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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Oct. 6, 2022 Meeting Highlights

Revised Plans, Specifications, and Engineer's Estimate for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project

The Commission approved revised plans, specifications, and Engineer's estimates for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project. The Pajaro River Bridge at Mile Post (MP) 1.06 connects the track portion of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line in Watsonville active with freight to the main line in Pajaro, providing freight customers access to the national rail network. In May, the Commission rejected a construction bid for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project as unreasonable. The original rehabilitation scope of work included specialized work and particular uncertainties that limited its attractiveness to potential bidders and limited the pool of potential bidders that could undertake the work. To address these challenges, staff developed a revised scope of work for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project. Staff will advertise the project in mid-October 2022.

Erosion and Maintenance Work Along the Santa Cruz Branch Line Near Manresa State Beach

The Commission authorized Executive Director Guy Preston to negotiate and enter into an agreement for the installation of temporary bluff erosion protection measures and drainage maintenance at Milepost (MP) 8.8 to 9 along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) near Manresa State Beach. Preventative maintenance inspections in late 2019 identified erosion of the slope near the top of the outboard coastal bluff along the SCBRL at MP 8.85. To address the immediate erosion concern, staff procured a construction contractor to install temporary bluff erosion protection measures comprising of plastic tarp and sandbags along the failing slope. These temporary protective measures have now degraded and need replacement. This work is anticipated to begin in October and be completed in November of 2022.

Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy (CCZEVS) Update

The Commission received a presentation on the Central Coast Zero Emission Vehicle Strategy. Funded by a Caltrans transportation planning grant, this effort is led by the Santa Barbara County Association of Governments (SBCAG), in partnership with the San Luis Obispo Council of Governments (SLOCOG) and Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG). This effort will identify electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure needs in Central Coast Counties (Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura). Through development of this plan, Central Coast agencies will be better positioned to apply and/or compete for state and federal funding for electric vehicle infrastructure implementation. The public is asked to visit the

project website, <http://www.centralcoastzevstrategy.com>, to learn more about the study and provide input.

Coastal Rail Trail Maintenance & Trail Funding

Maintenance of Coastal Rail Trail projects is required to preserve capital investments and provide a positive trail user experience. At their May 2022 meeting, the Commission requested that staff provide additional information regarding trail maintenance costs, funding, and strategy. Since then, the RTC moved forward on segments of the Coastal Rail Trail that have not advanced past the master planning stage by issuing an RFP for environmental services, and the RTC will need to consider programming future Measure D-Active Transportation funding to further develop, construct, and maintain these segments. The Commission approved staff negotiate maintenance agreements with local jurisdictions responsible for maintenance and continue to require that maintenance agreements be in place prior to advertising for construction bids. The commission also approved staff continue to advance Coastal Rail Trail projects by strategically investing funds to complete pre-construction activities, to strategically program funds to leverage State and Federal grant opportunities, and to program funding for corridor and trail maintenance responsibilities on a yearly basis, as part of the Measure D – Five Year Program of Projects.

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, Nov. 3, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Budget & Admin/Personnel Committee

Thursday, Oct. 13, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Transportation Policy Workshop

Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, Oct. 20, 2022, 1:30 p.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, Dec. 12, 2022, 6:00 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, Dec. 13, 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

