

AGENDA: January 13, 2022

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Guy Preston, Executive Director
RE: Director's Report

THIS ITEM FOR INFORMATION ONLY

2021 Consolidated Grant Cycle

Following the RTC's direction at the December 2, 2021 meeting to increase funding to County pavement projects by \$2 million, maintain at least \$300,000 for the Highway 1 Freedom-State Park Auxiliary Lane project, and maintain funding for city projects as recommended by staff and committees, staff programmed the balance of funds available from the \$11.2 million available through the RTC's 2021 Consolidated Grant Cycle (\$189,000) as follows: \$105,000 to the SLV Schools Complex Circulation and Access Study (see item on today's board agenda), \$59,000 to the Ecology Action Youth Bike/Pedestrian Education program. A total of \$325,000 was programmed to Highway 1.

There was not enough funding for Santa Cruz METRO and Community Bridges Lift Line bus purchases, and agencies were notified that the RTC will work with them to identify and promote future grant opportunities.

Links to the full list of projects approved for funding and the RTC's 2022 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) submittal to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) for State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) funds is online at www.sccrtc.org/rtip and <https://sccrtc.org/funding-planning/project-funding/2021-2022-rtip/>.

Public Meeting on Soquel Drive Improvement Project

RTC secured a \$107.2 million grant for three projects that are part of Watsonville to Santa Cruz Multi-Modal Corridor Plan, including bus on shoulders, auxiliary lanes and bicycle and pedestrian overcrossings on two Highway 1 projects: Soquel Drive/Avenue to 41st Avenue and Bay/Porter to State Park Drive. In addition to the Highway 1 improvements, the grant included funding for a 5.6-mile-long complete streets project on Soquel Drive, from La Fonda Drive to State Park Drive.

The Soquel Drive project includes:

- Over 5 miles of pavement resurfacing
- Closure of sidewalks gaps
- 10 mid-block crossing with flashing beacons
- Over 10 miles of protected or buffered bike lanes
- 17 improved driveway and sidewalk street connections
- 22 improved intersections with adaptive traffic signals and transit signal prioritization
- 96 crosswalk upgrades
- 100 ADA accessible ramps

The County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department is leading the development of the Soquel Drive project and is seeking public input as part of two virtual public meetings. There will be a virtual meeting on January 20th. A flyer on the virtual meetings is attached to this report.

Rail Line Storm Damage Repair – Railroad Bridge Fencing

The last of RTC's 2017 storm damage repair project, Site 7, is scheduled to start construction next week. The work for Site 7 consists of removal and replacement of a portion of the railroad bridge railing over Highway 1, between State Park Drive and Rio del Mar Boulevard, which was damaged when a tree fell onto the bridge.

To safely perform the work, the contractor, Granite Rock Construction will need to completely close the freeway, at night, between State Park Drive and Rio del Mar with traffic being detoured onto Soquel Drive. Work is scheduled to take place over 3 nights, Tuesday January 18 – Thursday January 20th. Northbound lanes will be closed between 10PM – 4AM. Southbound lanes will be closed between 11PM – 5AM.

Coastal Rail Trail – Segment 7/Phase 1 receives Caltrans Excellence in Transportation Award

Each year, Caltrans highlights the best of its work and the work of its partners through the annual Caltrans Excellence in Transportation Awards Program. Caltrans received entries from Caltrans districts and programs, public agencies, private contractors, and consultants across the state. This year, the City of Santa Cruz Public Works and its partners, including RTC, were honored as the winner in the Intermodal Transportation category. Caltrans referred to this project as an excellent example of providing a safe transportation system for users and promoting health through active transportation and reduced pollution.

Winning projects were selected from an application pool of entries from across the state and reviewed by a panel consisting of professional engineers, environmental

specialists, transportation planners, and landscape design experts. A full list of award winners is online at <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/public-affairs/eit-awards>.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Soquel Drive Project Outreach Flyer
2. Soquel Drive Fact Sheet



SOQUEL DRIVE Buffered Bike Lane & Congestion Mitigation Project

A more walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly, and less congested Soquel Drive coming soon!



