

From: Regional Transportation Commission
Sent: Thursday, February 02, 2012 8:35 AM
To: Interested Parties
Subject: Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network E-News Update



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E-NEWS UPDATE

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network

Thanks to those of you who were able to attend one of three Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network public workshops last December. Over 200 people attended workshops in Davenport, Live Oak or Watsonville locations to discuss the proposed coastal bicycle/pedestrian trail network project. This project merges plans for a bicycle/pedestrian trail along the rail line – including coastal alignments and neighborhood spurs – into a connected network that will overlap and converge to provide convenient route choices. The future trail will serve transportation, recreation and interpretive uses for walkers, joggers, bicyclists, families, locals, and visitors.

Topics raised during the public workshops are being considered by our consultant team as part of identifying potential trail alignments for the Draft Trail Network Master Plan. The Draft Plan is anticipated to be released this upcoming summer.

The “Opportunities and Constraints” maps provided at the public workshops can be viewed on our [website](#) for a limited duration. Paper maps are also available for viewing in both of the RTC’s offices. The purpose of the Opportunities and Constraints maps that were provided is to translate the technical information gathered into a helpful tool to guide the identification of potential alignments. Opportunities are areas that can provide improved bicycle/pedestrian public access and constraints indicate existing conditions that may prevent or complicate the fulfillment of identified goals. Thus, the opportunities and constraints presented at the first set of workshops provide a snap shot in the project’s information gathering evolution and are being updated as additional information is compiled. Final draft alignment maps will be provided in the Draft Master Plan and feedback will be solicited at that time.

After release of the Draft Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Master Plan and the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR), a second series of public workshops will be held to receive input into the draft documents and confirm the route alignments. Final adoption of the Master Plan and EIR is expected in early 2013.

Sierra Northern Railroad's withdrawal from their interest in serving as the local Shortline Operator may delay acquisition of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line; however, the rail right-of-way is one of the various potential alignments under consideration and the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network planning will continue as planned.

Your feedback and input into planning for the largest coastal and rail multi-use bicycle/pedestrian trail network project in Santa Cruz County is invaluable. Please direct comments, feedback, and questions to Cory Caletti, Senior Transportation Planner and Project Manager, at ccaletti@scrtc.org.

Feel free to encourage others interested in the project to sign up for our e-news distribution list.

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