



JOINT MEETING OF  
SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRAFFIC OPERATIONS SYSTEMS (TOS) OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE  
AND  
SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE  
**DRAFT MINUTES**  
Wednesday, September 12, 2012  
10:00-12:30

**Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission**  
**1523 Pacific Ave.**  
**Santa Cruz, CA 95060**

**TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Task Force Meeting Participants**

Ramin Bolourchian, Caltrans District 4 TMC  
Matt Olson, Santa Cruz CHP  
Susana Cruz, Caltrans District 5 Public Affairs  
Russell Ellingworth, Caltrans District 5 Maintenance  
Sarah Jackson, Santa Cruz CHP  
Nicole Stewart, CHP Monterey Dispatch  
Donna Ziel, Alternate for Mark Stone, Board of Supervisors  
Marshall Ballard, Valley Transit Authority  
Siobhan Saunders, Caltrans District 5 Construction  
Tom Barnett, Caltrans District 5 Maintenance  
Lt. Bishop, San Jose CHP  
Joanna Fox, Metropolitan Transportation Commission  
Deb Larson, Caltrans District 5, Traffic Safety  
Jacques Van Zeventer, Caltrans District 5  
Richard Blacksten, Caltrans District 4 Maintenance  
Ramona Turner, Santa Cruz Sentinel  
Brandy Rider, Caltrans District 5  
John Thorington, resident near Laurel Rd  
Suzana Page, resident near Laurel Rd  
Andrew Allansmith, resident near Laurel Rd  
Jeanette MacDonald, resident near Laurel Rd  
Erin Howelt, resident near Laurel Rd  
Gregory Smith, resident near Laurel Rd  
Robert Kundus, resident near Laurel Rd  
Larry Lopp, resident near Laurel Rd  
Leilani Davis, resident near Laurel Rd  
George Dondero, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
Ginger Dykaar, Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

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



### **3. Reviewed and Accepted Minutes of the March 7, 2012 Joint TOS Oversight Committee and Safe on 17 Meeting**

#### **4. Received Information Items**

Governors Highway Safety Award - Sarah Jackson discussed the Governors Highway Safety Association award for the Safe on 17 Task Force.

Ginger Dykaar presented the following items.

Safe on 17 Annual Report – Report was completed in May, 2012 and was sent via email to task force members.

FSP Program Update – RTC needs to secure additional funds in order to continue FSP service on Highway 1 at the current level of service. Hwy 1 Auxiliary Lane project has funded FSP on Hwy 1 this fiscal year through March 2013 as a traffic management measure. Funds are needed for FSP service on Hwy 1 in FY 13/14.

Monterey Bay Area 511 Planning Study Update – An Implementation Plan for 511 Traveler Information is considering using Caltrans QuickMap for the traffic map page in addition to multimodal traveler information such as rideshare, transit trip planning, bike/ped resources and emergency information.

Articles/Public Feedback – Numerous articles were mentioned related to events on Highway 17.

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

Lt. Bishop stated that the collision statistics for the San Jose side of Hwy 17 for first 8 months of 2012 showed one fatality in April. The number of citations increased in June for both overtime and regular citations.

Officer Jackson stated that the collision statistics for the Santa Cruz County side of Hwy 17 for the first 7 months of 2012 show 1 fatality in March at Laurel Curve. No citations were given out in July due to issues in renewing extra enforcement contract. Captain Olson stated that Highway 17 is a major focus of the Santa Cruz CHP enforcement.

Officer Jackson provided handouts that show total collisions at Laurel Rd by year since 2007. In 2010, 77% of all collisions on Highway 17 were at Laurel Rd. Upgrades at Laurel Rd were completed in 2009. Barrier and signs put in place in March, 2012 have helped to decrease fatalities and major injuries.

San Jose CHP incorporated Safe on 17 materials in driver education classes presented to youth and companies such as Pac Bell. Santa Cruz CHP are in midst of working at the Santa Cruz



County Fair where they offer educational brochures for promoting safety on Hwy 17. Santa Cruz CHP also promotes driver safety through their Start Smart Driver Education classes and media partners who relay their message.

## **6. Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update**

Laurel Curve Update – Deb Larson discussed the goal of the Traffic Safety Group, which is to reduce collisions and collision severity. Collisions are a result of roadway, vehicle and human factors with the majority of collisions resulting from human factors. In March 2012, a median barrier was placed along Hwy 17 separating NB and SB traffic at the Laurel Rd intersection, a head on curve warning sign was installed in the NB direction north of the Laurel Rd intersection, and a radar speed feedback sign was installed facing SB direction approaching Laurel Rd. A high friction surface treatment was installed on Laurel Curve in the southbound direction in July 2012. This surface treatment should help particularly in wet weather. Water should sheet off this section with high friction treatment without a problem due to the grading.

Other safety program projects under construction are summit slide repair at PM 11, guardrail upgrades at various locations between PM 6.0 and 12.6, concrete guardrail between PM 6.1 and 6.6 SB and Vinehill Wet Weather Improvements between PM 7.0 and 7.3.

