being developed. Currently in final design for a complete street paving project next year. Pursuing Caltrans Plans for Soquel Avenue Complete Streets Plan.

City of Scotts Valley: Only punch list items and utility adjustments remain on the Scotts Valley Drive Complete Streets Improvement project. Granite Creek culvert project needs to finish erosion control to complete the project.

City of Watsonville: Pursuing a Caltrans Planning grant for a safety study which will evaluate truck traffic impacts on the downtown area as well as residential areas. Watsonville General Plan 2050 and the EIR are going out to public on Monday 9/21/26. There will be an open house for general plan on 10/14/26 in community room. Calles Libres will be held on November 1st at Callahan Park. Caltrans is currently working on Highway 152 on a pavement project. Lee Road Trail Phase 1 ribbon cutting next month. Lee road Trail Phase 2 still in design. Harkin-Slough project is halted due to

sewer issues below the bridge before they can continue in about 1-2 months. Clifford Avenue Road Rehabilitation is going out to bid next month. Construction will begin Spring 2027. Freedom Blvd. Road Rehab is about to go out to bid. Watsonville is below the County's average of VMT.

Ecology Action: Complete Streets Implementation Plan is being assembled for Caltrans Planning Grant with METRO. The Watsonville team is exploring a Watsonville bikeway pilot project.

METRO: METRO is working on submitting annual ridership number to the National Transit Database. METRO has their highest ridership since 2011. Tap to Cruz starts on Monday 9/21/26, which will allow contactless payment options. METRO is working through the final design on the Rapid Corridors project. METRO's campaign qualified for the 2028 ballot.

SCCRTC: RTC is applying for an HSIP application for a Crosswalk Set-Aside for SR 9. Cabrillo College is looking to have a new member join ITAC so they can participate more thoroughly. The RTC ad hoc Vision Zero group is still waiting for responses from UCSC and City of Capitola. Replica should be available for participating agencies in the first week of October. The next RTC Programming office hours will be September 24th. The RTC is pursuing three Caltrans planning grants. RTC met with CalSTA to discuss a possible Flexible SRA grant application. The CMCP project list was sent to the county and the City of Scotts Valley for their review.

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

The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm **October 15, 2026**. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

Future agenda items:

- WZDx report (Pending)
- Trails Master Plan (December)
- Legislative update (December)

12. Adjourn – 3:37 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jaeden Gales, Transportation Planner