



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) December 3, 2015 Meeting Highlights

Appointment of 2016 RTC Chair and Vice Chair

The new RTC chair for 2016 will be Commissioner Don Lane. The Vice Chair will be Commissioner Zach Friend. Congratulations to both.

November 2016 Transportation Ballot Measure – Expenditure Plan

After public input and thoughtful discussion, the [Regional Transportation Commission](#) approved an Expenditure Plan with five transportation investment categories. This action follows approval of a Long Range Transportation Plan that identified a severe funding shortfall and the benefit of becoming a “self help” county to be more competitive for state and federal funding. Commissioners emphasized that this package of projects is fair and balanced, represents the diverse transportation needs in our community, and provides an opportunity to invest in our infrastructure, our environment, our economy and our future. The 30 year, ½ cent sales tax funded Transportation Funding Measure to be placed on the November 2016 presidential ballot would include:

- Neighborhood Projects 30% – Funding to cities and county for their high priority eligible projects such as repair and maintenance of local streets and roads; school traffic safety and safe routes to school; bicycle and pedestrian facilities; and other safety improvement projects. Also included are Highway 9 projects in the San Lorenzo Valley; and the Highway 17 Wildlife Undercrossing to improve safety for wildlife and motorists.
- Highway Corridors 25% – Funding for the three auxiliary lane projects on Highway 1 including 41st Ave to Soquel Dr, Bay/Porter to Park Ave, and Park Ave to State Park; two bicycle/pedestrian highway crossings; transportation systems management programs to inform travelers of real-time traffic conditions and encourage carpool/vanpooling; and Safe on 17 programs and Freeway Service Patrol to help reduce congestion and collisions.
- Mobility Access 16% - Funding primarily for specialized transportation services to meet the needs of the area’s aging and disabled populations including Santa Cruz METRO’s paratransit and Community Bridges transportation service.

- Coastal Rail Trail 15%– Funding to construct, operate and maintain sections of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail.
- Rail Corridor 14% – Funding to maintain the track and bridge infrastructure; environmental analysis of passenger rail transit options; Watsonville/Pajaro Valley Train Station connection with the Capital Corridor and Coast Daylight train services; improvement, upgrade and installation of signals at railroad crossings; and underground conduit and/or pipes to facilitate utilities including Internet service.

Rail Transit Study – final report

The [Regional Transportation Commission](http://www.sccrtc.org) received the [Rail Transit Feasibility Study: Final Report \(www.sccrtc.org/rail\)](#), prepared by the transit consultant Fehr & Peers. The study evaluates a range of potential public transportation options between Watsonville and Santa Cruz using the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, includes cost, ridership, and funding information, and suggests parameters and steps for phased transit service. Based on the many comments received from the public on the draft report earlier this year, the study was updated to provide clarification and additional information on several topics. Prior to deciding whether to implement service on the rail line, more detailed environmental analysis and preliminary design work would be done.

Adoption of the 2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)

The [Regional Transportation Commission](http://www.sccrtc.org) approved schedule, scope, and other information updates to projects previously approved by the RTC for certain state and federal transportation funds, as part of adoption of the *2016 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)*. Due to lowered state gas tax revenues and diversion of transportation funds to repay state bond debt service, no new State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funding is available and the California Transportation Commission (CTC) will be delaying many projects through 2021. The RTC is urging the state to minimize delays to projects in Santa Cruz County.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings:

Please check the RTC website [www.sccrtc.org] or call 831-460-3200 to confirm. Agendas are posted to the website at least 3 days before the meeting.

Elderly/Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 8, 2015, 1:30 pm
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue,
Santa Cruz

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, December 14, 2015, 6:00 pm
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue,
Santa Cruz

Transportation Policy Workshop

Thursday, December 17, 2015, 9:00 am
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue,
Santa Cruz

Interagency Technical Advisory

Committee – December meeting cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, January 14, 2016, 1:30 pm
RTC Offices, 1523 Pacific Avenue,
Santa Cruz

Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC website at www.sccrtc.org or call 460-3200. Some Regional Transportation Commission meetings are televised countywide by Community TV of Santa Cruz. Consult www.communitytv.org or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.