



SANTA CRUZ COUNTY  
**SAFE ON 17 TASK FORCE & TRAFFIC OPERATIONS  
 SYSTEMS OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Wednesday, September 16, 2020  
 10:00am - 12:00pm

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

**Meeting Participants**

Cliff	Barber	American Civil Constructors West Coast
Sarah	Burnworth	Bay Area Metro (MTC)
Victor	Gauthier	Caltrans D4 PIO
Ramin	Bolourchian	Caltrans D4 TMC
Kevin	Drabinski	Caltrans D5 PIO
Gus	Alfaro	Caltrans D5 Planning
Doug	Hessing	Caltrans D5 Project Manager
Shayne	Sandeman	Caltrans D5 Traffic Ops
Tom	Byington	CHP San Jose
George	Gori	CHP San Jose
Troy	Vincent	CHP Santa Cruz
Susan	Lowery	County of Santa Clara Public Health
		KCBS News
Heidi	Owens	Los Gatos Town Council candidate
Jeff	Bates	Redwood Estates Service Association
Debbie		Resident
Gary	Richards	San Jose Mercury News
Ian	Larkin	Santa Clara County Fire Department
Luisa	Rapport	Santa Clara County Fire Department
Brian	Winterhalder	Santa Clara County Fire Department
Jarret	Winter	Santa Clara County Fire Department
Dede	Smollen	Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council
Steve	Weisner	Santa Cruz County Public Works
Luis	Mendez	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Amy	Naranjo	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Aurelio	Gonzalez	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
Gine	Johnson	Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission/ 5 <sup>th</sup> District Supervisor Bruce McPherson



1. **Call to Order** – Introductions were made.
2. **Oral communications** – None.
3. **Additions or Deletions to the Agenda** – None.
4. **Received Information Items** - Amy Naranjo, RTC staff, provided an update for the Freeway Service Patrol (FSP). In FY 2019/2020, FSP provided 681 motorist assists on Highway 17. Normal weekday and weekend FSP coverage remains the same during COVID. Staff also shared an update on the 2019 Safe on 17 Annual Report, which is available to download at [sccrtc.org/safeon17](https://sccrtc.org/safeon17).
5. **Received Update on California Highway Patrol Safe on 17 Program Statistics and Public Information Efforts** – Sergeant Troy Vincent, CHP Santa Cruz, noted an increase in citations for distracted driving and speeding, including instances of 100-mph speeding tickets on Highway 17, amid the coronavirus shutdown and regional stay-at-home orders. CHP reduced extra enforcement on Highway 17 from June to September due to limited staffing as a result of COVID, local protests, and wildfires throughout the State. Sgt. Tom Byington shared that CHP San Jose uses Safe on 17 funded enforcement to strategically patrol frequent collision hot spot areas, particularly during the weekday AM/PM commute. CHP San Jose previously focused extra enforcement on weekends.
6. **Received Caltrans District 5 Highway 17 Project Update** – Kevin Drabinski is the new Public Information Officer for Caltrans D5. Gus Alfaro, Caltrans D5 Planning, provided updates for projects under construction and in development within Santa Cruz County. The Pasatiempo shoulder widening and soil nail wall project, along with the maintenance pavement overlay project, are nearly complete except for minor punch list items, and expected to be completed by Winter 2020. Caltrans also announced details about emergency contracts to clear, repair, and restore segments of Highway 1, 9, and 236 that were impacted as a result of the CZU Lightning Complex Fire.
7. **Received Caltrans District 4 Highway 17 Project Update** - Victor Gauthier, Caltrans D4 Public Information Officer, and Cliff Barber, American Civil Constructors, provided updates for Highway 17 projects within Santa Clara County. High-friction surface treatments have been applied at 2 major curve locations. Striping and signage work are ongoing and electrical and drainage work expected to continue through Winter/Fall 2021. Ongoing construction work, including guardrail maintenance and repair, will take place primarily overnight. Caltrans is committed to working with and educating residents about project details and any potential traffic impacts.



8. **Received Traffic Operations Systems Updates** – Ramin Bolourchian provided an update for the Traffic Management Center (TMC). The TMC operates the changeable message signs (CMS) which provide real-time motorist information and the TMC relies on CHP and feedback from the public to ensure the CMS's are operational. Shayne Sandeman, Caltrans D5 Traffic Ops, announced a newly activated CCTV feed on Highway 17 between Alta Vista Ln. and Old Santa Cruz Highway. Ms. Sandeman noted Caltrans is aware that some CMS signs are difficult to read and are working to correct the problem.
9. **Other Discussion Items** – Jeff Bates, Redwood Estates Services Association, requested more information about Caltrans D4 commitment to install guardrails as part of the ongoing road and safety improvement project, particularly at the [northbound Highway 17 onramp on at Redwood Estates Dr.](#) Mr. Bates shared that current hard closures on southbound Highway 17 at Redwood Estates negatively impacts the community. Heidi Owens, candidate for Los Gatos Town Council, inquired about the idea of a Joint Powers Agreement between Caltrans districts to address traffic concerns and discuss new roadway/highway technology. Dede Smollen, Santa Clara County Fire Safe Council, announced a new wildfire prevention project on Old Santa Cruz Highway. This fuel reduction project begins early October 2020 and scheduled for completion by end of year. More information about this project can be found on the project website (<https://sccfiresafe.org/projects/old-santa-cruz-highway-fuel-reduction/>).
10. **Approved Next Meeting Date** – The next Joint Safe on 17 Task Force & TOS Oversight Committee Meeting is Wednesday, March 17, 2021 10:00 am to 12:00 pm via Zoom.

Respectively submitted by:  \_\_\_\_\_  
Amy Naranjo