



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's
Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

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

TELECONFERENCE AND VIDEO CONFERENCE MEETING ONLY

Zoom meeting link:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87467167434>
Meeting ID: 874 6716 7434
Passcode: 304539
Alternately participants may dial-in: 1-669-900-9128
or iphone one-tap: +16699009128,,87467167434#

Due to precautions associated with COVID-19, and following current state law (AB361) regarding the Brown Act, the Committee meeting will be held by teleconference only. Members of the public can listen and participate in meetings over the phone and through the internet.

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN/ TRANSLATION SERVICES: *Si gusta estar presente o participar y necesita información o servicios de traducción al español por favor llame por lo menos con tres días laborables de anticipo al (831) 460-3218 o email info@sccrtc.org.*

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. Oral communications

The Committee will receive oral communications during this time on items not on today's agenda. Oral communications must be within the jurisdiction of the Committee and may be limited in time at the discretion of the Chair. Committee members will not take action or respond immediately to any oral communications, but may choose to follow up at a later time, either individually, or on a subsequent Committee agenda.

4. Additions, deletions, or other changes to consent and regular agendas

CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are considered to be minor or non-controversial and will be acted upon in one motion if no member of the

Committee or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda. Members of the Committee may raise questions, seek clarification or add directions to Consent Agenda items without removing the item from the Consent Agenda as long as no other committee member objects to the change.

5. Approve Minutes of the December 16, 2021 ITAC meeting - Page 4
6. Receive January 13, 2022 RTC Meeting Highlights - Page 8
7. Active Transportation Program (ATP) January 20, 2022 Workshop Notice - Page 12

REGULAR AGENDA

8. Status of transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents
 - a. Verbal updates from ITAC members on projects
9. Caltrans Updates - Page 13
 - a. Caltrans Announcements and Project Updates
 - b. Highway 9-San Lorenzo River and Kings Creek Bridge Replacement Project
10. 2022 Legislative Program - Page 29
 - a. Staff Report
 - b. Preliminary Draft 2022 Legislative Program
11. Next Meeting – The next ITAC meeting is scheduled for 1:30pm on **February 17, 2022**. Meeting location (virtual or in-person) will be determined based on the latest health guidance and state law. ITAC meetings will be canceled if there are no action items to be brought before the committee.

Adjourn

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN/ TRANSLATION SERVICES: *Si gusta estar presente o participar en juntas de la Comisión Regional de Transporte del condado de Santa Cruz y necesita información o servicios de traducción al español por favor llame por lo menos con tres días laborables de anticipo al (831) 460-3200 para hacer los arreglos necesarios. (Spanish language translation is available on an as needed basis. Please make advance arrangements at least three days in advance by calling (831) 460-3200.)*

HOW TO REACH US: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1101 Pacific Avenue, Ste 250; Santa Cruz, CA 95060; phone: (831) 460-3200
email: info@sccrtc.org / website: www.sccrtc.org

AGENDAS ONLINE: *To receive email notification when the Committee meeting agenda packets are posted on our website, please fill out the e-subscription form on the website:*
<https://sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions/> or call (831) 460-3200.

TELECONFERENCE MEETINGS: This meeting is being held by teleconference in accordance with guidance for gatherings issued by the California Department of Public Health and local health authorities. There is no option to attend this meeting in-person. AB361 and other state actions allow local board and committee members and the public to participate and conduct meetings by teleconference and/or videoconference, in order to protect public health. Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency COVID resources are online at: www.santacruzhealth.org/coronavirus

The RTC is committed to facilitating coordination among agencies and encourages members and interested parties to join the online meeting by clicking the meeting link provided above. If you are unable to participate by web or phone or if you need additional assistance to participate, please contact 831-460-3200 at least 3 days in advance of the meeting.

Zoom Meeting Tips: Meeting attendees are strongly encouraged to use the Zoom app for best reception. Prior to the meeting, participants can download the Zoom app at: <https://zoom.us/download>. A link to simplified instruction for the use of the Zoom app is: <https://blog.zoom.us/video-communications-best-practice-guide/>

Remote Meeting Public Comments: Due to current circumstances, there may be limited opportunities to provide verbal comments during the meeting. Persons who wish to provide comments during oral communications or on an item on the agenda are encouraged to submit comments in writing to rmoriconi@scrtc.org by 12:00 noon the day before the meeting. Members of the public participating by Zoom are instructed to be on mute during the proceedings and to speak only when public comment is allowed, after requesting and receiving recognition from the Chair.

ACCOMMODATIONS FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES: The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This meeting location is an accessible facility. If you wish to attend this meeting and require special assistance in order to participate, please contact RTC staff at 460-3200 (CRS 800/735-2929) at least three working days in advance of this meeting to make arrangements. People with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those persons affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent-free.

TITLE VI NOTICE: The RTC operates its programs and services without regard to race, color and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person believing to have been aggrieved by the RTC under Title VI may file a complaint with RTC by contacting the RTC at (831) 460-3212 or 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or online at www.scrtc.org. A complaint may also be filed directly with the Federal Transit Administration to the Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590.

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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

DRAFT MINUTES

Thursday, December 16, 2021 1:30 p.m.
Teleconference

Due to precautions associated with COVID-19 (coronavirus), the meeting was held by videoconference, consistent with state laws and orders allowing legislative bodies to hold Brown Act meetings via teleconference.

ITAC Members Present

Kailash Mozumder (Chair)	Capitola Public Works and Planning Proxy
Josh Spangrud	Santa Cruz Public Works
Nathan Nguyen	Santa Cruz Planning Proxy
Chris Lamm	Scotts Valley Public Works
Murray Fontes	Watsonville Public Works
Justin Meek	Watsonville Community Development
Steve Wiesner	County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Paul Hierling	Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments
Gus Alfaro	Caltrans District 5
John Urgo	Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District
Teresa Buika (Vice Chair)	University of California at Santa Cruz (UCSC)

RTC Staff Present

Rachel Moriconi, Amy Naranjo, Guy Preston, Sarah Christensen

Others Present

Matt Machado, County of Santa Cruz Public Works
Malinda Gallaher, Caltrans Alternate
Members of Public: Michael Pisano

- 1. Call to Order:** Chair Kailash Mozumder called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m.
- 2. Introductions:** Introductions were made. All attendees participated by teleconference.
- 3. Oral Communications:** Matt Machado noted that the Coastal Commission was considering the permit application for Segment 5 of the Rail Trail.
- 4. Additions, deletions, or changes to consent and regular agendas:** None.

CONSENT AGENDA

5. **Approved Minutes of the November 18, 2021 ITAC meeting**
6. **Received December 2021 RTC Meeting Highlights**

Committee members present unanimously approved a motion (Fontes/Wiesner) approving the consent agenda, with Wiesner, Mozumder (public works and planning proxy), Spangrud, Nguyen, Fontes, Meek, Urgo, and Alfaro voting "yes" by roll call vote.

REGULAR AGENDA

7. **Status of transportation projects, programs, studies and planning documents**

ITAC members provided updates on projects, programs, studies and planning efforts.

Capitola – Kailash Mozumder reported that the 41st Avenue adaptive signal project is almost done and resurfacing projects planned in conjunction with the County for spring 2022.

County of Santa Cruz Public Works – Steve Wiesner reported several guardrail projects have been completed, with the exception of projects in burn areas. County road crews are cleaning up from recent storm events, with significant damage on Lodge Road, Granite Creek Road, Casserly, and Two Bar Road and a mudslide on Alta Via.

