In November 2016 Santa Cruz County voters passed Measure D, providing stable, local funds to help local agencies address some of the significant backlog of transportation needs in Santa Cruz County. Measure D funds are being used to maintain and improve local roads, highways, bridges, sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and transit. The following highlights a few of the projects that Measure D is helping to fund.

Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing – Construction Started!
- Caltrans started construction of the wildlife crossing under Highway 17 near Laurel Curve in February 2022. The project will provide long-ranging wildlife—most notably Santa Cruz’s mountain lions—with safe passage under the heavily trafficked highway, reducing crashes between people driving on the highway and the wildlife crossing it. The project is funded by a combination of Measure D, State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), and Land Trust funds. The project is expected to be completed in Fall 2022.
Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor is composed of innovative projects on the 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 – that will address vital transportation needs of the community.

Highway 1

- The RTC, in partnership with Caltrans, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO), and the County of Santa Cruz, continues work on five new sets of auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 between Soquel Drive and Freedom Boulevard. These projects include:
  - Auxiliary lanes and a bus-on-shoulder facility 7.5 miles in length;
  - Replacement of the Capitola Avenue local roadway overcrossing with added sidewalks and bike lanes;
  - Four new Highway 1 bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings at Chanticleer Avenue in Live Oak, Mar Vista Drive in Aptos, and two rail trail bridges; and
  - Sound walls and retaining walls.
- **41st Avenue-Soquel Drive auxiliary lanes, bus-on-shoulder & Chanticleer Avenue bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing project**: Construction is expected to begin in 2022. Construction is funded with an SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) grant that the RTC was able to secure using Measure D as match.
- **State Park-Bay/Porter auxiliary lanes, bus-on-shoulder, Mar Vista bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing & Capitola Avenue bridge replacement project**: Environmental review was completed in May of 2021. In February, the RTC received input from the community on aesthetic features proposed for the project including the Capitola Avenue overcrossing, sound walls, retaining walls, and the landscape planting palate. Final design is underway, and construction is scheduled to begin in 2023. Measure D funds were used to leverage SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) and Local Partnership Program (LPP) grants.
- **Freedom Boulevard-State Park Drive auxiliary lanes, bus-on-shoulder & Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 project**: The project includes the 1.25-mile Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail between State Park Drive and Rio Del Mar/Sumner. The environmental document is under development and on schedule for public review in 2022.

Soquel Drive

- The County Department of Public Works presented designs for the Soquel Drive Buffered Bike Lane & Congestion Mitigation Project during public workshops in January 2022. The County has been soliciting input from the public, as well as the RTC’s Bicycle Committee and Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee, as it finalizes the design. The project includes multimodal improvements on Soquel Drive between La Fonda and State Park Drive. Measure D–Neighborhood funds were used to match state grant funding for this project. Construction is scheduled for 2023.
  - Project improvements include:
    - 5+ miles of pavement resurfacing
    - 0.5 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 side street connections
    - 22 improved intersections with Adaptive Traffic Signals and Transit Signal Priority
    - 96 crosswalk upgrades
    - 100 updates to ADA accessible ramps
Commuter Assistance Programs

- Traveler Information and Transportation Demand Management
  - Cruz511, in coordination with the City of Santa Cruz’s GO Santa Cruz program, launched its new commute manager program, GO Santa Cruz County, in Spring 2021. The program provides assistance and incentives to commuters to ride the bus, join a carpool, telecommute, ride a bike, or walk to work. People who live or work anywhere in Santa Cruz County can learn more and sign up at: www.gosantacruzcounty.org. As of January 2022, more than 2,562 participants enrolled in GO Santa Cruz County, and have logged more than 47,049 non-single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips or 205,169 non-SOV miles traveled, reducing 67 tons of CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions.

Highway Safety and Congestion Reduction Programs

- The Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) roves segments of Highway 1 and Highway 17 looking to help stranded motorists on the highway during weekday commute hours and on a limited schedule on weekends. Regular weekday morning FSP operates 6 a.m.-9 a.m. on Highway 1 and 6:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. on Highway 17. Weekday PM service operates from 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. on both Highway 1 and 17. As of January 2022, FSP tow providers have provided nearly 800 motorist assists.
- The RTC entered into a new three-year contract to provide towing services on Highway 1 and Highway 17 beginning in April 2022. The CHP receives $100,000 annually for additional enforcement on the Santa Cruz County portion of Highway 17, with $50,000 coming from Measure D–Highway funds. The RTC partners with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and CHP San Jose to provide extra enforcement on Highway 17 in Santa Clara County. The Safe on 17 Task Force meetings are held twice a year on the 3rd Wednesday in September and March.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Rail Trail

