



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

DRAFT MINUTES
 Wednesday, March 11, 2015
 10:00am-12:00pm

**San Jose California Highway Patrol
 2020 Junction Ave, San Jose**

TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Task Force Meeting Participants

- Lt Scot Loetscher, San Jose CHP
- Lt Brian Hawkins, Santa Cruz CHP
- Heather Adamson, AMBAG
- Jennifer Wilson, Caltrans D5
- Officer Brad Sadek, Santa Cruz CHP
- Kelly McClendon, Caltrans D5, Planning
- Brandy Rider, Caltrans D5, Planning
- Officer D.J.Sarabia, San Jose CHP
- Arthur De La Cerda, Caltrans D4 Maintenance
- Earl Sherman, Caltrans D4
- Nick Saleh, Caltrans D4
- Bruce McPherson, Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors
- Russell Ellingworth, Caltrans D5 Maintenance
- Tom Barnett, Caltrans D5
- Ramin Bolourchian, Caltrans D4 TMC
- Brian Winterhalder, Santa Clara County Fire Department
- Jarrett Winter, Santa Clara County Fire Department
- Gary Richards, San Jose Mercury News, (teleconference)
- Leslie Villegas, Office of Senator Monning, (teleconference)
- Ryan Guillen, Office of Senator Monning, (teleconference)
- Ginger Dykaar, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

1. **Introductions** – Introductions were made.
2. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** –add information item on the contract between RTC and CHP.
3. **Reviewed and Accepted Minutes of the September 10, 2014 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting**



4. SB 344 - Community Driver Safety Training Bill

Leslie Villegas and Ryan Guillen from the Office of Senator Monning discussed the bill that was introduced to require safety training for commercial drivers prior to obtaining their license. Asked if the Safe on 17 task force could write a letter of support for the bill. The members supported the bill and requested Ginger Dykaar, Safe on 17 program manager, to write a letter of support for the bill from the task force.

5. Received Information Items

Ginger Dykaar presented the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) Program Update. The Freeway Service Patrol program continues to run smoothly. Ladd's towing is currently the contractor and contract extends to July 2017. Drivers rove sections of both Hwy 17 and Hwy1. The program is funded primarily by Caltrans but RTC does match the funds by up to 50%. As part of the work of FSP, the drivers are provided a device for logging in and out of their beat as well as providing information on each assist. The devices they were using were replaced in the fall to use iPad minis. This is a very useful way to track when the drivers are on their beats and the location.

Caltrans analyzes the cost benefits of FSP services every year. The draft report has just come out and shows that the assist rate for each beat is about 1 assist every 2.4 hours. The average assist duration is 14 minutes and mechanical problems and collisions are the top reasons for assists.

Ginger Dykaar presented information on the RTC 511 traveler information service website – Cruz511 being developed by RTC. Beta testing of the website will take place in a few weeks and launch of the website will be in late April, early May of this year. The site will be designed to view on smart phones, tablets and computers and will feature: Real time traffic information, incident information, traffic cameras, multimodal info and trip planning tools, Googles transit trip planner, specialized transportation, emergency alerts and more.

Articles/Public Feedback –The first news article discusses the wildlife crossing tunnel that the Land Trust of SCC has been raising funds for. The Land Trust has been working with Caltrans on this project planned for the Laurel Curve area. There is also a news article on the Hwy 17 Access Mgmt Study.

RTC and CHP contract for extra enforcement - The current contract expires in June 2015. A new contract rather than an amendment is being developed and thus, there can be no carryover of funds from the current contract to the next. Another issue related to the contract is that the invoices have been extremely delayed. This could jeopardize our funding from MTC so if you can influence CHP HQs to get invoices to us within 60 days after each quarter, it would be greatly appreciated. With the new contract, RTC staff would like the CHP to provide a plan for extra enforcement hours for the year by July 1 of each new fiscal year.



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

Lt Scot Loetscher with San Jose CHP stated that there were two fatalities this year on the Santa Clara side of Hwy 17 and a higher number of total collisions than the last few years. There were significantly less regular citations but many more overtime citations during 2014. Emphasis of enforcement was on the primary collision factors.