Watsonville Public Works - Murray Fontes reported that the Airport Boulevard pavement project is almost done. City staff is still awaiting shipment of final hardware for the Lincoln Street pedestrian safety project.

1:42pm Chris Lamm and Paul Hierling joined the meeting.

Watsonville Community Development - Justin Meek reported that revisions are being made to the Downtown Specific Plan, which includes new pedestrian and bike facilities.

Santa Cruz - Josh Spangrud reported that construction continues on the Highway 1/9 intersection, with work in the riparian area on the northwest quadrant complete and the project expected to be completed late spring. He reported there was minimal impact to city roads from the most recent storms. The city is working on final right-of-way and permits for the Murray Street Bridge project, with construction possibly starting in mid- or late-2022. Nathan Nguyen reported the California Transportation Commission (CTC) allocated Active Transportation Program (ATP) funds for phase 2 of

Segment 7 of the Rail Trail, with construction anticipated to go to bid in January and start construction in late Spring/early summer 2022. The city received bids for the San Lorenzo Riverwalk Lighting project north of Water Street, which includes 55 lights along the river and possible additional lighting near San Lorenzo Park.

METRO - John Urgo reported that METRO will be starting work on its Soquel Drive planning study, for which Gus Alfaro anticipates the notice to proceed to be available soon. METRO's Strategic Plan is being updated to reflect new priorities, goals, and metrics based on input at METRO Board retreats. He also reported Alex Clifford is leaving METRO in January and METRO has started the recruitment process for his replacement.

1:47pm Teresa Buika joined the meeting.

RTC - Rachel Moriconi reported that the RTC approved projects to receive approximately \$11 million in funds. She thanked Josh Spangrud, Casey Carlson, Murray Fontes and Malinda Gallaher for their assistance preparing documents for projects submitted to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds. She encouraged agencies with projects designated to receive Covid Relief, Highway Infrastructure Program (HIP), and Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX) funds to implement their projects quickly, noting funds are immediately available for use. Guy Preston reported that the California Coastal Commission approved a coastal permit for Segment 5 of the rail trail, including plans for an embankment at Davenport Beach.

Caltrans - Gus Alfaro encouraged agencies to apply for funds from the Clean California grant program. Murray Fontes, Steve Wiesner, and METRO staff indicated they plan to prepare applications. He noted project updates were included in the meeting packet and that Caltrans is kicking off a project on SR152 in Watsonville from SR1 to Carlton Road. Caltrans is looking at integrating complete streets into that and several capital maintenance (Cap-M) projects. Caltrans is also working with the City of Santa Cruz adding additional flashing beacons along Highway 1/Mission Street at Olive and Berkshire.

AMBAG, Scotts Valley, and UCSC representatives indicated they had no new updates.

8. Draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)

Amy Naranjo, RTC Transportation Planner, provided an overview of the draft 2045 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), including information on the policies, financial estimates, and the program-level environmental impact

report. She requested ITAC members review the draft RTP and EIR, and submit any updates or comments on the draft document, especially the project list, to her via email by January 31, 2022. She noted that public hearings and workshops will be held in January. Matt Machado noted the document sets policy direction for the RTC and indicated County Public Works staff plans to submit comments that system preservation should be identified as a high priority. Ms. Naranjo noted that the goals, policies and targets were approved by the RTC board in early 2021 and confirmed they are not currently ranked. She suggested that agencies can email new project ideas, project cost and other updates to her. Rachel Moriconi encouraged agencies to ensure the project list includes projects for which they plan to submit grant applications in the next five years. Paul Hierling (AMBAG) and RTC staff reported that some updates will be made to the financial element based on the recently passed federal infrastructure bill – the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Paul Hierling noted that there are some limitations related to adding projects that would require additional modeling to the constrained project list. Rachel Moriconi indicated that information provided by agencies with their Measure D Maintenance of Effort report will be considered for the financial element.

10. State and Federal Legislative and Funding Updates

Rachel Moriconi reported that Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) is expected to provide updated revenue forecasts based on the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in the next several weeks. Caltrans plans to issue a call for projects for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds early next year and agencies must have a safety plan in place in order to apply. CTC continues workshops on SB1 competitive grants and Active Transportation Program (ATP). Gus Alfaro noted that Clean California grant applications are due February 1, 2022. Teresa Buika noted that UCSC plans to apply for a FTA5310 grant for replacement disability vans.

- 11. Next meeting.** The next meeting of the ITAC is tentatively scheduled to start at 1:00pm on January 20, 2022 and will be followed by an Active Transportation Program (ATP) workshop. ITAC meetings may be canceled if there are no action items to be considered by the committee.

Adjournment: Chair Mozumder adjourned the meeting at 2:15 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Moriconi, Sr. Transportation Planner

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*CONTACTS: Shannon Munz, Communications Specialist (smunz@sccrtc.org)
Guy Preston, Executive Director
Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director*

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.



California Transportation Commission

2023 Active Transportation Program

Branch Workshop **AMBAG Region**

Thursday, January 20, 2022
2:30 pm to 4:30 pm

To participate via GoToMeeting, please use the following link:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/402383949>

You can also dial in using your phone:

United States: : [+1 \(646\) 749-3122](tel:+16467493122)

Access Code: 402-383-949

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More information about the California Transportation Commission may be found on our [website](#).

You can also get the latest updates from the Commission on [Twitter](#) or [Facebook](#).



CALTRANS ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

JANUARY 20, 2022

Hello,

I will be bringing guests to attend this month's ITAC to discuss the Highway 9 San Lorenzo River Bridge and Kings Creek Bridge Replacement Project. After receiving feedback from past SCCRTC Bike, E/D, ITAC Committee feedback, Caltrans is excited to share photos of the new bridges. I look forward to sharing the project update.

Regards,

Gustavo Alfaro

Gus Alfaro

PHONE: 805-835-6490

WEBSITE: <https://dot.ca.gov/caltrans-near-me/district-5>

EMAIL: gustavo.alfaro@dot.ca.gov



Caltrans Announces Completion of Smart Mobility Framework (SMF) Guide (12/24/21)

- Update to the Smart Mobility 2010: A Call to Action for the New Decade
- Smart Mobility principles are Location Efficiency, Reliable Mobility, Health and Safety, Environmental Stewardship, Social Equity, and Robust Economy
- Principles addressed with strategies, performance measures, and analysis methods for implementing smart mobility
- Organized around five themes: **network management, multimodal choices, speed suitability, accessibility and connectivity, and equity**

Internally released document found clicking here: [Caltrans Smart Mobility Framework \(SMF\) Guide](#)

Caltrans/OTS Partnership - Go Safely California Campaign! (12/24/21)

- Three-year "Go Safely California" traffic safety public awareness campaign with outreach covering traffic safety issues
- Partners include the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the California Highway Patrol, the California State Transportation Agency, and the Alcoholic Beverage Control
- Safety messages appear statewide on broadcast television, digital platforms, and digital billboards. In addition, PSAs will run on radio and in select convenience stores, bars, and restaurants
- OTS and Caltrans have launched a new Go Safely pledge at www.gosafelyca.org asking people to be safe, responsible, and always designate a sober driver

