



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Feb. 2, 2023 Meeting Highlights

Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee Appointments

Measure D, which was approved by over 2/3 of Santa Cruz County voters in November 2016, includes the formation of an oversight committee. The RTC appointed two new committee members representing Districts 1 & 2 and reappointed the committee members representing Districts 3 & 5 to the [Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee](#) for two-year terms.

Vegetation Control Utilizing Goats Along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

The Commission adopted a resolution to enter into an agreement for vegetation control along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL). Goats will be utilized as one of the methods of controlling vegetation overgrowth. Goats are quieter, more energy efficient, require less person-power, reduce the need for and/or enhance the effectiveness of herbicides, and reduce the overall maintenance cost of the corridor. Traditional vegetation control methods such as trimming, mowing, and hand application of non-hazardous herbicides will also be utilized as part of the overall vegetation control program. Vegetation control work is expected to begin later this month, weather permitting. The schedule will be posted to the [RTC website](#) in advance of the work.

Storm Damage to Transportation Facilities in Santa Cruz County

The Commission accepted information from staff related to damage caused by recent storms and authorized amendments to existing contracts and to enter into new contracts as necessary to address storm damage along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL), including fallen, damaged or weakened trees; landslides, slope embankment washouts, and at least one railroad bridge damaged by a large fallen tree. RTC staff is continuing to assess the extent of damage and may enter into additional emergency contracts, and will seek reimbursement from the California Office of Emergency Services (CalOES) and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for eligible expenditures.

2023 State and Federal Legislative Programs

The Commission received updates from staff on state and federal legislative issues and adopted the RTC's [2023 legislative program](#) to assist in analyzing the transportation impacts of legislative activities. The RTC legislative platform is used to advance regional projects and key goals and targets in the [Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan](#). As part of the legislative work program, the RTC works to ensure that transportation-related statutes and guidelines are

structured in a manner that considers Santa Cruz County's significant maintenance, active transportation and transit system needs, traffic congestion, and sustainability goals.

Approval of Purchase and Sale Agreement for acquisition of property for Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes, Bus-on-Shoulder, and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project

The Commission authorized the purchase of property at 7994 & 7996 Soquel Drive in Aptos for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder from State Park Drive to Freedom Boulevard and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project. The right-of-way needs for the project include a portion of the property to construct the 16-foot wide Coastal Rail Trail as planned on the inland side of the tracks. Construction is scheduled to begin as early as 2025, dependent on securing the remaining funding and property rights.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

On February 28, 2023 the COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency is expected to be lifted. Beginning in March, RTC and committee meetings will be held under regular Brown Act requirements, which require voting members to participate at a designated location, unless they meet the qualifications for one of the very limited reasons for remote participation established by AB 2449 (2022). Non-voting members of the Commission and its committees, as well as members of the public and staff, will have the option to participate in person or remotely provided equipment is available at the meeting location to allow remote participation. If there are technical difficulties during a meeting that then prevent remote participation, the meeting will continue. Please check the RTC website [<https://sccrtc.org/meetings/calendar/>] or call 460-3200 to confirm meeting location 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, March 2, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, Feb. 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Budget & Admin/Personnel Committee

Thursday, March 9, 2023, 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.