



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) February 3, 2022 Meeting Highlights

RTC Approves Additional Funding for Completion of Project Initiation Document (PID) for Highway 9 Projects

The Commission approved \$30,000 in additional funding to Caltrans to ensure sound completion of a PID for projects along 12 miles of Highway 9. The funding will ensure that all project ideas proposed in the SLV Plan for the area covered by the PID are included in the analysis. The PID is scheduled to be completed in April 2022 and will identify six projects that could be funded and constructed independently as funding becomes available.

RTC Increases Measured D Funds in Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-21 Budget

Actual Measure D revenues for FY 2021-22 have been higher than originally estimated. Therefore, the RTC amended its FY 2021-22 budget increasing Measure D revenue forecasts by 12.2%. This translates into increased funding for all Measure D revenue recipients, including over \$830,000 to the county and the cities for local road projects, over \$440,000 to Santa Cruz METRO for transit services, and over \$110,000 to Community Bridges for specialized transportation services.

Watsonville to Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program Update

The Commission received an update on the Watsonville to Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program (WSC-MCP). The WSC-MCP was developed following the completion of the RTC's Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS) in 2019 which identified innovative projects along three main north to south routes through Santa Cruz County – Highway 1, Soquel Avenue/Soquel Drive/Freedom Boulevard, and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) that will address vital transportation needs of the community. The UCS acts as the RTC's Multimodal Corridor Plan, making projects along the 3 routes eligible for Senate Bill 1 (SB1) competitive funds, including the Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) and Local Partnership Program (LPP). The update included information on two projects along Highway 1 and one project along Soquel Drive (view the meeting presentation [here](#)) that were awarded SCCP and LPP funds. RTC staff is preparing to submit competitive grant applications for these projects for the next cycle of SB1 SCCP and LPP funds and will return to the Commission with recommendations for programming of matching funds needed prior to June 2022.

Informational Report on the Potential Preservation of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line by Railbanking including Future Potential Adverse Abandonment Actions for Heavy Freight Rail Only & Termination of the ACL Agreement

The Commission received an informational report on the potential preservation of the RTC-owned Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) by railbanking and heard public comment on the issue. Preservation options the Commission received information on included potentially filing adverse abandonment actions for heavy freight rail only on the SCBRL and the Felton Branch Line (owned by Roaring Camp), and allowing for the termination of the Administrative, Coordination and License (ACL) Agreement with Saint Paul and Pacific Railway (SPPR). Railbanking the SCBRL north of Watsonville would eliminate the need for additional costly repairs on the line (approximately \$50-65M) needed for freight service beyond Watsonville. Railbanking would also ensure the RTC's property rights to use the railroad easements for the construction of trail segments without the potential need to purchase additional property rights. Roaring Camp has stated they would oppose railbanking heavy freight on the SCBRL. Executive Director Guy Preston will continue to work with Roaring Camp to find a solution and will continue to provide updates to the Commission on the progress.

Ballot Measure Regarding Rail and Trail

The Commission received information on placing an advisory measure on the June 2022 ballot concerning the future of rail service and construction of a bicycle and pedestrian trail within the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line right-of-way. After consideration, Commissioners decided to withdraw the item from the agenda. No action or public comment was taken on the withdrawn item.

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, March 3, 2022, 9:00 a.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.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, February 17, 2022, 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.