Clean California Events and News

- [February 1](#) Deadline for Local Grant Program Project applications



PROJECT UPDATE – SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2022 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION									
	Project	Location Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager (Resident Engineer)	Contractor	Comments
1.	Highway 17 Pasatiempo Shoulder Widening (1C670)	South of Pasatiempo overcrossing (PM 0.2/0.5)	Shoulder widening and soil nail wall	Complete	\$5.7 million	SHOPP	Heidi Borders (BR)	Granite Rock Company	CCA Actual 12/17/21
2.	SCr 9 South Drainage and Erosion Control Improvements (1F920)	From SR 1 and 9 to slightly north of Glen Arbor Road (PM 0.0/8.5)	Upgrade drainage systems and stabilize slopes	Winter 2021/22	\$2 million	SHOPP	Doug Hessing	Disney Construction Inc.	Contract awarded and approved to Disney Construction Inc, March 4, 2021
3.	Highway 1/ Highway 17 Ramp Safety Improvements (1H060)	From the Fishhook to Pasatiempo overcrossing (PM 16.7)	Construct ramp safety improvements	Contract Awarded	\$5.8 million	SHOPP	Heidi Borders	Teichert Construction	Project has been awarded to Teichert Construction and is in construction. CCA Target 8/1/22.
4.	Highway 17 Wildlife Habitat Crossing (1G260)	From Laurel Road to just north of Laurel Road (PM 9.442-9.692)	Construct wildlife undercrossing	Winter 2022	\$6.448 million	SHOPP	Aaron Henkel	Granite Rock Construction	Project has been awarded to Granite Rock Construction and is in construction. Construction has been suspended until Feb 2022.



PROJECT UPDATE – SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2022 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION (Cont'd.)

	Project	Location Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager (Resident Engineer)	Contractor	Comments
5.	TMS Detection Repair (1H990)	Various locations throughout District 5 along SRs 1, 17, 68, 156, 101 (PM Various)	Replace failed TMS Detection	Summer 2020/Winter 2021	\$4.9 million	SHOPP SB-1	Nick Heisdorf	Traffic Loops Crackfilling, Inc.	Project in construction. Contract is suspended until early spring due to supply shortage and conflict with another project. Work is 95% complete.
6.	Highway 129/Lakeview Road Intersection Improvements (1G990)	Near Watsonville, at Lakeview Road (PM 1.4)	Construct roundabout and improve street lighting	Winter 2021	\$4.5 million	SHOPP	Luis Duazo	Dreambuilder Construction	Construction of the westbound direction of the roundabout is under way. Construction is expected to be complete mid-December 2021.
7.	Highway 9 Hairpin Tieback (1K130)	Near Boulder Creek about 1.1 miles south of the SR 236/9 Junction (PM 19.97)	Soldier Pile Tieback Retaining Wall	Winter 2021/22	\$2.6 million	SHOPP	Doug Hessing	Gordon N. Ball, Inc.	The construction contract was awarded to GORDON N. BALL, INC. One-way traffic control in place.
8.	Highway 1 Soquel Creek Scour Protection (1H480)	In Capitola at Soquel Creek Bridge (PM 13.3)	Bridge preventative maintenance – Place scour protection	Summer 2022	\$1.4 million	SHOPP	Heidi Borders	Construction	CON Allocation on January CTC Agenda
9.	Highway 1 Davenport Culvert Replacement (0J200)	Near Davenport and south of Waddell Creek Bridge (PM 31.9/35.7)	Replace culverts	Winter 2021	\$7.4 million	SHOPP SB-1	Heidi Borders	Construction	Project is in advertisement.



PROJECT UPDATE – SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2022 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

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PROJECTS UNDER CONSTRUCTION (Cont'd.)

	Project	Location Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager (Resident Engineer)	Contractor	Comments
10.	Extend Side Hill Viaduct (05-1K060)	In Santa Cruz County near Brookdale 0.3 mile south of Western Avenue (PM 10.80/10.8)	Construct viaduct wall extension, restore roadway and facilities, place Water Pollution Control BMPs	2022	\$1.9 million	SHOPP SB-1	Doug Hessing (PD)	GORDON N. BALL, INC.	One Way Traffic Control



PROJECT UPDATE – SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2022 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

PROJECTS IN DEVELOPMENT									
	Project	Location Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Estimated Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager	Phase	Comments
11.	Highway 9 PM 1.0 and 4.0 Viaduct (1K120)	Near SCr north of Vernon Street (PM 1/1)	Construct side- hill viaduct restore roadway and facilities, place Water Pollution Control BMPs, erosion control	Fall 2022	\$9.9 million	SHOPP	Doug Hessing	PS&E	Route 9 will require long term closure during construction.
12.	SCr 9 Upper Drainage and Erosion Control Improvements (1G950)	In Boulder Creek from Holiday Lane to just south of Ben Lomond to the SR 236/9 Junction (PM 8.5/25.5)	Upgrade drainage and erosion control	Spring 2023	\$5.4 million	SHOPP	Nick Heisdorf	PS&E	The project is in the Design and Right of Way phase. Design 95% plans for review February 2022.



PROJECT UPDATE – SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2022 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

	Project	Location Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Estimated Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager	Phase	Comments
13.	Highway 9 San Lorenzo River Bridge and Kings Creek Bridge Replacement (1H470)	Near Boulder Creek, at San Lorenzo River Bridge and at Kings Creek Bridge (PM 13.6/15.5)	Replace bridges	2023-2025	\$12 million	SHOPP SB-1	Doug Hessing	PS&E	The project is in the Design and Right of Way phase.
14.	Highway 152 Corralitos Creek ADA (05- 1F620)	Near Watsonville, East of Beverly Drive to Holohan / College Road (PM1.9 to R2.0)	Construct Accessible Pathway	Winter 2022/23	\$3.4 million	SHOPP	Nick Heisdorf	PS&E	Project is in the Design and Right of Way phase. Design 95% plans for review January 2022. On watch list for possible USACE 408 permit.
15.	Highway 236 Heartwood Hill Wall (1M450)	Near Boulder Creek (PM 5.4)	Restore Embankment with a Retaining Wall	2023	\$1.8 million	SHOPP	Doug Hessing	PS&E	The project is in the Design and Right of Way Phase.
16.	Santa Cruz & San Benito Rumble Strip & Striping Safety Project (1M330)	Various-multi- county locations. In Sta. Cruz, the project includes Highways 1, 9, 17, 129	Update Striping and Install Edgeline and Center Rumble Strips at Various Locations	2023	\$4.7 million	SHOPP Safety Collision Reduction	Terry Thompson (J.W.)	PS&E	The project has RTL



PROJECT UPDATE – SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2022 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

	Project	Location Post Mile (PM)	Description	Construction Timeline	Estimated Construction Cost	Funding Source	Project Manager	Phase	Comments
17.	Felton Safety Improvements (1M400)	On Route 9 in Santa Cruz County between Kirby St. and San Lorenzo Valley High School (PM 6.3/7.2)	Construct Accessible Pedestrian Path	2024/25	\$8 million	SHOPP Safety	Doug Hessing (P.D.)	PA&ED	Survey work and environmental studies are in progress.
18.	Highway 129 Paving, Sign Panels, Lighting, TMS Improvement (1J830)	Near Watsonville for SR129/1 separation to Salsipuedes Creek Bridge (PM 0/0.56)	Pavement Preservation, Lighting, Sign Panel Replacement and TMS Elements improvements	2024/25	\$8 million	SHOPP	Nick Heisdorf	PA&ED	Complete streets additions are being included. environmental studies and design surveys are in progress. PS&E scheduled to begin February 2022.
19.	Highway 1 Roadside Safety (1J960)	0.5 mile north of Larkin Valley Rd. U.C. (San Andreas Rd) to Laguna Rd (North) (8.20/26.00)	Drainage System Restoration; paving at 40 ramps; Install Lighting at Interchanges and Install Count Stations	2024/25	\$15.5 million	SHOPP	Heidi Borders	PA&ED	
20.	Santa Cruz Route 1 CAPM (1M110)	In and near Santa Cruz from .06 miles south of Route 9 Junction to .09 miles north of the Mission St intersection. (PM 17.5/20.2)	Grinding/ paving 2.7 miles of pavement, upgrading up to 89 curb ramps, guard rail upgrade, sign panel upgrade, loop detector replacement.	2026	\$8.9 million	SHOPP	Nick Heisdorf	PID	Environmental to perform “spring” studies in 2022.



