



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission **Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network**

Fact Sheet

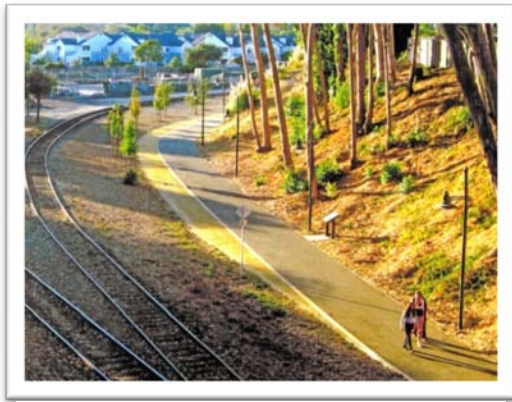
Project Highlights

- Multi-use bicycle/pedestrian trail network
- Approx 50 miles of trails planned
- Providing opportunities for safe and convenient, active transportation options throughout Santa Cruz County and into Monterey County
- Adjacent to operational rail line
- Adjacent to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, farm lands, and coastal bluffs
- Spur trails connecting to neighborhoods, schools, parks, transit hubs, commercial centers, and other existing trail systems



Background

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (Trail Network) is a two county bicycle and pedestrian pathway project championed by Congressman Sam Farr to foster appreciation for the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. The Trail Network will be separated from motor vehicle traffic, as possible, and utilize the on-street network to provide greater community connectivity and cohesion. The Trail Network will serve transportation, recreation, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and educational and interpretive purposes.



City of Santa Cruz Depot Park Multi-Use Trail

The “spine” or primary alignment of the Trail Network will be built parallel to (not in place of) the operational rail line, within the rail right of way, so that freight service can continue and future passenger rail service may be provided. Spur trails will connect the primary alignment to a multitude of desirable destinations throughout the county.

The Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line extends from Davenport to Watsonville Junction (Pajaro) in Monterey County providing an unprecedented opportunity for new bicycle and pedestrian facilities, where right-of-way and other considerations allow. The Trail Network will also be an important component of the 1,300 mile California Coastal Trail and will connect to Monterey County’s system of trails.

Trail Network Master Plan

The RTC is preparing a comprehensive Master Plan that will include:

- Identification and assessment of opportunities, constraints and potential trail alignments;
- Solicitation of stakeholder and community input;
- Development of goals and objectives;
- Selection of best trail design options;
- Identification of appropriate implementation agency and construction cost estimates; and
- Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for environmental clearance of the Master Plan.

The final Master Plan will include a list of short and long term projects that take into consideration accessibility, connectivity, trail management, environmental constraints, and agricultural impacts, and that can be constructed as resources become available. The RTC has engaged RRM Design Group, a trails consultant firm, to lead this effort.

Project Cost

Costs for the Trail Network project include initial planning, construction, ongoing trail maintenance, and the provision of essential amenities (rest rooms, water fountains, etc). The major anticipated costs are listed in the table below and are subject to change as the project progresses.

Project Component	Estimated Cost
▪ Master Plan and Environmental Review	\$600,000
▪ Construction	~\$1 Million/Mile*
▪ Maintenance	To Be Determined**
*This is a rough estimate, assuming no right of way acquisition costs and/or significant environmental constraints. Depending on the requirements, characteristics and constraints of individual segments the cost may be higher or lower.	
**The Master Plan will include cost estimates for maintenance	

Funding

To date, close to \$7 Million has been secured for the Trail Network in Santa Cruz County. Of that amount, approximately \$2.5 Million comes from the federal Transportation Enhancement program and approximately \$4.5 Million is attributed to the efforts of Congressman Sam Farr to secure federal funding for the project. The California Coastal Conservancy has also contributed funds to extend Trail Network planning to the northern terminus of the San Mateo County/Santa Cruz County border.

Public Input

Public engagement and input is an integral part of all community transportation projects, including the development of the Trail Network project. An extensive public outreach effort is underway. The first round of public workshops was held in December, 2011 in three locations throughout the county. Participants gave input on potential trail route locations, opportunities and constraints. The focus of the second round of workshops will be to receive feedback on the Draft Trail Network Master Plan and Draft Environmental Impact Report.

Estimated Timeline of Activities

Master Plan/Environmental Review

- Corridor tours
- Key stakeholder meetings
- Constraints/Opportunities mapping
- Workshop #1 - Route identification
- Draft Master Plan & Draft EIR public review
- Workshop #2 - Route confirmation
- Workshop #3 - Final review
- RTC Adoption

Obtain Funding

Detailed Design

Construction

Fall 2011-2013

- Completed - Summer 2011
- Completed - Fall 2011
- Completed - November 2011
- Completed - December 2011
- Summer 2012
- Summer/Fall 2012
- Prior to Final Adoption
- Early 2013

Ongoing

1 to 2 years per segment

To be determined



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