



The RTC in Action



Excitement continues for Santa Cruz County's Coastal Rail Trail at a City of Santa Cruz Open House.



Highway 1 Investment Program

The preliminary design and environmental studies for projects on Highway 1 were shared with the public. In collaboration with Caltrans, the Federal Highway Administration, the cities, county, and other key stakeholders, the Tiered Draft Environmental Impact Report was released for public comment in late 2015. The document proposes long-term (Tier I) design and operational alternatives on the Highway 1 Corridor between Santa Cruz and Aptos to improve traffic flow and safety, especially given increasing congestion during peak travel times. The document also provides environmental analysis of proposed auxiliary (merge) lanes between 41st Avenue and Soquel Drive on/off ramps and a pedestrian/bicycle crossing at Chanticleer Avenue.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail/Coastal Rail Trail

The cities of Santa Cruz and Watsonville developed preliminary designs for two segments of the bicycle and pedestrian Rail Trail project. The RTC secured \$6.3 million from the Federal Lands Access Program to fund a five-mile rail trail segment in the north coast. The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the California Coastal Conservancy contributed \$3.3 million and \$950,000, respectively, providing an extraordinary match. The project will provide a safer alternative to the thousands of cyclists that use Highway 1 to connect to the Wilder Ranch hiking and biking trails and access to numerous beaches and future trails at Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods.

To date, eight miles of the multi-use trail project are underway and will be constructed by 2017/2018.

Funding: Transportation Improvement Plan (TRIP)

In response to increasingly unavailable state and federal funding, the RTC Board unanimously approved a thirty-year local Transportation Improvement Plan to pursue in November 2016.

Transportation investment categories include: local street repair (including bicycle and sidewalks); traffic flow and safety projects on the Highway 1 and 17 corridors; preservation of transportation for seniors and people with disabilities; property maintenance of the rail and trail corridor; and Coastal Rail Trail construction.

Learn more about the Transportation Improvement Plan!

Go to www.sccrtc.org or follow us on Facebook or Twitter.



Cruz511.org

New Program!

Launched as a one-stop shop for all transportation users, the site offers the most up-to-date information about commute or travel plans. Find information on emergencies that impact the transportation system and 24/7 traffic congestion information, including traffic speeds and images from over 20 traffic cameras. Data updates occur every few minutes. Also featured: trip planner for bike, bus, walking and driving trips; free service to find carpool partners; cost of driving calculator; and more!

Rail Corridor

Completed with wide public participation, the Rail Transit Feasibility Study provided preliminary information about the potential ridership, costs associated with providing service, and the steps required to implement rail transit service. The final report indicates that rail is an option with more reliable travel times to meet the mobility needs and demands of future generations. Many of the community's questions will be answered in future phases including an environmental analysis. Preservation of this key transportation corridor is critical to maintain the greatest number of transportation options for the future. In addition, the RTC and consultants completed the reconstruction of the La Selva Bridge trestle and celebrated this milestone with the community in 2015.



Other Notable Developments

The RTC received \$320,000 in state grant funds to install directional signs promoting preferred cycling routes and increasing motorist's awareness of shared roadways in the entire county.

Development of the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is well underway! The RTP is a long-range transportation plan that identifies the projects and programs for Santa Cruz County that best advance the transportation goals of the region. Projects areas include local streets and roads, highway, transit, bicycling, and pedestrian/walking.

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"It has been a phenomenal year for the Regional Transportation Commission. Our team looks forward to continuing efforts to advance the community's mission of building the transportation system of tomorrow, today."

George Dondero, Executive Director



SCCRTC

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA, 95060

info@sccrtc.org // 831 460 3200

www.sccrtc.org // facebook: [sccrtc](https://www.facebook.com/sccrtc) // twitter: [@santacruzrtc](https://twitter.com/santacruzrtc)