Safety projects in the project approval and environmental document phases are crash cushion upgrades between PM 6.7 and 11.8, shoulder widening and concrete guardrail between PM 8.2 and 10.1 and shoulder widening/soil nail wall between PM 9.4 and 10.1.

Candidate Safety Program Projects being considered are southbound right shoulder widening at PM 0.1 to 0.4 and southbound shoulder widening/restripe at PM 16.9 to 17.1.

Hwy 17 Access Management Plan - Brandy Rider discussed how D5 Caltrans is working with D4, CHP, Santa Cruz and Santa Clara Counties and RTC to develop a plan to address access along the entire length of Hwy 17. Public outreach is a key component of the plan. This long term plan is needed to compete for funding to address access issues.

Residents from the vicinity of Laurel Rd explained the access issues they are experiencing now that the median barrier is in place on Hwy 17 at Laurel Rd eliminating access to Laurel Rd from Hwy 17 in the south bound direction and access to Hwy 17 from Laurel Rd going south bound. The distance that they have to travel to get to or from their home is significantly greater. In order to take u-turns to access Laurel Rd, they have to wait on Hwy 17 for much longer periods and they are concerned about their safety. Residents stated that we cannot tell whether the barrier has saved lives or if the signs and high friction treatment have reduced the collisions. Resident asked how many times the barrier has been hit.

Captain Olson stated that it is difficult to track how many times the barrier has been hit as people do not always notify CHP. There are many marks on the barrier. There have not been any u-turn collisions in places where people are turning around to access Laurel Rd.



Residents stated that there is a gentleman that owns property in the vicinity of Laurel Rd and Hwy 17 and will offer it for safety improvements to the area.

Guardrail/Drainage Projects – Siobhan Saunders discussed the safety projects on Hwy 17. The Santa's Village Road project has been completed. Vine Hill Wet Weather project has been completed except for fixing lane markings and other minor issues. Hwy 17 Summit Rd slide repair work will start this fall to put in a retaining wall but should not require lane closures. The Guardrail Improvement Project will be re-advertised this fall as the previous contractor went bankrupt.

## **7. Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update**

Wet Pavement Project – Ginger Dykaar representing Shawn Enjily stated that the Wet Pavement Project is 95% complete. The remaining 5% of the project is to line the culverts that are under the roadway for water quality purposes. The work will be performed in June of 2013 and will not require any lane closures. Neighbors are pleased that the traffic noise is down due to the pavement. Open grade pavement was laid down to reduce water forming in puddles in wet weather.

## **8. Received Traffic Operations Systems Review**

TMC Update - Ramin Bolourchian stated that the changeable message sign on Hwy 1 near 41<sup>st</sup> sometimes malfunctions. D5 is working to fix this problem.

Communications Update – Nicole Stewart discussed that the new CAD system for Monterey dispatch is up and running. Golden Gate CAD is part of the hub now so communications should be smoother. There is a new system for dispatches in the field that are still resolving minor issues.

Review of CMS Activations Reports and Sigalerts - Ginger Dykaar worked with Nicole Stewart to determine if there is room for improvement on the sigalert and changeable message sign activation times so that sigalerts and CMSs are a reliable source of information to the motoring public. RTC would like to be informed when there is a major incident on our highways so we can respond to questions from the public. Nicole will add RTC to sigalert distribution list along with media for sending out the sigalerts by fax. She will see if there is an efficient way to send sigalerts by email. The current emails that RTC receives are "traffic advisories" from Caltrans and they come later than the sigalerts issued by Monterey dispatch. The chain of communication for an incident is CHP receives a call that there is an incident, CHP arrives on scene, CHP updates dispatch as is feasible, CHP sends out a sigalert if deemed necessary (30 minute delay is minimum), CHP dispatch contacts TMC. Changeable message signs are activated if traffic advisories are needed. CHP will do what they can to issue a sigalert in a timely manner given their first priority is to attend to the safety of the people in the traffic incident.



CHP is considering sending out Nixle alerts that push out information about traffic incidents on the highway to subscribers.

## 9. Received Updates on Traffic Operations Systems

Jacques Van Zeventer from Caltrans District 5 reported that there are many new traffic detectors and CCTVs on Hwy 1 and 17. Map of TOS made by RTC shows locations of the current equipment on our highways.

Caltrans QuickMap – Jacques Van Zeventer discussed “QuickMap”, the newly launched traffic map page that contains real-time traffic speed data, lane closures, CHP incidents, CCTV images and CMS sign messages.

## 10. Major Incident Review

San Jose – Big rig incident hit utility pole which brought power lines down in both directions near Lexington Reservoir. Tanker truck was on fire on Hwy 17 and highway was closed for 7 hrs on SB side and 4 hrs on NB side. Fire sped up the hillside in the middle of the night.

Santa Cruz – There were a number of major incidents in the past 6 months: cement truck incident on Hwy 1 and there were a couple of incidents on Soquel-San Jose Rd that affected Hwy 17.

## 11. Received Additional Items

No additional items.

**Approved Next Meeting Date:** Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting – Wednesday, March 13, 2013 10:00 to 12:30 at San Jose California Highway Patrol, 2020 Junction Ave., San Jose, CA 95131

Respectively submitted by

  
Ginger Dykaar