



Neighborhood Projects: Highway 9 San Lorenzo Valley Corridor Improvements

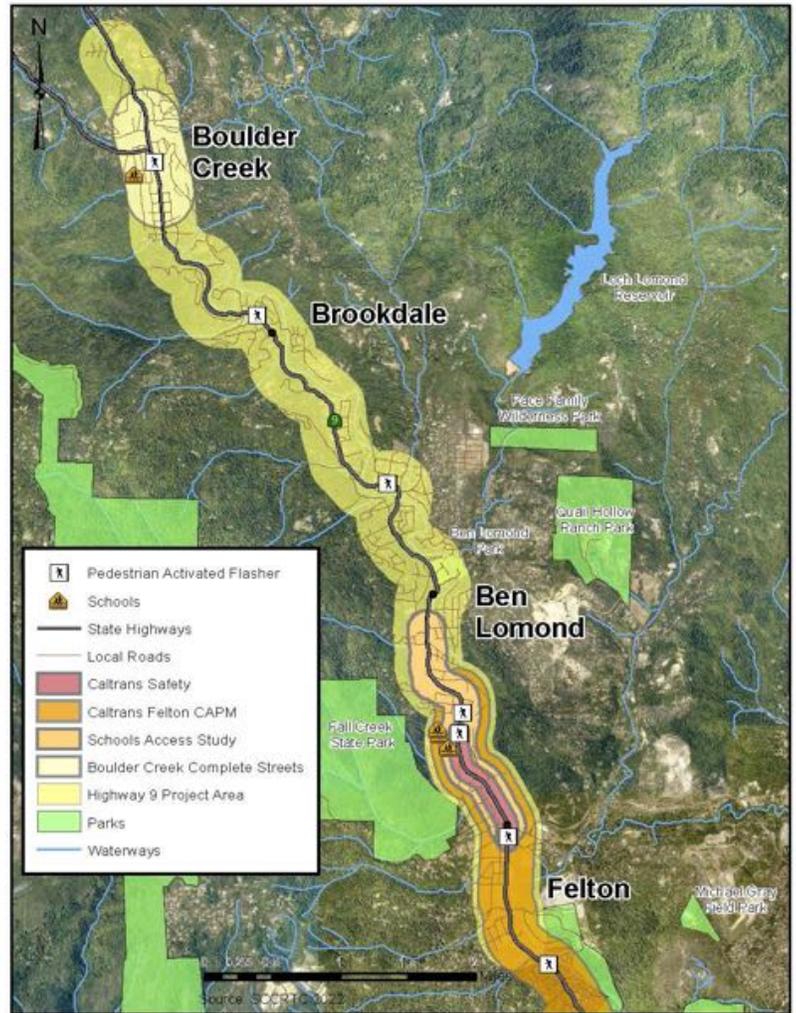
Project Description

Highway 9 serves as the “Main Street” for the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV) towns of Felton, Ben Lomond, Brookdale, and Boulder Creek, and is an interregional arterial connecting Silicon Valley and Santa Cruz. It is the backbone for the movement of people and goods through the SLV and is the only direct route linking the four SLV towns.

There are significant transportation concerns throughout the SLV. This mountainous area has high collision rates, narrow curving roadways frequently impacted by steep terrain, significant gaps in bicycle and pedestrian facilities, a lack of walkways to many of the bus stops, traffic backups at a number of choke points, as well as pavement, drainage, and other assets in disrepair.

Measure D designates \$10 million for transportation projects in the Highway 9 corridor that will improve travel for residents of the SLV. A first step in identifying priority projects was the development of a comprehensive Highway 9 San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan. Building on past public input and planning activities, the SLV plan identifies, evaluates, and prioritizes transportation projects on Highway 9 and connecting county roads through the SLV that can be implemented in the short- and mid-term to address challenges along the corridor. The plan focuses on safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists; multi-modal access to schools, businesses, and bus stops; traffic operations, pavement conditions, drainage, and other needs in this travel corridor.

The SLV plan was accepted by the RTC in 2019, and RTC staff is now focused on delivering priority projects in partnership with Caltrans, County DPW, SLVUSD, and METRO.



Total Programming

| | | |
|------------------------------|-----------|--------------|
| Total Funding Secured | \$ | 10.8M |
| Funding Sources | | |
| Measure D (Neighborhood) | \$ | 10M |
| Other* | \$ | 8M |

*Includes HSIP Grant (Fed), Caltrans Planning Grant, and Match (TDA, RTC Reserve Fund & RPA) funds.



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Priority Projects

The SLV Plan identifies over 30 priority projects for the corridor, including the following:

- ▶ Pedestrian and bicycle paths to the SLV schools campus and modifications to improve traffic flow along the schools' entrances
- ▶ Modifications to Felton, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, and Boulder Creek town centers to create safer pedestrian walking and crossing facilities, reduce speeding, and improve access to businesses
- ▶ Pedestrian safety and visibility improvements; and shoulder widening for bicycles

The plan will be used to secure grants and facilitate subsequent design, environmental review, and construction of these and other priority projects.

Project Delivery Strategy

The RTC, Caltrans, County of Santa Cruz, SLVUSD, and METRO are working together to deliver components of the various complete streets projects defined by the community in the SLV Plan. Caltrans constructed the crosswalk improvements that were funded by the Measure D-leveraged Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds in 2020.

The RTC is collaborating on Caltrans funded Safety and repaving projects. Both of these projects are currently in the Project Approval & Environmental Documentation (PA&ED) phase, with construction expected to be complete in 2027 and 2029, respectively. These projects incorporate many complete streets and other safety improvements as identified in the SLV Plan for Felton between El Solyo Heights Drive in the north and Redwood Drive in the south. These improvements include sidewalks, bike lanes, crosswalk safety improvements, center turn lanes, extended turn pockets, and pedestrian refuge islands, as well as other safety elements.

The Complete Streets Project Initiation Document (PID) was funded by Measure D and covers Caltrans required scoping, estimating, and phasing assessments for the remaining projects in the SLV Plan. Completed in 2022, the RTC is now using Measure D funds to leverage state and federal grants to fund construction of additional improvements.

The RTC applied for two grant opportunities in 2022 to fund Boulder Creek Complete Streets Improvements, as defined in the SLV Plan. The RTC is also in the process of completing the SLV Schools Access Study, a preliminary engineering study to improve circulation to and past the elementary, middle, and high schools for all modes of transportation on Highway 9 north of Felton. This study was funded by a combination of Measure D-leveraged grants and funding from the SLV Unified School District. Once completed, RTC will be better positioned to seek grant funding for the final design, environmental review, and construction phases.

