



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) September 2, 2021 Meeting Highlights

Capitola Trestle – Conceptual Study to Repurpose the Bridges to a Multiuse Trail

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) authorized staff to update the Measure D Five-Year Plan to allow for the prioritization of the preconstruction activities needed to rehabilitate three of the five existing bridges (two timber and one wrought iron) that make up the Capitola Trestle. Findings from the recent Conceptual Repurposing Study of the Capitola Trestle, which included field inspections and the analysis of the bridge, concluded that the condition of three of the bridges is fair to poor, and rehabilitation of those three bridges is recommended regardless of the future use of the bridge.

The Conceptual Repurposing Study of the Capitola Trestle concluded that conversion to a multiuse trail is feasible. The County of Santa Cruz is the implementing agency for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 & 11 (between 17th Avenue in Live Oak and State Park Drive in Aptos) and expects to release a Notice of Preparation (NOP) for an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the project this year. An interim trail is expected to be considered as part of the required project scoping. The Commission authorized staff to work with the County of Santa Cruz Public Works staff to consider including Capitola Trestle work, including deck conversion, in the scoping for the interim trail option.

Preservation of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

The Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) received a report from Executive Director Guy Preston on the preservation of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL). Staff continues to preserve the SCBRL as a freight and recreational passenger railroad in accordance with the Administrative Coordination and License Agreement (ACL) with Saint Paul and Pacific Railroad (SPPR), the freight rail operator on the line. Due to limited funding, staff is prioritizing initial repair projects based on safety and potential damage to property. SPPR desires to terminate the ACL agreement, but prefers to do so by assigning the ACL agreement to another freight operator, with a modified ACL agreement. Executive Director Preston outlined three potential strategies for preserving the line: Preserving the corridor with continued freight and recreational rail service; Preserving the corridor with a Public Private Partnership (P3); and Preserving the corridor by railbanking.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Due to precautions associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus), **all RTC and committee meetings had been held by video conference**. This platform may need to change, since the governor's executive order is set to expire on September 30, 2021. Please check the RTC website

[<https://sccrtc.org/meetings/calendar/>] or call 460-3200 to confirm meeting and video conference information for future meetings. Agendas are posted to the website at least 3 days before the meeting and will also include attendance information. Meetings may be canceled if there are no action items to be considered by the committee.

The RTC is committed to its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) during this time of national emergency. Please contact the RTC at least 3 days in advance of a meeting if special accommodations are needed. If any document, webpage, meeting, or recording is inaccessible to you, kindly notify us at info@sccrtc.org or by calling 831-460-3200.

[Regional Transportation Commission Meeting](#)

Thursday, October 7, 2021, 9:00 a.m.

[Budget & Administration/Personnel Committee](#)

Thursday, September 9, 2021, 3:00 p.m.

[Safe on 17/Traffic Operation Systems Committee](#)

Thursday, September 15, 2021, 10:00 a.m.

[Interagency Technical Advisory Committee](#)

Thursday, September 16, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

[Bicycle Advisory Committee](#)

Monday, October 4, 2021, 6:00 p.m.

[Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

Tuesday, October 12, 2021, 1:30 p.m.

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.