The 2016 Santa Cruz County Transportation Improvement ballot measure is designed to support better choices for transportation. Improving local transportation options that reduce pollution causing global warming; minimizing congestion that cause cars to idle and pollute in traffic; and promoting alternative transportation such as bicycling, walking, and transit. The 2016 ballot measure includes projects that will make our streets and roads safer and increase low pollution transportation modes.

Reduced traffic congestion combined with improved access to alternative modes of transportation, like riding a bike or walking, means that we’ll shorten or eliminate trips made in a car and our carbon footprint will be reduced.

The Monterey Bay planning agency has a goal of reducing per capita greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by 5% by 2035, not including vehicle technology. The 2016 ballot measure for Santa Cruz County would help fund many priority projects in the long-range Regional Transportation Plan, which if fully funded and combined with changes in land use, would accomplish a 17% reduction in per capita greenhouse gas emissions.

The addition of a wildlife undercrossing to Highway 17 will also improve the safety of both humans and wildlife in our community. Allowing wildlife to safely pass will protect their scarce habitat and reduce the likelihood of car and wildlife collisions.

Some of the proposed improvements in the Ballot Measure include:

- Unprecedented investment in safe bike lanes, bike paths and transit options to support better transportation choices for all residents
- Reducing traffic congestion on our major roads to prevent fuel waste and idling
- Improved safety for children walking near schools to encourage them to travel by foot or bike instead of car
- Investing in transportation projects to reduce pollution that causes global warming, which will improve our carbon footprint
- Making sidewalks safer and easier for seniors and people with disabilities to use, which will encourage fewer trips by car and reduce our impact on the environment
- Study the potential of rail transit and other options on the Santa Cruz Branch Line corridor, which could improve the commute between South County and the City of Santa Cruz
- Highway 17 road undercrossing for mountain lions and other wildlife