



What is the RTP?

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long range (typically twenty-five year) transportation plan for the Santa Cruz County area. Long range planning addresses the transportation challenges we face now and those we will face in the future. The long range transportation plan prioritizes limited transportation funding and develops a strategy to fund the long list of unmet multimodal transportation needs (highway, road, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, etc). The RTP is updated every four or five years to address new trends, issues, and priorities and incorporate new state and federal regulations. The most current Regional Transportation Plan for the Santa Cruz County area was adopted in June 2010. The next plan is currently scheduled for adoption in 2014.

How is the long range transportation plan developed?

The first step is to identify the objectives for the plan and craft overarching goals and policies that guide decisions to achieve the goals. These set the direction for the development of system-wide evaluation measures to track progress. Next, an estimate of all the potential funding available for transportation projects in our county from local, state and federal sources is developed. Projects that achieve the goals

are then solicited from transportation agencies and local jurisdictions. The RTC identifies which projects could be funded over the next 25 years based on priorities and anticipated funding. A second-tiered list of additional needs that could be funded should more funding become available is also identified. The program of projects is then reviewed to identify potential environmental impacts. As shown in the adjacent graphic, there are opportunities at every stage of the development of the RTP for public, agency and committee input. The goals/policies, funding estimates and project lists build on each other and input at the early stages will shape the draft and final plan.

Key:

- Public
- Committees
- Agencies & Staff
- Governing Boards/ Decision Makers



The next Regional Transportation Plan will address the following:

- Transportation needs in the region through 2035 as a result of population growth, environmental, economic and other social trends.
- The amount of state, federal, and local funding available for transportation projects and new sources of funding needed to deliver high priority projects.
- Sustainability of the transportation system and sustainable outcomes utilizing the Sustainable Transportation Analysis and Rating System (STARS).
- New legislative requirements, including SB375, which stipulate that regions must meet greenhouse gas reduction targets by reducing Vehicles Miles Traveled through a coordinated land use and transportation plan called the Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- “Complete Streets” as a tool for planning for a multi-modal transportation system, particularly for those transportation improvements needed to accommodate growth.

Why a focus on sustainability?

The RTC represents diverse transportation interests which frequently reflect the impacts of transportation investments on environmental, economic and social concerns. A focus on sustainability can assist the RTC and the community in recognizing that these areas are intertwined, not exclusionary. Also, an approach that evaluates how transportation investments impact people’s health and safety, the economic vitality of the region, and the universal need for a healthy planet, is consistent with current wisdom. Some investments are win/win, but many require trade-offs in the three areas of economy, environment and people. A focus on sustainability will support the RTC in identifying these trade-offs and achieving multiple long-term goals.



How can you get involved?

- Tell us what you think should be addressed in the RTP or what additional projects and funding options you think should be considered in the future plans. Provide input as elements of the plan are developed.
- Ask to be added to the RTP E-news List by emailing info@sccrtc.org, calling 831-460-3200 or signing up on the RTC website www.sccrtc.org
- Send comments to SCCRTC: info@sccrtc.com or 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- Participate in the development of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments’ Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS), www.ambag.org.