



Active Transportation: Coastal Rail Trail Segment 5

Project Description

The Coastal Rail Trail Segment 5 (as defined in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail {MBSST} Network Master Plan) proposes to construct 7.5 miles of the MBSST's rail trail spine between Wilder Ranch and Davenport. Segment 5 would be a new multi-use paved path with striping and unpaved shoulders, and parking improvements along the scenic North Coast in Santa Cruz County.

The goals of this project are to provide an accessible bicycle and pedestrian path adjacent to the rail right-of-way for active transportation, recreation, coastal viewshed appreciation, and environmental/cultural education along the existing rail corridor, consistent with the MBSST Network Master Plan. When constructed, this project will be one portion of the planned 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail network that traverses the entire coastline of Santa Cruz County.

Segment 5 is divided into two phases which will be built together should funding be secured. Phase I covers 5.4 miles from Wilder Ranch to Panther/Yellowbank Beach. Phase II spans 2.1 miles from Panther/Yellowbank Beach to Davenport and includes new parking lots in Davenport and at Panther/Yellowbank Beach, improved access to the parking lot at Bonny Doon Beach, and a pedestrian crossing in Davenport.

*** Please note that the North Coast Rail Trail is still in the design and construction planning phase and is not open to the public. Members of the public should not enter the right-of-way until the RTC announces that construction of the trail has been completed and the trail is open for public use.**



Project Highlights

- ▶ ADA-accessible trail that maximizes ocean views and scenic coastal vistas along historical and agricultural landscapes
- ▶ 7.5-mile continuous paved bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting Wilder Ranch to Davenport
- ▶ Provides car-free alternative access to numerous beaches and recreational facilities along the coast
- ▶ Links to existing and future trails (such as Wilder Ranch, San Vicente Redwoods, etc.) creating bike/pedestrian access from the City of Santa Cruz to Davenport
- ▶ Safety and mobility improvements along a scenic portion of the County adjacent to Highway 1 with the addition of two new parking lots and improvements to a third, restrooms, and a pedestrian crossing in Davenport

Project Status/Schedule

The RTC completed the Environmental Impact Report in 2019. CFL will complete the federal environmental document in 2021. Final design and permitting are scheduled to be complete in 2022. Construction funding for Phase I is programmed for 2024. Construction funding for Phase II is pending final award for Federal Lands Access program grant funds to be announced in Fall 2022 and would also be programmed for 2024.



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Project Delivery Strategy

In partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - Central Federal Lands (CFL), the RTC is leading the project delivery. The RTC completed the Environmental Impact Report for the entire 7.5 mile-long Segment 5 project. The RTC is using Measure D, Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), Coastal Conservancy, and Land Trust of Santa Cruz County funds to leverage other potential grant opportunities. CFL is completing the federal environmental clearance and leading the design of the entire 7.5-mile segment. The RTC is leading the acquisition of any right-of-way needed for the project. CFL will lead the construction of Phase I. Should FLAP funding be awarded for Phase II, CFL would also lead construction of Phase II. The RTC will continue to investigate other state and federal opportunities to complete the construction funding plan.

Total Programming

Estimated Total Cost	\$26.1M
Funding Sources	
Measure D (Active Transportation)	\$7M
Other Secured*	\$13.4M
Need	\$5.7M

*Includes Central Federal Lands (FLAP Grant), Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, and RSTPX funds.

