



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) January 13, 2022 Meeting Highlights

Pilot Project of Vegetation Control Utilizing Goats Along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

The Commission adopted a resolution to enter into an agreement for a two-month pilot program utilizing goats to control vegetation overgrowth along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) corridor. Utilizing herds of goats to clear unwanted vegetation has potential as a viable option for the SCBRL. Goats are quieter, more energy efficient, require less person-power, and could reduce the need for and/or enhance the effectiveness of herbicides and are expected to reduce the overall maintenance cost of the corridor. This pilot project seeks to determine if utilizing goats to control vegetation could be a regular component of the overall maintenance of the SCBRL property.

Public Hearing: Draft 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan

The Commission held a public hearing and received public input on the [Draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan](#) (RTP). The RTP identifies transportation needs and priorities in Santa Cruz County over the next 25 years. It sets policy and a vision for the transportation system and estimates the amount of funding that will be available for planned transportation projects. The plan is an essential first step in securing funding from federal, state, and local sources. The RTP includes discussion of highways, local streets and roads, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, transit services, specialized transportation services for seniors and people with disabilities, airports, and goods movement. The Draft 2045 RTP is available for review at www.sccrtc.org/2045rtp and comments can be submitted through January 31, 2022 by email to 2045rtp@sccrtc.org.

San Lorenzo Valley Schools Complex Circulation Project

The Commission authorized the RTC to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with the local and state agencies responsible for coordinating delivery of the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) Schools Complex Circulation and Access Project. The [Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan](#) identified a need to improve safety, pedestrian and bicycle access, transit access, and traffic operations along Highway 9 in Felton near the SLV Schools Complex, as well as within the Schools Complex itself. To address traffic flow improvements, the RTC, Caltrans, SLVUSD, METRO, and Santa Cruz County Public Works plan to collaborate to develop the SLV Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study as a first step in implementing the project. This study will gather data, develop preliminary engineering schematics, conduct a traffic analysis, and conduct a feasibility and needs assessment for improving multimodal system performance along SR 9 in Felton and within the SLV Schools Complex.

Construction Contract Award – Phase I Coastal Erosion Repair at Manresa Along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

The Commission adopted a resolution accepting a bid for construction of the Phase 1 coastal erosion repair near Manresa State Beach along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The project's scope of work includes the construction of a new 70-foot-long soldier pile retaining wall west of the existing track. Work also includes regrading of the ditch along the east side of the tracks, locating and unclogging of an existing 12-inch corrugated metal pipe at the private grade crossing, and installation of new chain link fence. Construction is anticipated to begin in February of 2022 and is scheduled to be completed by June, weather permitting.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Due to precautions associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus), **all RTC and committee meetings have been held by video conference.** On September 16, 2021, Governor Newsom signed AB 361 which continues the Brown Act waivers and allows the RTC to continue Commission and committee meetings in a virtual format. The RTC will continue to hold its commission meetings in a virtual format until further notice. 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, February 3, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 20, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, February 7, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, February 8, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Transportation Policy Workshop

Thursday, February 17, 2022, 9:00 a.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.