PROJECT UPDATE – SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2022 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

21.	Highway 17 Install High Friction Surface Treatment (HFST) (1M730)	In Santa Cruz County near Santa Cruz at various locations from 0.2 miles south of Scotts Valley Overcrossing to 1.6 miles south of Summit Road Separation.	Safety Construction includes HFST between the left/right edges of the travel way and cold plane removal of Open Grade Asphalt Concrete (OGAC) and replacement with Hot Mix Asphalt	Winter 2022/ Spring 2023	\$6.5 million	SHOPP	Heidi Borders	PS&E/RW	
22.	Highway 9 North CAPM (1K900)	In Santa Cruz County from 0.4 miles south of Saratoga Toll Rd to the Santa Cruz/San Mateo County line (PM 18.89/27.09)	Preserve CAPM Strategies including but not limited to digouts, profile grinding, overlay, placing shoulder backing and dike. Reconstruct guardrail, rehabilitate or replace 6 culvert and replace 67 sign panels	2026	\$6.3 million	SHOPP	Doug Hessing	PID	Project is anticipated to be programmed in the 2022 SHOPP to start PA&ED phase.
23.	Highway 152 Watsonville Rehab/CAPM (05-1P110)	Santa Cruz County on Route 152 from Jct Route 1 to 0.5 Mile East of Carlton Rd. (PM 0.31/4.14)	Preserve pavement, rehabilitate or replace Salsipuedes Creek Bridge, replace culverts, rehabilitate traffic signals, upgrade curb ramps, reconstruct guardrail, replace sign panels, and complete streets	2029	\$25 million	SHOPP	Heidi Borders	PID	

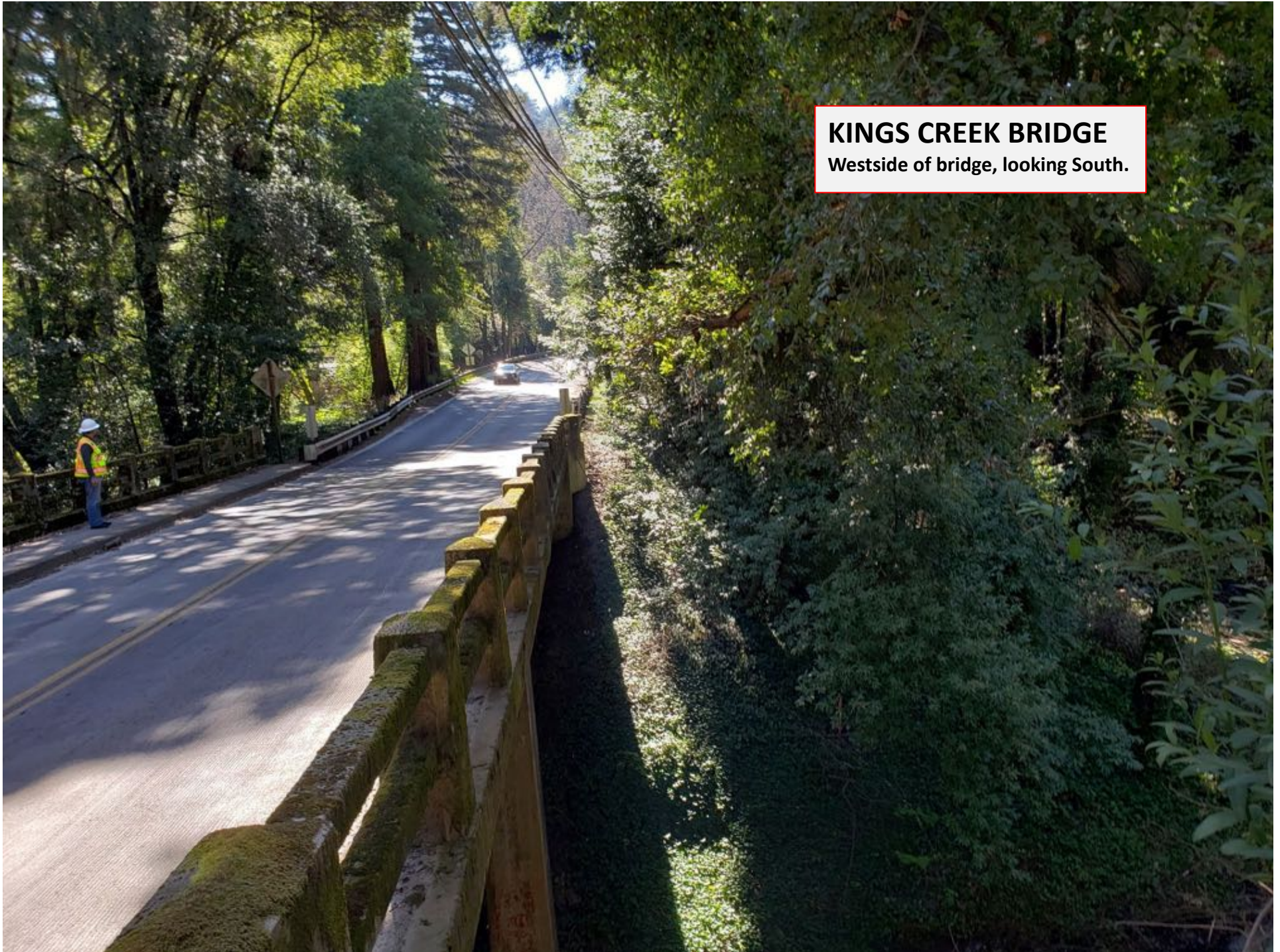


PROJECT UPDATE – SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

PREPARED FOR THE JANUARY 13, 2022 SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION MEETING

ACRONYMS USED IN THIS REPORT:

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act	SHOPP	State Highway Operation and Protection Program
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act	SR	State Route
CMAQ	Congestion Mitigation Air Quality	STIP	State Transportation Improvement Program
CMIA	Corridor Mobility Improvement Account	TMS	Traffic Management System
CTC	California Transportation Commission		
ED	Environmental Document		
EIR	Environmental Impact Report		
PA&ED	Project Approval and Environmental Document		
PM	Post Mile		
PS&E	Plans, Specifications, and Estimates		
RW	Right of Way		
SB1	Senate Bill 1, the Road Repair and Accountability Act of 2017		
SCL	Santa Clara County Line		



KINGS CREEK BRIDGE
Westside of bridge, looking South.



San Lorenzo River Creek Bridge
North of Bridge, looking South, on West Side of Bridge



NORTH BOUND PERSPECTIVE VIEW

KINGS CREEK BRIDGE REPLACE

01/03/22

Prepared by: DES, Bridge Architecture and Aesthetics





SOUTH BOUND PERSPECTIVE VIEW

KINGS CREEK BRIDGE REPLACE

01/03/22

Prepared by: DES, Bridge Architecture and Aesthetics





NORTH BOUND PERSPECTIVE VIEW

SAN LORENZO RIVER BRIDGE REPLACE

12/12/21

Prepared by: DES, Bridge Architecture and Aesthetics





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SOUTH BOUND PERSPECTIVE VIEW

SAN LORENZO RIVER BRIDGE REPLACE

12/12/21

Prepared by: DES, Bridge Architecture and Aesthetics



AGENDA: January 20, 2022

TO: Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)

FROM: Rachel Moriconi, Transportation Planner

REGARDING: 2022 State and Federal Legislative Programs

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff requests that committee members inform staff by February 11, 2022 of any State or Federal legislative issues that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) should consider, pursue, or monitor in 2022.