**REDUCE
CONGESTION**

**ENHANCE
SAFETY**

**IMPROVE
TRAVEL TIME**

OVERVIEW

Commuters escaping the congestion on Highway 1 often cut through on Soquel Drive. With operational improvements to Highway 1 in process, the improvements currently planned for 5.6 miles of the busiest segment of Soquel Ave/Drive from La Fonda Ave to State Park Drive will reduce congestion, enhance safety for bicyclists and pedestrians and improve travel time reliability for bus riders and motorists.

soqueldrivebufferedproject.com

Join Us VIRTUAL COMMUNITY WORKSHOP

2ND DISTRICT RESIDENTS:
(APTOS)

**WEDNESDAY
JANUARY 12**

6:00–7:30 PM

REGISTER: bit.ly/soquelzoom2

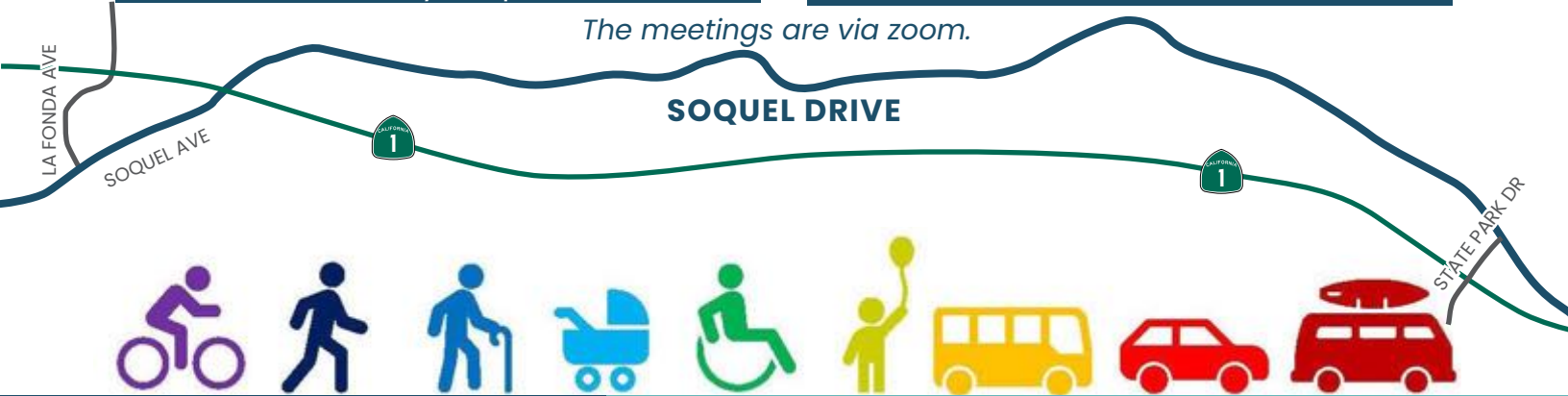
1ST DISTRICT RESIDENTS:
(LIVE OAK, SOQUEL)

**THURSDAY
JANUARY 20**

6:00–7:30 PM

REGISTER: bit.ly/soquelzoom1

The meetings are via zoom.



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Steve Wiesner
Assistant Director of Public Works, County of Santa Cruz

SOQUEL DRIVE

Proyecto de mitigación de congestión y carriles para bicicletas con amortiguación

¡Pronto habrá una Soquel Drive más accesible para caminar, andar en bicicleta, para tránsito y menos congestionada!



REDUCIR LA CONGESTIÓN

MEJORAR LA SEGURIDAD

MEJORAR EL TIEMPO DE VIAJE

soqueldrivebufferedproject.com

VISIÓN GENERAL

Los viajeros que escapan de la congestión en la autopista 1 a menudo atraviesan Soquel Drive. Con las mejoras operativas a la autopista 1 en proceso, las mejoras actualmente planificadas para 5.6 millas del segmento más concurrido de Soquel Ave/Drive desde La Fonda Ave hasta State Park Drive reducirán la congestión, mejorarán la seguridad para ciclistas y peatones y mejorarán la confiabilidad del tiempo de viaje para los pasajeros de autobús y automovilistas.

