

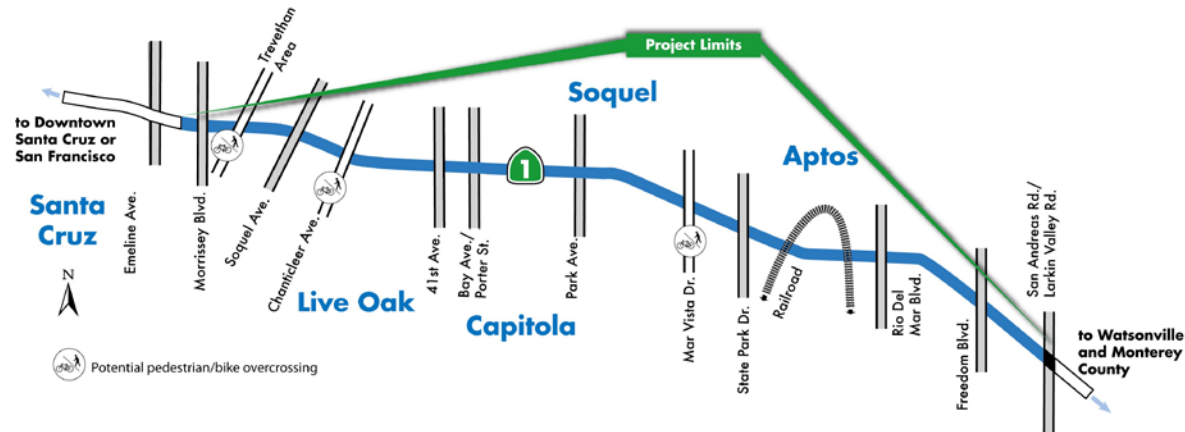


# Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Highway 1 HOV Lanes Project

Fact Sheet  
March 2011

## Project Highlights:

- ❖ HOV/Carpool/Transit Lanes
- ❖ Auxiliary Lanes
- ❖ 3 Bike/Pedestrian Bridges
- ❖ Reduce congestion on highway & local streets



## Project Description

Highway 1 between Santa Cruz and Aptos currently experiences heavy congestion during commute hours. Average daily traffic on this four-lane highway has doubled over the past 20 years. The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), in partnership with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) and the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), has analyzed methods to reduce congestion on the roadway and is considering adding High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lanes as a potential, feasible option. The project would add an HOV lane in each direction between Morrissey Blvd. in the City of Santa Cruz and San Andreas/Larkin Valley Rd. near Aptos. HOV Lanes provide limited access during peak periods to carpools, vanpools, buses and emergency vehicles. The purpose of the project is to reduce congestion; to encourage carpooling and the use of alternative transportation modes to increase capacity; to reduce travel time for buses; and to improve safety. The addition of new pedestrian/bike overcrossings, ramp meters, soundwalls, and auxiliary lanes are also being considered.

## Estimated Project Costs

(Figures are shown in rounded, 2010 dollars)

Project Components	Total Cost
Environmental Review	\$11,000,000
Final Design & Specifications	40,000,000
Right-of-Way Acquisition	56,500,000
Construction Management & Survey	40,000,000
Construction	352,500,000
<b>Total Cost</b>	<b>\$500,000,000</b>

\*Funds Secured for Environmental Review only. Additional funds needed for remaining phases.

**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**

1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060-3911 \* Tel: (831) 460-3200 \* Website: [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org)

## Current Activities

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), serving as implementing agency (with FHWA and Caltrans serving as Lead Agencies for environmental purposes), initiated preliminary engineering and environmental studies in late 2003. These studies are being conducted to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Areas of detailed technical study include: traffic, noise, air quality, biological, cultural, and historical resources, paleontology and hazardous materials. Input has been received from the public and regulatory agencies to assist in developing the scope of the environmental analyses, adoption of the project alternatives, and delineation of potential environmental effects and possible mitigation measures. The RTC is also conducting a sustainable transportation and access evaluation of the project with the assistance of the North American Sustainable Transportation Council.

## Funding

The environmental review phase of this project is funded with a combination of state and federal funds, including funds from the region's share of State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. Current and projected state and federal funds do not cover project costs through construction. In an effort to raise additional local funds, the RTC and the County Board of Supervisors placed a 30-year, half-cent sales tax measure in the November 2004 ballot to cover the cost of this and other transportation projects throughout the county -- including road maintenance, new bike lanes and sidewalks, and transportation for seniors/disabled persons. The measure did not gain the two-thirds majority needed to pass. A communitywide Transportation Funding Task Force was created in 2006/07 for the purpose of developing a comprehensive transportation funding program for a future sales tax measure, however, changing economic conditions led to a decision to defer action for a later date. The environmental analysis currently underway will provide information to the public to help make a decision about funding for the project in the future.

## Milestone Schedule

<i>Public Information Meetings Conducted</i>	<i>Fall 2006</i>
<i>Traffic Operations Analysis</i>	<i>Summer 2009</i>
<i>-----Next Steps-----</i>	
<i>Complete Technical Studies</i>	<i>Spring 2011</i>
<i>Public Review of Draft Environmental Document</i>	<i>Winter 2012</i>
<i>Publish Final Environmental Document</i>	<i>Fall 2013</i>
<i>----- If Funding is Secured -----</i>	
<i>Final Design/Right of Way Acquisition</i>	<i>2013-2016</i>
<i>Construction</i>	<i>2015-2019</i>

### **Stay Informed About Highway 1 Projects**

If you wish to receive information, contact the SCCRTC at:  
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
phone (831) 460-3200 ~ fax (831) 460-3215  
email: [info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org) ~ website: [www.sccrtc.org](http://www.sccrtc.org)

To continue receiving information about Highway 1 and other projects, subscribe to the E-newsletter on the SCCRTC website: [www.sccrtc.org/enews](http://www.sccrtc.org/enews).