- The design plans for Segment 7, Phase II of the Coastal Rail Trail have been completed and the project is expected to be advertised for construction in early spring. Construction is expected to begin in May 2022 and be completed in May 2023. The project will connect to the recently completed Segment 7, Phase I which serves over 800 active transportation users per day. Together, the two phases will create 2.1 miles of Coastal Rail Trail between Natural Bridges Drive and Pacific Avenue at the Santa Cruz Wharf. The City of Santa Cruz used Measure D funds to leverage grant funding from the California Active Transportation Program to construct this project.
- 7.2 miles of Coastal Rail Trail, including Segments 8 & 9 (Seabright-Live Oak) and Segments 10 & 11 (Live Oak-State Park), began preliminary design and environmental review work in Spring 2021. In February 2022, the City and County of Santa Cruz provided an update to the RTC regarding the development of the projects. Public input on the schematic plans for the projects will be solicited in Spring 2022.
- The North Coast Rail Trail project completed 95 percent design in Fall 2021. The California Coastal Commission approved the project in December 2021. All preconstruction activities are scheduled to be completed in early 2022. Construction funding for the first phase is secured through a Federal Land
Access program grant. Construction funding for the second phase is pending final award for the Federal Land Access program grant funds to be announced in Fall 2022. Construction may be delayed until 2024 depending on federal funding availability.

**Rail Corridor**

- In January 2022, the RTC awarded a construction contract for the first phase of coastal erosion repair near Manresa State Beach.
- The Pajaro River Bridge repair is scheduled to begin construction in 2022. Construction is funded by the Shortline Railroad Improvement Program (SRIP) that the RTC was able to secure using Measure D as match.
- Infrastructure preservation and preventative maintenance, including vegetation and drainage work, continues along the rail corridor. In February 2022, a pilot program to manage vegetation utilizing herds of goats was conducted along three segments of the corridor in Aptos, Capitola, and Live Oak with promising results. Several storm damage repair projects were also completed in 2021 and January 2022. Maintenance requests can be directed to maintenance@sccrtc.org.

**Highway 9/SLV Corridor**

- The RTC and Caltrans are collaborating to incorporate complete streets elements such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalk improvements into the Highway 9 Capital Preventative Maintenance paving project in Felton, as well as improving auto operations and traffic flow into their next paving project in Felton. The project could go to construction as early as 2026 pending availability of funds for construction.
- Caltrans is nearing completion of a Project Initiation Document (PID) for complete streets improvements throughout the Highway 9 corridor including Ben Lomond, Brookdale, and Boulder Creek. Measure D funds were used to fund the PID and will be used to leverage other funds for projects identified in the document.
- The RTC entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) forming a five-jurisdiction team, including Caltrans, Santa Cruz County Public Works, Santa Cruz METRO, and the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District (SLVUSD). The MOU provides for collaborating on solutions to improve walking, bicycling, transit, and auto circulation infrastructure on Highway 9, including the SLVUSD elementary, middle, and high school campus north of Felton, and adjacent county roads. This effort encompasses projects 9-11 of the SLV Plan and would allow students to walk and bike to school where there are currently limited facilities, as well as improve circulation and traffic flow for transit, school buses, and autos. The RTC programmed some of the region’s formula shares of state funds for the study at its December 2, 2021 meeting. An RFP was published to procure a professional engineering consultant for preliminary engineering, traffic analysis, and a feasibility and needs assessment for improving multimodal operations to and along the SLV Schools Complex on Highway 9.
Local Road Projects
City and County public works departments are using Measure D funds on a number of projects to repair local roads and improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities throughout the county. Here is a look at some of these projects from the past quarter:

• **County of Santa Cruz**
  - Completed the 2021 Measure D Resurfacing Project resulting in 10.85 miles of roads being resurfaced throughout the county.
  - The 2022 Measure D Resurfacing Project is anticipated to begin construction in June 2022. The County will be partnering with the City of Capitola for a joint project, and partnering with local utility agencies with required resurfacing work on county roads.

• **Santa Cruz**
  - Completed the Pacific Avenue Sidewalk Project which included:
    - Removal and replacement of damaged storm drain structures
    - New bike lane, parking, and traffic striping
    - Installation of 260 lineal feet of curb, gutter, and sidewalk
    - Installation of one ADA compliant curb ramp
    - Installation of a new concrete bus pad and roadway pavement rehabilitation
    - Installation of three new decorative streetlights
    - Installation of three new street trees
  - Contracted with Ecology Action to provide comprehensive youth bike and pedestrian training to elementary students at Santa Cruz City public schools:
    - Conducted Walk Smart presentations and Walking Field Trips for all second-grade classes at Spring Hill Elementary School

• **Scotts Valley**
  - Bean Creek Road repair project is in the design/engineering phase with construction anticipated to begin in Spring 2022. The project will include subgrade rework, an asphalt overlay, drainage improvements, and restriping from Blue Bonnet Lane to Redwood Way.
- **Watsonville**
  - Measure D Local Neighborhood funds were used on the following projects:
    - Ongoing design of the Lee Road Trail project
    - Ongoing design of the Bridge Street Reconstruction project
    - Ongoing design of the Freedom Boulevard reconstruction project
    - Installation of speed humps on Bridge Street as part of a traffic safety project identified by neighbors and implemented by City staff

**METRO Public Transit Service**
- Six Compressed Natural Gas buses previously purchased arrived and passed acceptance testing.
- Two of four Proterra electric buses previously purchased arrived and passed acceptance testing.