



# Active Transportation: Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10-12

## Project Description

The Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10-12 project (as defined in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail {MBSST} Network Master Plan) proposes to construct 5.3 miles of the MBSST's rail trail spine between 17th Avenue in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County known as Live Oak through Jade Street Park in the City of Capitola, then through Aptos Village to Rio del Mar Boulevard in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. The existing facility is along the publicly-owned railroad right-of-way. Alternate routes have high bicycle and pedestrian crash history.

The goals of this project are to increase the proportion of trips accomplished by biking and walking, improve safety and mobility of non-motorized users, and to provide high-quality connections to schools, parks, and community facilities. When constructed, this project will connect to a proposed 32-mile rail trail network that parallels the entire coastline of Santa Cruz County.

Segment 10 is particularly challenging due to right-of-way constraints requiring realignment of one mile of the railroad track bed. The project includes a 200-foot span pre-engineered bicycle and pedestrian bridge over Rodeo Gulch Creek on the inland side of the rail trestle bridge.

Segment 11 is particularly challenging due to extreme topography, including bridge structures at Soquel Creek, New Brighton State Beach, and Borregas Creek.

Segment 12 spans from State Park Drive to Aptos Creek Road and includes four railroad bridges, including a bridge over Soquel and Aptos Creek Drive, two bridges over Highway 1, and a bridge over Soquel Drive and Valencia Creek.



## Project Highlights

- ▶ Provides a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trail, improving safety and connectivity to schools, commercial centers, and transit facilities
- ▶ Includes seven new bicycle and pedestrian bridges
- ▶ Includes two new multi-use bridges over Highway 1 (to be completed as part of the Highway Corridor Program)
- ▶ Over 49,000 residents live within one mile of the corridor
- ▶ 14 schools, Cabrillo College, 26 parks, and New Brighton and Seacliff State Beaches are within one mile of the corridor
- ▶ Enhances mobility and transportation for disadvantaged communities

## Project Delivery Strategy

The County is advancing the environmental, design, and right-of-way phases of the project (between 17th Avenue and Live Oak to Aptos Creek Road) with \$4 million of Measure D in order to position the project for construction grants, including SB1-Active Transportation Program and potential federal grant opportunities. This project can be phased to smaller sections as funding becomes available. This project currently does not include the Capitola trestle or the two bridge structures over Highway 1. The Capitola trestle will be studied separately after the Alternatives Analysis for transit in the rail right-of-way. The bridges over Highway 1 will be completed as part of the Highway Corridor Program, as these bridges need to be widened to accommodate the Freedom Boulevard to State Park Drive Auxiliary Lane and Bus on Shoulder Project. The City of Capitola is leading the delivery of a small section of the trail from City Hall to Monterey Avenue.



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## Total Programming (in thousands)

|                                   |           |               |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|---------------|
| <b>Estimated Total Cost</b>       | <b>\$</b> | <b>66,331</b> |
| <b>Funding Sources</b>            |           |               |
| Measure D (Active Transportation) | \$        | 4,000         |
| Other Secured                     | \$        | 0             |
| Need                              | \$        | 62,331        |



## Project Status/Schedule

The project, with the exception of the Capitola trestle, is in the environmental phase, which is expected to be completed in 2023. The final design phase is expected to begin in 2022 and be completed in 2024. The project is expected to go to construction in 2024 and be completed in 2025.