Únete a nosotros TALLER DE COMUNIDAD VIRTUAL

RESIDENTES DEL 2^{DO} DISTRITO:
(APTOS)

**MIÉRCOLES
12 DE ENERO**

6:00–7:30 PM

REGISTRARSE: bit.ly/soquelzoom2

RESIDENTES DEL 1^{ER} DISTRITO:
(LIVE OAK, SOQUEL)

**JUEVES
20 DE ENERO**

6:00–7:30 PM

REGISTRARSE: bit.ly/soquelzoom1

Las reuniones se realizan mediante zoom.



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Steve Wiesner

Assistant Director of Public Works, County of Santa Cruz

SOQUEL DRIVE

Buffered Bike Lane & Congestion Mitigation Project



A more walkable, bikeable, transit-friendly, and less congested Soquel Drive coming soon!



OVERVIEW

Commuters escaping the congestion on Highway 1 often cut through on Soquel Drive. With operational improvements to Highway 1 in process, the improvements currently planned for 5.6 miles of the busiest segment of Soquel Ave/Drive from La Fonda Ave to State Park Drive will reduce congestion, enhance safety for bicyclists and pedestrians, and improve travel time reliability for bus riders and motorists.

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5+

MILES OF PAVEMENT RESURFACING

.5

MILES OF SIDEWALK GAPS REPLACED WITH CONTINUOUS NEW SIDEWALKS

10

MIDBLOCK CROSSINGS WITH FLASHING BEACONS

10+

MILES OF CONTINUOUS PROTECTED OR BUFFERED BIKE LANES

17

IMPROVED DRIVEWAY AND SIDEWALK STREET CONNECTION

22

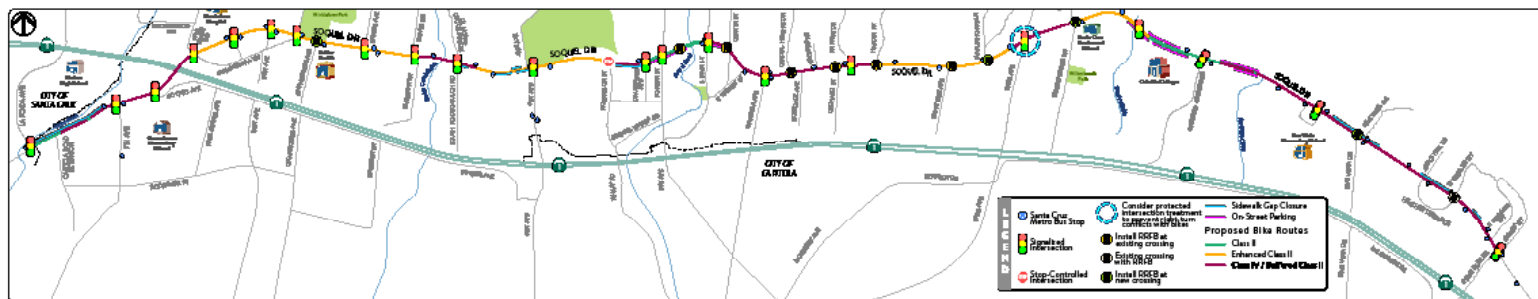
IMPROVED INTERSECTIONS WITH ADAPTIVE TRAFFIC SIGNALS AND TRANSIT SIGNAL PRIORITY

96

CROSSWALK UPGRADES

100

UPDATES TO ADA ACCESSIBLE RAMPS



BENEFITS

This project is a key component of the Watsonville–Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program (WSC-MCP) which provides a coordinated approach to improving north-south travel through Santa Cruz county. Goals for the corridor improvements include:

- Enhance safety for all travelers
- Improve transit travel times
- Encourage bicycling, walking and the use of public transit
- Reduce emissions including greenhouse gases
- Reduce congestion for cars and trucks
- Improve access for emergency services
- Promote sustainable economic growth
- Improve access to housing, jobs, schools and healthcare
- Promote sustainable development and livable communities

FUNDING

Construction funding is provided by the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP), Local Partnership Program (LPP), Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG), Senate Bill 1 (SB 1) and local funding. The delivery of the project will be led by the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCRTC) as a key stakeholder which is part of the SCRTC Watsonville–Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program (WSC-MCP).



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