BACKGROUND

Each year the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) adopts legislative platforms to guide its analysis of state and federal legislative or administrative actions that could impact transportation funding or implementation of the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), Measure D and priority transportation projects in Santa Cruz County. Working with local jurisdictions, the Central Coast Coalition (regional transportation agencies from Monterey, San Benito, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, and Santa Cruz Counties), the California Association of Councils of Governments (CALCOG), the Self Help Counties Coalition, and other transportation entities, the RTC monitors legislative proposals, notifies state and federal representatives of the RTC's analysis of key issues, and provides input on other federal and state actions.

DISCUSSION

Staff recommends that committee members inform staff of any legislative priorities and/or issues that the RTC should consider, monitor, or pursue in 2022. Committee members can provide suggestions by emailing rmoriconi@scrtc.org by February 11, 2022. The preliminary draft 2022 Legislative Program is attached ([Attachment 1](#)). The RTC board is expected to consider the 2022 State and Federal Legislative Programs at its March 2022 meeting.

The RTC legislative program is used to advance regional projects and key goals and targets in the *Santa Cruz County [Regional Transportation Plan](#)*, which focuses on sustainability to improve multimodal access and mobility in ways that improve health, reduce pollution and retain money in the local economy; reduce

collisions and improve safety; maintain existing transportation infrastructure and services; and deliver improvements cost effectively, equitably and responsive to the needs of all users of the transportation system and the natural environment. As part of the Legislative Program, RTC works to ensure that transportation-related statutes and guidelines are structured in a manner that recognizes Santa Cruz County's significant traffic congestion, maintenance, active transportation, and transit system needs and sustainability goals.

Generally, the RTC's legislative program covers legislative and administrative actions that:

- Involve funding or a funding mechanism for transportation projects and programs
- Involve the implementation of transportation and greenhouse gas emission reduction policies and programs
- Involve transportation and land use
- Involve the environmental review process
- Involve changes to the way transportation projects are delivered
- Affect the Commission directly (e.g. Commission responsibilities, policies or operations)

In 2022, a key focus area at the state and federal level will be on implementation of the multiyear federal transportation act (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)). RTC and AMBAG staff sit on several implementation working groups organized by CalSTA. Staff will also continue monitoring federal negotiations around stimulus and federal "Build Back Better" Act.

At the state level, Brown Act modifications related to online/virtual meetings, SB375/RTP/Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) implementation and "reform", and distribution of state surplus (estimated at \$30-60 billion) will likely dominate discussions around the state budget. Governor Newsom's January Budget Proposal includes a \$9 billion transportation package, including High Speed Rail bonds. Anticipated budget issues include:

- The Governor's proposal to delay the indexing of the gas tax this year (about 3 cent per gallon). Transportation stakeholders are concerned how the ~\$525 million that would be foregone would be backfilled.
- Making more than just \$9 billion of the surplus available for infrastructure projects and programs – including ITAC request for additional funds for system preservation. The Governor's proposal currently includes:
 - \$500 million augmentation for the Active Transportation Program;
 - \$3.75 billion for the Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) (\$2 billion for transit and rail projects; \$1.25 billion for specific transit projects in Southern California; \$500 million for grade separations);
 - \$1.2 billion for port, freight, and goods movement infrastructure; \$1.1 billion workforce training and ZEV equipment related to supply chain;

- \$400 million Climate Adaptation Projects for state and local projects that support climate resiliency and reduce risks from climate impacts;
- \$150 million Highways to Boulevards Pilot to turn underutilized highways into multimodal corridors that support affordable housing and complete streets in DACs; and
- \$100 million for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) bike and ped safety projects that reduce severe injuries and fatalities.
- Infill infrastructure to support location efficient (low VMT) affordable housing.
- Potential region-specific asks (aka earmarks).

In 2021, the State Legislature introduced more than 2500 bills, resolutions and constitutional amendments. A few of the bills RTC staff tracked last year and the result of those bills included:

- AB 43 (Friedman) Traffic Safety: setting speed limits. - Chaptered
- AB 361 (Rivas, Robert) Open meetings: state & local agencies: teleconferences. - Chaptered
- AB 339 (Lee) Local government: open and public meetings. - Vetoed
- AB 122 (Boerner Horvath) Vehicles: required stops: bicycles. - Vetoed
- AB 1147 (Friedman) Regional transportation plans. (sustainable communities strategies) - Vetoed
- SB 261 (Allen) Regional transportation plans: sustainable communities strategies. 2-Year Bill
- SB 475 (Cortese) Transportation planning: sustainable communities strategies. 2-Year Bill

SUMMARY

Committee members are encouraged to review the preliminary draft 2022 Legislative Program and email rmoriconi@sccrtc.org by February 11, 2022 of any changes the RTC should consider.

Attachment 1: Draft 2022 Legislative Program

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PRELIMINARY DRAFT



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission 2022 STATE Legislative Program

Focus Areas in 2022

Proposed changes from 2021 highlighted in underline strikeouts.

- Implementation of the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Maximize funding available for priority projects in Santa Cruz County.
- State Budget. Maximize **General Fund surplus** funds for local system preservation, Active Transportation Program (ATP), and local/regional priority transportation projects. Ensure funding for local streets and roads and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) are not reduced.
- Support modifications to the **Brown Act** to enhance public and committee member participation in virtual meetings.
- Ensure legislative and administrative actions **support implementation of priority transportation projects and programs in Santa Cruz County**, including projects identified in the Measure D Expenditure Plan. Maintain and increase funding for RTC projects and programs, support streamlining and other actions which could expedite delivery of projects, and oppose efforts which could hinder implementation of RTC priorities.
- Support efforts to **reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve mobility through increased funding for pedestrian, bicycle and transit projects**, increased equitable access to **zero emission vehicles** and infrastructure. Pursue changes to SB375
- Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) that support GHG emission reduction and reduce bureaucratic burdens.
- Support efforts related to **adaptation, resilience and response to natural hazards** and the impacts of climate change, including extreme storms, sea level rise and wildfires.
- Support legislative and administrative actions that will improve safety on state highways and local roads, including AB43 implementation (speed limit reductions) and Caltrans Director's order related to complete streets, especially where state highways serve as main streets.
- Support **Transportation Development Act (TDA) program modifications** which reduce the burden of outdated performance measures and eliminate the farebox recovery penalty for public transportation systems.
- Support state and federal **COVID-19 relief and stimulus funding** to support economic recovery and make up for state, local and transit agency transportation revenue losses.
- Support new transportation funding mechanisms to replace gas and diesel taxes, considering increased vehicle fuel economy and zero-emission vehicle adoption.



