Active Transportation: Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9

Project Description
The Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 and 9 project (as defined in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail {MBSST} Network Master Plan) includes 2.5 miles of the MBSST's rail trail spine between Pacific Street in the City of Santa Cruz and 17th Avenue in the unincorporated area of Santa Cruz County. The existing facility is along the publicly-owned railroad right-of-way.

The goals of this project are to increase the numbers of people biking and walking, improve safety and mobility of non-motorized users, and provide high-quality connections to schools, parks, and community facilities. When constructed, this project will be part of a planned 32-mile rail trail network that traverses the entire coastline of Santa Cruz County. A part of the Segment 8 project, the San Lorenzo River Railroad Trestle trail widening, was accelerated ahead of the rest of the segment and was completed in May 2019.

Segments 8 and 9 are particularly challenging due to three new bridges and four at-grade crossings.

The project received $3M in Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds for pre-construction efforts. Voter-approved Measure D transportation funds are being used as the local match for this project as is $1.5M from the non-profit Land Trust of Santa Cruz County.

Project Highlights
- Provides a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trail, improving safety and connectivity to schools, employment centers, and transit facilities
- Connects to the Beach Street bikeway and Segment 7, connecting the west and east sides of Santa Cruz
- Includes a new bicycle and pedestrian bridge at Rodeo Gulch
- Includes 10’ multi-use path across the Santa Cruz Harbor, cantilevered off the Harbor rail bridge
- Connects to downtown Santa Cruz via the San Lorenzo River levee trails
- Provides a 10’ multi-use path across the San Lorenzo River, cantilevered off the San Lorenzo River Railroad Trestle
- Extends through the Seabright neighborhood to Live Oak
- 48,000 residents live within 1 mile of the corridor, where 15 schools and 37 parks are located

Project Delivery Strategy
The City of Santa Cruz is leading the project delivery. The City is delivering Segment 8 in stages due to funding availability. The City fully funded the multi-use path across the San Lorenzo River with an innovative approach, cantilevering off the existing rail trestle with a system that used lightweight decking. The City is funding the remaining pre-construction work with grants from the Land Trust and the state’s Active Transportation Program. The City is targeting SB1-Active Transportation Program and federal grant opportunities to fully fund the construction of Phase II.
Active Transportation:
Coastal Rail Trail
Segments 8 & 9

Updated July 2020

Total Programming (in thousands)

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Funding Sources

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*Includes Measure D - Local (City of Santa Cruz), NRA, TDA, ATP, and Land Trust funds.

Project Status/Schedule

The multi-use path cantilevered off the San Lorenzo River Railroad Trestle was completed in 2019. The City expects to complete the environmental, design, and right-of-way work by 2022. Construction is dependent on acquiring additional funding.