Lt Brian Hawkins from Santa Cruz CHP provided a handout at that meeting that includes an analysis of the Santa Cruz CHP program with call volumes, collision analysis and public information activities. The Santa Cruz CHP has changed their overtime schedule to be during a targeted 4 hour period of time not associated with an officer's shift. The overtime is schedule for commute times (5:00am to 10:00am) or (3:00pm to 7:00pm).

Supervisor McPherson emphasized the difference between driving 50 mph versus 65 mph and added that it only takes a few minutes longer to get to a destination when driving slower.

CHP San Jose and CHP Santa Cruz incorporate the message of safety on Highway 17 in all of their public affairs activities, whether it is recruiting booths or information tables, senior or teen driver training classes.

Ginger Dykaar stated that on average there should be about 50 hours per month of extra enforcement if spread out evenly throughout the year. Please look at your funds to make sure you are using them by the end of this fiscal year.

Lt Brian Hawkins asked whether there were any evacuation plans if Hwy17 was shut down due to a natural disaster. Only informal plans are known. Brandy Rider at Caltrans will look into what Caltrans has if anything and what CT role would be in planning for an evacuation if there was a natural disaster in the area.

7. Received Major Incident Review

The task force discussed the big rig incident on Hwy 1 that went over the rail onto Hwy 17 and the UCSC protestors incident.

8. Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update

Jennifer Wilson from CT D5 presented the Laurel Curve Shoulder Widening Update – the shoulder in the NB direction, north of the intersection with Laurel Rd, will be widened and a retaining wall constructed in order to increase site distance and to allow more time for steering correction around this curve. The project will be completed in approximately 3 months, which is 4 to 5 months ahead of schedule as they were able to work during the day and have longer work windows.



Brandy Rider and Kelly McClendon presented the Access Management Study that has begun for the Hwy 17 corridor from Granite Creek Rd in the City of Scotts Valley to Summit Rd. The plan will identify issues related to access, mobility and safety, develop potential improvements and assess feasibility of implementation. Public input will be sought in 2015.

Kelly McClendon presented the draft Corridor Data Sheet for Hwy 17. Comments are welcome. This is a summary version of the Transportation Concept Report for Hwy 17 which will be updated by end of spring this year.

Supervisor McPherson would like to see a speed survey performed to assess speeds on Hwy 17 southbound into Scotts Valley area. He believes that the speed limit too quickly increases in the vicinity of Crescent Dr.

Other projects in Santa Cruz County include erosion and sediment control project on SB side of Hwy 17 near Carbonera Drive, a shoulder widening project near Glenwood Cutoff and a shoulder widening and restriping project on the fishhook where Hwy 1 NB goes around the hook and merges with Hwy 17.

9. Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update

Nick Saleh, Principal Engineer from D4, presented the project update for Santa Clara County side of Hwy 17. There are no major active projects currently for Hwy 17 on the Santa Clara County side. There is a project on Hwy 17 to replace a Weigh-in-Motion System near Los Gatos.

10. Received Traffic Operations Systems Updates

Traffic Management Center (TMC) Update - Ramin Bolourchian stated that if anyone sees any problems with the changeable message signs (CMSs), to please contact the TMC.

Ginger Dykaar provided some handouts of vehicle flow data for Hwy 17 and travel time data for Hwy 1. The RTC is developing a Santa Cruz County travel demand model and we are in the process of determining what data is available to use to calibrate the model. The detectors in the NB and SB direction at Granite Creek show 100% observed for a good part of the year but data is estimated for the last few months. Good information on the number of vehicles on our highways to differentiate weekday and weekends and time of day is really useful for monitoring performance and planning future investments. The detectors at the summit and just south of Los Gatos are also plotted but they do not show much observed data. What can be done to get these detectors to collect good quality data more consistently?

Brandy Rider stated that Caltrans D5 does not have the resources to keep these detectors operational.



11. Received Additional Items - none

12. Approved Next Meeting Date

Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting – Wednesday, September 16, 2014 10:00 to 12:00 at Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, 1523 Pacific Ave, Santa Cruz, CA 95060.

Respectively submitted by



Ginger Dykaar