PRELIMINARY DRAFT

Ongoing Priorities

Transportation Funding

- **Protect Transportation Funding:** Preserve existing and new funding for transportation projects, maximize funding for Santa Cruz County transportation projects, and preserve regional discretion and priority-setting.
 - Stable, formula funding is essential for addressing the backlog of transportation infrastructure repairs and improvements in Santa Cruz County. Protect current and future taxes and fees and other transportation funds (including Highway Users Tax Account (HUTA), Transportation Development Act (TDA), State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), Active Transportation Program (ATP), and other funds) from elimination or diversion to other State programs, General Fund loans, general obligation bond debt service, or to other non-transportation purposes.
 - Support actions that preserve the intent of Senate Bill 1 (SB1) and local measure funding to allow the State, regions and local agencies to maintain, protect and improve existing transportation funds dedicated to transit, congestion management on the state highway system, lifeline arterials, and goods movement routes while also addressing immediate and long-term unmet funding needs.*
 - Monitor implementation efforts of Executive Order N-19-19, which directs the California State Transportation Agency (CalSTA) to invest its annual \$5 billion portfolio to help reduce transportation-related greenhouse gas emissions, and to ensure that state funds, specifically SB 1 funds, continue to be used for transportation purposes. Ensure that state regulations do not negatively impact implementation of the voter-approved Measure D Expenditure Plan.
 - With increased emphasis on vehicle fuel economy and zero-emission vehicle adoption, explore and support new funding mechanisms to replace gas and diesel taxes for transportation investments. Monitor proposals such as pay-by-the-mile user fees, public private partnerships, vehicle registration fees, or wholesale energy taxes. Ensure that proposals are equitable to disadvantaged and rural areas.*
 - Oppose proposals that could tie transportation fund availability to local jurisdictions, to non-transportation and development projects.
- **COVID Recovery:**
 - Support state and federal COVID-19 relief and stimulus legislation to provide funding to address adverse funding impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on transit and other local agencies and to expedite project implementation.
 - Temporarily **adjust maintenance of effort and performance criteria requirements**, for SB1 Local Streets and Roads Program, local sales tax measure funds, and fare-box recovery requirements for transit given impacts on local revenues from COVID-19.



PRELIMINARY DRAFT

- **Ensure Fair Distribution of Funding:**
 - Ensure state and federal funds are made available for projects in Santa Cruz County, are distributed equitably, and are not disproportionately distributed to large regions. Ensure competitive programs make funding reasonably available for multimodal projects in Santa Cruz County, that address local and regional priorities.
 - **Local Role:** Ensure a strong role for regional and local agencies in planning and determining transportation investment priorities. Support legislation that respects local authority, protecting or expanding local decision-making in programming expenditures of transportation funds, rather than the State making top-down funding decisions that are not community-based. Project and increase direct funding to regions through both federal and state programs; and reinforce and build upon the structure of SB45 that provides regions a strong voice in the programming of state funds.
 - **State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP):** Ensure equitable programming and allocation of STIP funds.
 - **“Disadvantaged Communities” Definition:** Ensure that legislation and programs aimed at benefiting disadvantaged communities use a definition of “disadvantaged communities” (DACs) that ensures that projects that benefit low-income and other transportation disadvantaged residents of Santa Cruz County are not excluded from funding opportunities that support sustainable communities, transportation choices, and investments in alternative modes of transportation. Ensure that the definition does not rely exclusively on communities defined as DACs by CalEnviroScreen, which disproportionately excludes many low-income communities in Santa Cruz County.
- **Increase Funding for All Transportation Modes:** Support measures that increase funding for and support implementation of transportation projects in Santa Cruz County, including funds for ongoing system maintenance, congestion reduction, safety, complete streets, active transportation bike, pedestrian, transit projects, transit-oriented development, and specialized transportation for seniors and people with disabilities in Santa Cruz County.
 - **New funding systems:** Phase in new funding systems which are tied to system use, rather than fuel consumption or fuel prices. May include new user fees, such as a Road User Charge or Vehicle Miles Traveled (VMT) fee and other alternative funding mechanisms.
 - **Expand local revenue-raising opportunities** and innovative financing options to address the significant backlog of transportation needs. Provide locals with the ability to supplement and leverage state funding for investments that protect state and local transportation assets.
 - **Expand the authority of the RTC and local entities to increase taxes and fees** for transportation projects, such as new gas taxes, vehicle registration fees, property-tax financing, and infrastructure financing districts.



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- Support clarifying amendment to Government Code Section 65089.20 that will give RTPAs equal treatment with Congestion Management Agencies (CMAs) to seek voter approval for a local vehicle registration fee. *(SB83 cleanup)*
- **Lower Vote Threshold:** Support efforts to amend the California constitution to lower the voter threshold for local transportation and affordable housing funding measures, such as local sales tax or vehicle registration fee ballot measures, from the 2/3 supermajority to a simple majority or 55% vote. Support actions which would broaden eligibility in existing and/or new transportation funding streams to enable their use as a subsidy for low-income transportation system users (e.g. discounted fares for public transportation or shared mobility service).
- **Active Transportation Program (ATP):** Increase ATP funding and ensure potential reforms to the Active Transportation Program (ATP) do not reduce the proportion available for Santa Cruz County agencies to compete for, including funds to the competitive statewide, small urban and rural funding pots. Support efforts to simplify the Active Transportation Program (ATP) application and project delivery, build local capacity to deliver transformative projects, and provide regions greater flexibility to innovate and strategically invest funds to meet local needs.*
- **Cap & Trade:**
 - Increase percent of Cap & Trade revenues allocated to transportation projects and programs that help reduce greenhouse gas emissions in Santa Cruz County.
 - Support increases in Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) appropriations
 - Support policy changes to the Affordable Housing and Sustainable Communities program (AHSC) that increase funding opportunities for projects in Santa Cruz County.
 - Ensure continued funding for low and zero emission transit deployment. Ensure regulatory and legislative requirements related to transit electrification provide flexibility, consider cost and available technology, and do not place an undue burden on transit agencies.
 - Support legislation to devote a permanent Cap-and-Trade funding allocation to the Active Transportation Program.
- Support legislation to **increase the availability of funding for cities, counties, and regions** to support economic development, affordable housing, and implementation of sustainable community strategies, as well as policy tools to reduce single-occupancy vehicle travel in a manner that ensures equitable policy outcomes.
- Support innovative projects such as a new state-supported intercity passenger rail service on the planned Coast Route between the Bay Area and Goleta (*previously called the Coast Daylight*).*



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- **Increase and Preserve Funding for Priority Projects in Santa Cruz County:**
 - Projects on Highway 1
 - Local Street and Roadway Preservation
 - Transit projects
 - 511 implementation
 - Bicycle and Pedestrian facilities, including the Monterey Bay
 - Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) and in San Lorenzo Valley
 - Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line preservation
 - Soquel Avenue-Freedom Boulevard Corridor
- **Transportation Development Act (TDA):**
 - Monitor potential modifications to the TDA. Ensure funding for transit, planning, administrative, and other TDA purposes in Santa Cruz County are not reduced. Oppose efforts that would reduce TDA funds which are essential for RTC administration and planning. Support the development of greater efficiencies within the TDA while streamlining and updating performance metrics and eliminating penalties associated with farebox recovery. Support development of alternative performance measures that are focused on incentivizing transit agency actions that improve transit service and increase ridership, consistent with state and regional climate and equity goals.
 - Ensure discount fares aimed at boosting ridership and improving social equity do not result in reduced state funding. Pursue relief from TDA audits and performance criteria during the current economic downturn.

