



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Aug. 4, 2022 Meeting Highlights

RTC Allocates Funds for Work of the Community Traffic Safety Coalition (CTSC)

The Commission approved \$156,000 in Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds to the CTSC, a community-based coalition operated by the Santa Cruz County Health Services Agency (HAS) which brings together various agencies, including police departments. The CTSC works to address road safety, to provide bicycle and pedestrian safety education to elementary school children through its Ride and Stride Program, and to eliminate traffic related injuries and fatalities through Vision Zero programs and efforts.

Deferred Maintenance on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

The Commission authorized RTC Executive Director Guy Preston to enter into an agreement to correct deferred maintenance along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line between Milepost 3 (Lee Road) and Milepost 7 (Buena Vista Drive). In April 2022, RTC staff performed a preventative maintenance inspection of the area and observed overgrown vegetation and clogged ditches and culverts. The work is anticipated to be completed before the rainy season starts, which would help prevent future damage to the rail line. RTC staff will pursue reimbursement of the maintenance costs from St. Paul and Pacific Railroad, the freight easement owner and common carrier on the line.

Request for Proposals for Professional Engineering and Environmental Services – Electric Passenger Rail Transit & Coastal Rail Trail Project

The Commission approved releasing a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a professional engineering services contract for preliminary engineering and environmental documentation for an Electric Rail Transit & Coastal Rail Trail project between the Pajaro Junction and Santa Cruz on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The initial scope of work for the contract includes the development of an Electric Rail Transit project concept report to clearly define the project for further evaluation. The full scope would include preliminary engineering and environmental documentation work, including an Environmental Impact Report for Electric Passenger Rail and for the remaining Coastal Rail Trail segments within the rail transit corridor limits including Segments 13-17 from Rio del Mar Boulevard to Lee Road, and Segments 19 and 20 between Beach Street and the Pajaro Junction. Staff plans to release the RFP this month and anticipates returning to the Commission in November with a contract award recommendation.

Response to Court Ruling on CEQA Challenge of Highway 1 Tier I High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes Project

The Commission adopted a resolution for RTC Executive Director Guy Preston to negotiate and execute a contract to provide technical support to address the Superior Court of California ruling on the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) challenge for the Highway 1 Tier I High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) Lanes Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Although the court rejected the majority of the plaintiff's claims, the ruling orders Caltrans to recirculate a focused draft EIR for public review and comment. Caltrans and RTC will be taking steps toward addressing the court's order and plan to recirculate the analysis for three focused topics in the coming months. Staff anticipates the work taking place over the next six to nine months.

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 is now holding its commission meetings in a hybrid (virtual and in-person) format. 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, Sept. 1, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, Aug. 8, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee – Special Meeting

Tuesday, Aug. 9, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Transportation Policy Workshop

Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, Aug. 18, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Budget & Admin/Personnel Committee

Thursday, Sept. 8, 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.