



JOINT MEETING OF
 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS SYSTEMS (TOS) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE
 AND
 SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE

DRAFT MINUTES
 Wednesday, March 12, 2014
 10:00am-12:00pm

California Highway Patrol
2020 Junction Ave | San Jose, CA 95131

TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Task Force Meeting Participants

- Amy Naranjo, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
- Robert Rich, Metropolitan Transportation Commission (teleconference)
- Captain Les Bishop, San Jose CHP
- Officer John Darling, San Jose CHP
- Officer John Blencowe, San Jose CHP
- Officer Scot Loetscher, San Jose CHP
- Officer Kory Seely, San Jose CHP
- Lt Scott Wood, Santa Cruz CHP
- Officer Brad Sadek, Santa Cruz CHP
- Captain Ken Binder, Santa Clara County Sheriff – West Valley
- Pedro Alcazar, Caltrans D4
- Richard Blacksten, Caltrans D4
- Ramin Bolourchian, Caltrans D4 TMC
- Earl Sherman, Caltrans D4
- Russell Ellingworth, Caltrans D5 Maintenance
- Kelly McClendon, Caltrans D5
- Scott Morris, Caltrans D5 (teleconference)
- Brandy Rider, Caltrans D5
- Shayne Sandeman, Caltrans D5
- Jacques Van Zeventer, Caltrans D5
- Jennifer Wilson, Caltrans D5
- Marshall Ballard, VTA
- John Leopold, Santa Cruz County District Supervisor (teleconference)
- Jeanette MacDonald, Laurel Community

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – none.



3. Reviewed and Accepted Minutes of the March 12, 2014 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting

4. Accepted Information Items

Amy Naranjo presented the information items.

Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Program Update – Ladd’s Towing was selected as the tow operator for FSP for Hwy 1 and 17 from September 2013 through July 2017. Ladd’s Towing also held previous contracts on Hwy 1 and 17. Motorist assists average 700-800 per year on each highway, remaining fairly consistent since 2011.

San Jose CHP acknowledged their gratitude for Freeway Service Patrol, especially on Highway 17 during the summer months when automobiles frequently overheat.

Articles/Public Feedback – There were not many articles this past 6 months. Staff provided a copy of a news release from the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County regarding their purchase of 10 acres on the east side of Highway 17 at Laurel Curve for a wildlife crossing.

5. Received Update on California Highway Patrol Safe on 17 Program Statistics and Public Information Efforts

Captain Bishop with San Jose CHP provided handouts with the latest citation and collision statistics and extra enforcement hours worked on Highway 17. Due to the lack of rain throughout the winter, collisions have remained consistent with non-weather related incidents. There was one fatality in December 2013 and another in 2014. The goal is zero fatalities.

San Jose CHP reported there was a mix-up with distribution of overtime hours for extra enforcement along Highway 17 on the San Jose side. San Jose CHP is working to resolve the mix-up and plans to utilize all their allocated overtime enforcement funding, particularly during the summer months.

Officer Sadek with Santa Cruz CHP reported a slight decrease in collisions on Highway 17, largely due to lack of rain. Officer Sadek reported one fatality in Santa Cruz at Pasatiempo. Santa Cruz CHP has been using their extra enforcement funding equally throughout the year.

CHP San Jose and CHP Santa Cruz incorporate the Safe on 17 program and safety on highway 17 in general into all their public affairs activities, whether it’s recruiting booths or information tables. Safe on 17 is an integral part of their work and they promote it whenever possible. Officer Sadek shared that April 2014 kicks off their Distracted Driving Awareness campaign.



6. Received Major Incident Review

San Jose CHP Captain Bishop reviewed major incidents for the Santa Clara County side of Highway 17. There was a fatal incident just south of Lexington Reservoir near Alma Bridge where the CHP had to shut down lanes to recover the vehicle and conduct their investigation. Captain Bishop stated San Jose CHP received a number of complaints regarding the duration of the lane closures from motorists. CHP tries to minimize lane closures on Highway 17 whenever possible, but at times it is necessary to close lanes to conduct a thorough investigation for fatal incidents and/or vehicle recovery. CHP continues to work with the TMC to get Sigalerts out to motorists.

7. Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update

Laurel Curve Update – Scott Morris provided an update for Paul McClintic. Scott stated that Caltrans just finished a bid opening to widen the northbound shoulder at Laurel Curve and replacing the metal beam guardrail with concrete railing. Drainage will be improved as will the cross slope of the curve. Improvements such as these tend to reduce the severity and frequency of collisions. Also the concrete railing reduces delay to motorists and exposure to Caltrans workers while they repair metal guardrails adjacent to Laurel Road.

Scott also provided additional information about potentially upgrading vehicle detection sensors on the Santa Cruz side to give more reliable data for Caltrans Performance Measurement System (PeMS) and Quickmap.

Jennifer Wilson clarified a contract has been awarded and approved. Construction is expected to start in 2-3 months, depending on the approval process. The majority of construction will take place at night, with some day work and minimal lane closures. Jennifer also clarified that the project will push back the northbound shoulder just after Laurel Curve, smoothing out the radius of the curve. Construction is expected to last one year.

John Leopold asked for more information about public notice to residents in the area. Jennifer Wilson stated more information will become available once the contractor meets with Caltrans, however Caltrans will continue to provide updates via the Caltrans website. Jacques Van Zeventer also noted planned lane closures are viewable using Caltrans QuickMap (quickmap.dot.ca.gov) and are updated daily.

Guardrail/Drainage Projects –Jennifer Wilson provided an update for the Guardrail Drainage Project. The Guardrail Drainage Project is ongoing with 10 locations along Highway 17. She anticipates 2-3 more months of work on the project with the K-rail being picked up within the month. They are waiting for good weather to complete open grade paving. Soil work is being done in the interim.



Hwy 17 Access Management Plan – Brandy Rider provided an update for the Highway 17 Access Management Plan. Brandy stated that Caltrans will work with Santa Cruz County Supervisors and the RTC to establish a charter relationship and develop a long range access plan for the Highway 17 corridor. Public participation is a large component of the access plan, which Caltrans will look to the RTC and County for assistance. Caltrans hopes to engage residents and businesses to tailor outreach efforts and hopes to use the Safe on 17 forum as one mechanism for public outreach. Funding for the Access Management Plan is provided by Caltrans District 5 and will only cover the Santa Cruz County side of Highway 17. The Access Management Plan will include public outreach, actual planning effort, and preliminary feasibility study, and will take between 18-24 months to complete

John Leopold shared that he and Supervisor Bruce McPherson will be meeting with the CHP and/or Caltrans to talk about access plans. He also requested that no public outreach meetings take place from June through September due to limited public participation.

Maintenance Update – Russell Ellingsworth provided an update for Highway 17 Maintenance. Russell stated portions of the mountain near Waddell Creek are unstable and had a crew working on safely removing a boulder from the area.

8. Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update

Wet Pavement Project – John Thomas was unable to attend the meeting to provide update.

9. Received Traffic Operations Systems Updates

TMC Update - Ramin Bolourchian had no updates. There was positive feedback for CMS messages such as "Pull over in a minor accident". San Jose CHP Captain Bishop stated it is a good balance between getting a good message out and being a distraction.

Communications Update – Nicole Stewart was not able to attend meeting to provide an update.

TOS Equipment Update - Jacques Van Zeventer provided an update for TOS Equipment. Jacques stated there is a project coming online with additional CCTV cameras between Soquel/Morrissey area and Freedom Boulevard along Highway 1. The contract has already been awarded and construction is expected to begin in July. Not all cameras will appear on Caltrans main website as a live traffic feed due to bandwidth constraints, but will be available on the Caltrans Quickmap.



QuickMap Update - Jacques Van Zeventer discussed Caltrans "QuickMap." Caltrans Quickmap is a traffic map page that contains real-time traffic speed data, lane closures, CHP incidents, CCTV images and CMS sign messages. He also reported there is a link available with planned lane closures for motorist who live in an area or commute through an area where construction will take place.

10. Received Additional Items

11. Approved Next Meeting Date

Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 10, 2014 10:00 to 12:30 at Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectively submitted by



Amy Naranjo