Project Implementation

- **Streamlining, Expediting, Facilitating Project Delivery:** Support administrative and/or legislative efforts which may be required to implement or expedite delivery of priority projects. Includes actions that streamline funding applications, simplify program administration, efforts that modernize and accelerate project delivery.
 - Support the development of greater efficiencies of transportation project implementation, including California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) reform, storm water runoff regulations, CA Fish and Wildlife, CA Water Quality Control Board and California Public Utilities Commission permit and approval processes, to streamline both project development and delivery for priority transportation and transit projects, including the Scotts Creek Bridge Replacement and implementation of the Regional Conservation Investment Strategy (RCIS), and eliminating any unnecessary, overly burdensome and/or duplicative mandates.
 - Support legislative and administrative actions required to secure permits that may be required to implement priority projects.
 - Opportunities to expedite transportation project delivery may include increasing contracting and financing options, increased flexibility in early allocation of programmed funds and initiating reimbursable work with local funds in advance of CTC allocation of all projects, efforts that expedite the Caltrans design review process, opportunities to expedite locally-sponsored projects on the state highway system, and increase in encroachment permit limits.
 - Support environmental streamlining measures for bike, pedestrian, transit, and infrastructure preservation within existing public rights of way, and other measures that expedite project delivery. Support efforts that provide for streamlined project delivery for transit projects that fulfill the goals of AB 32 and



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SB 375, as well as other state and federal air quality mandates and mobility performance measures.

- Support delegation of fund allocation responsibilities to Caltrans.
- Allow advance payment of programmed funds, in order to expedite project delivery and resolve cash flow challenges faced especially by small agencies.
- **Advanced Mitigation:** Support implementation of “advanced mitigation” environmental programs, including approving up-front environmental mitigation funding for projects, such as the Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing. Support creation of a low-interest loan program to support advance mitigation and habitat conservation plans that mitigate the impacts of transportation infrastructure and make project implementation more efficient.
- **Safety:** Support legislation and programs that improve transportation safety for all users and support programs aimed at eliminating all traffic-related serious injuries and fatalities.
 - Speed limits: Support proposals that would allow local jurisdictions to reduce speed limits on both local roads and state highways and work with state representatives to modify the California Vehicle Code to allow for prima facie speed limits of 25 mph on state highways that function as main streets, especially in business and school zones to address findings and to address other recommendations of the AB2363 Zero Traffic Fatalities Task Force report.
 - Traffic Laws & Enforcement: Support proposals to increase enforcement and modification of traffic laws to better protect pedestrians and bicyclists, including proposals to authorize automated speed enforcement on a pilot program basis, and modifications to vehicle code to allow vehicles to cross a double-yellow line when passing cyclists.
 - Education: Support commercial driver, bus driver, motorist, bicyclist, and Safe Routes to Schools training and education programs which reduce collisions.
- **Active Transportation Facilities:** Support modification to rules, regulations, and government codes that will make roadways more bicycle and pedestrian-friendly, including: laws associated with sharing the road; ensuring complete streets components (e.g. accessible pedestrian signals) are considered during the design of all projects; increasing funds for pedestrian, bicycle, and new micro-mobility devices and services (e.g. bike share), and safety countermeasures (e.g. buffered or protected bike lanes, flashers and lighting at crosswalks); increasing funds to provide resources necessary for First/Last Mile improvements; Safe Routes to School Programs; and providing additional direction and consistency for accessible pedestrian design.
- **Land Use/Housing/Transportation Coordination:**
 - Support efforts to reduce vehicles miles traveled and promote job-housing balance which also protect locally-driven land use planning that implements broad policy goals set by the state to provide affordable housing in transit-rich areas. Encourage new developments to incentivize active transportation and transit use. Ensure SB743 (Steinberg, 2013) implementation supports infill development,



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promotion of public health through active transportation, and expedites transportation project delivery. Support innovative measures to mitigate growth in vehicle miles traveled, such as regional mitigation banks.

- Support state goals to reduce homelessness. Monitor implementation of Governor Newsom's Executive Order N-23-20 which requires Caltrans to develop a model lease template to allow counties and cities to use Caltrans property adjacent to highways or state roads for short-term emergency homelessness shelter; and requests that special districts, cities, counties, and transit agencies, and others to examine their ability to provide shelter and house homeless individuals.
- Support efforts to streamline SB375 implementation and extend the timeframe between required Regional Transportation Plan updates.
- **Federal Transportation Act Implementation:** Support legislation and administrative strategies to implement the federal authorization bill (Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA)), in a way that ensures the best possible outcome for transportation projects in Santa Cruz County.
- **SHOPP Program:**
 - Support Caltrans' efforts to provide more outreach regarding State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP) projects and to include measureable targets for improving the state highway system. Support clarification of existing laws to permit the expenditure of SHOPP funds for operational projects on state highways.
 - Support inclusion of complete streets within SHOPP projects, as appropriate, but especially in areas where state highways serve as main streets, such as Highway 1/Mission St, Highway 9 through San Lorenzo Valley, and Highway 152 in Santa Cruz County.
- **Commuter Programs:** Support policies and legislation aimed at reducing trips and vehicle miles traveled and associated traffic congestion, including, but not limited to, employer-based programs to help reduce the share of commuting by single-occupant vehicles, expanding broadband and incentives to facilitate telecommuting, expanding park and ride lots, and a regional commuter benefits ordinance. Support dedicated funding for Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs and strategies.
- **Shared Mobility Systems:** Support policies that enable technological innovations to improve mobility, while protecting the public's interest. Monitor legislation and regulations related to shared mobility, such as transportation network companies (TNCs) and real-time carpooling, to ensure that mobility benefits are maximized, especially for underserved populations, and access to critical data for transportation and land-use planning and operational purposes is assured. Support measures that allow for local control and regulation of shared mobility systems such as scooters, bikes, and other fleets.
- **Connected and Autonomous Vehicles:** Monitor and engage in legislation and regulations to facilitate deployment of connected vehicles and autonomous vehicles. Oppose federal efforts to preempt local authority over the use of autonomous vehicles



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in their communities. In partnership with California cities and counties, transit agencies, the business community, and other transportation organizations, engage in regulatory and legislative efforts related to connected and autonomous vehicles with the goal of accelerating their safety, mobility, environmental, equity and economic benefits. Similar to the “shared mobility” strategy, support access to critical data for transportation and land use planning and operational purposes.

- **Electrification and Zero Emission** vehicle fleets: Support funding and coordination, including policy, planning, and infrastructure, for low and zero emission vehicles.
 - Support additional dedicated funding to help transit operators and colleges convert their bus and van fleets to zero-emission in order to meet the state’s Innovative Clean Transit rule and accelerate the decarbonization of the transportation system. Support reduced utility pricing for public transit electric vehicle fleets.
 - Support proposals that provide funding for regions and localities to build infrastructure and provide incentives for zero-emission vehicle and other modal device purchases, considering cost of increased usage of electricity, electric power storage capacity, proper safety protocols* and access for lower-income households.
- **Resilience:** Monitor and support legislation that invests in projects and programs to improve resilience to the impacts of climate change on transportation infrastructure and utilization of public transit in emergencies that address scenarios such as severe storm events, public safety power shut off events, wildfires, and sea level rise.*
- **Encroachments:** Support legislation that clarifies the authority under which rail property owners may remove, or by notice may require the removal of encroachments.
- **Unfunded Mandates:** Oppose unfunded mandates and seek funding for mandates imposed in recent years. Require new regulatory proposals to include an estimate of the cost and impact such proposals will have in the delivery of California’s transportation program.
- **Central Coast Representation:** Advocate for Central Coast representatives to be appointed to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and other state boards and committees in order to ensure that the complexities of small, coastal, and rural jurisdictions addressing their infrastructure and mobility needs are considered.*
- **Modernization of the Brown Act:** Enact legislation to expand public and board participation in public meetings. In order to maximize participation and access by board and committee members, modify the Brown Act to enhance participation and eliminate requirement to notice of all remote board or committee member locations.*

Support legislative clean-up of AB 361 (Rivas) to provide greater flexibility to local and regional agencies to hold meetings virtually without the requirement to renew findings every 30 days.



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Monitor and support legislation to provide long-term flexibility for regional and multijurisdictional agencies to conduct their business remotely outside of emergency conditions as a means of increasing public participation and board and committee member participation while also reducing the time and expenses associated with travel, vehicle miles traveled and the greenhouse gas and other tailpipe emissions from driving.

**Starred items are also part of the Central Coast Coalition's legislative platform.*

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State Legislative Program-Page 9
For more information contact the RTC at 831-460-3200; info@sccrtc.org;
1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060

PRELIMINARY DRAFT



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission 2022 FEDERAL Legislative Program

- **Priority Projects:** Seek and preserve funding for priority transportation projects and programs in Santa Cruz County, including:
 - Projects on Highway 1
 - Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line preservation
 - Transit operations and capital projects
 - Bicycle and pedestrian facilities, including the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST/Rail Trail)
 - Local street and roadway preservation
 - 511 implementation
 - Highway 1 Scotts Creek Bridge Replacement
 - Highway 9/SLV Corridor Complete Streets
- **Transportation Act ~~Reauthorization~~ Implementation**
 - Support implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) in a manner that maximizes funding for implementation of priority projects in Santa Cruz County, including formula and discretionary funding and policies.
 - ~~As Congress works on reauthorization of the FAST Act, which expires in September 2021, support California's reauthorization principles for a long-term, fully funded transportation authorization that supports local agencies achieving national, state and regional goals related to infrastructure condition, safety, mobility, and air quality.~~
- **Transportation Funding**
 - **Raise New Revenues & Grow Existing Programs:** Support raising and indexing federal gas taxes and development of new funding mechanisms to ensure the financial integrity and solvency of the Highway Trust Fund (HTF) and Mass Transportation Account. Increase federal transportation investment all modes to bring transportation infrastructure up to a good state of repair and meet growing transportation needs in Santa Cruz County.
 - **Increase funding:** Support ~~a reauthorization bill and other~~ legislative actions that increase funding for priority projects in Santa Cruz County, including:
 - **Active Transportation:** Bicycle and pedestrian safety and mobility projects, such as the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP).
 - **Transit:** Small Transit Intensive Cities Program (STIC), funding for acquisition of transit capital (Bus and Bus Facilities, and Low and No Emissions Bus Programs), Capital Investment Grants, Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) implementation, state of good repair, and other transit programs. Support tax credits for the purchase of electric buses.
 - **Local Roads and Highways:** Support robust funding for core programs such as the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBG), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) and bridge programs needed for local entities to address the backlog of bridge and roadway projects.
 - **Self-Help Counties:** Support programs that reward areas which have approved self-help revenue measures like Measure D and the METRO dedicated sales taxes.
 - **Planning:** Federal planning funds to address increased planning, performance measure, monitoring, and model requirements.



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- **Transit Oriented Development (TOD):** Grants or pilot programs for comprehensive planning and infill development to connect housing, jobs, and mixed-use development with transportation options.
- **Support COVID Relief and Economic Recovery:** Support federal funding to support economic recovery, local and state responses to the public health crisis, and backfill any transportation revenue losses due to COVID-19.
- **Infrastructure Initiative:** ~~If an infrastructure package, such as the “Moving Forward Act” or~~ Climate and social spending bills: If a funding package, such as the “Build Back Better” bill, advances, support inclusion of funding for sustainable transportation and system preservation ~~ensure that the initiative increases transportation investment opportunities for~~ projects in Santa Cruz County and addresses principles for reauthorization of the transportation act. Any infrastructure package should ensure projects in Santa Cruz County are not disadvantaged in accessing those funds. The initiative should also include a significant investment of **new** federal funds for transportation, stabilize the Highway Trust Fund and not be offset by reductions to other federal programs serving Santa Cruz County residents.
- **Air Quality, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, and Climate Resiliency:** Strengthen federal partnership to improve air quality, reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and make our communities and transportation networks resilient to a changing climate.
 - **Funding:** Support development of new resources to support climate adaptation and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from transportation (similar to those included in the Senate FAST Act reauthorization bill (S. 2302)), expand eligibility for Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) and other funding programs to Santa Cruz County.
 - **Electrification:** Support federal funding, tax credits, and coordination of vehicle electrification purchase (including buses), planning and infrastructure.
 - **Mitigation:** Defend against rollbacks of California’s air quality and climate change laws and regulation, such as fuel efficiency standards and cap-and-trade programs.
 - **Resiliency:** Support resiliency and climate change preparedness and efforts that could support local efforts to improve resiliency, respond to new or worsening storm, fire, and other environmental hazards and meet regional climate goals. Support efforts to increase planning funds that help regional governments address climate change and make regional transportation infrastructure more resilient.
 - **Disaster Recovery:** Ensure the federal government provides sufficient emergency relief appropriations and federal agency resources to support rebuilding and recovery efforts for wildfire, storm, and other natural disasters. Support legislative efforts to extend the timeframe for road projects qualifying for federal disaster reimbursement to move to the construction phase from two years to six years.
- **Federal Authorization Implementation:** Support legislation and administrative strategies to implement federal transportation authorization bills in a way that ensures the best possible outcome for transportation projects in Santa Cruz County. Ensure that U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) implementation of MAP-21, FAST Act, IJA and any new transportation act rules and regulations do not have a negative impact on local projects and programs.

PRELIMINARY DRAFT

- **Discretionary Grants:** Advocate for discretionary transportation grant awards for priority transportation projects in Santa Cruz County, including the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD, formerly TIGER) and Capital Investment Grant program.
- **Innovative Financing:** Ensure proposals for public-private partnerships and innovative financing are favorable for project implementation in Santa Cruz County. Support and expand the Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program and make the Railroad Rehabilitation and Improvement Financing (RRIF) program more accessible to smaller public agencies.
- **Department of Transportation Budget and Annual Appropriations.** Ensure that Congress appropriates funding consistent with amounts authorized in federal transportation authorizations (e.g. ~~FAST Act~~ ~~IIJA~~), even if Continuing Resolutions (CR) are needed to keep transportation programs running each fiscal year.
- **Oppose rescissions or arbitrary cuts** that could reduce funding for transportation projects in Santa Cruz County.
- **Support transparent congressionally-directed spending** (earmarks) to allow for Congressional support of priority projects in Santa Cruz County
- **Oppose unfunded mandates** and support legislation that provides funding for past mandates.
- **Performance Measures:** Support development of performance measures which are consistent with RTC approved goals, policies, and targets and which recognize data limitations of many regions. Support open collaboration, data sharing and funding to successfully implement state and federal performance-based planning and management requirements.
- **Protect and expand transportation fringe benefits.** Reinstate the commuter benefit, which was eliminated under the tax reform bill. In addition, advocate for expanding pre-tax transportation fringe benefit eligibility to include shared mobility options, such as bike-share and shared ride carpool services.
- **Shared Mobility:** Advocate for federal legislative and regulatory updates that support shared mobility options such as bike-share, shared rides, carpooling, and shared scooters. Support expanding pre-tax transportation fringe benefit eligibility to include shared mobility options. This change would support the now-permanent Bay Area Commuter Benefits program by expanding federal tax incentives utilize alternatives to single occupancy travel to commute to work.
- **Autonomous Vehicles:** Oppose federal efforts to preempt local authority to regulate the use of autonomous vehicles in their communities.
- **Streamline Project Delivery:** Support regulations to streamline and integrate federal project delivery requirements for project planning, development, review, permitting, and environmental processes in order to reduce project costs and delays.

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