PROJECT GOALS AND BENEFITS

- Provide high quality transportation choices to reduce countywide VMT
- Reduce travel times and vehicle hours of delay along the Highway 1 corridor
- Increase transit frequency and on-time performance
- Enhance safety and mobility for vehicles, transit, bicycles, and pedestrians
- Eliminate barriers to mobility created by the Highway 1 to reconnect the community
- Reduce mobile source emissions and improve air quality and public health
- Advance equity through competitive, low-cost transportation alternatives serving disadvantaged communities, including more frequent bus service and improvements to complete streets facilities

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program Cycle 3 Project (Project) improves three proximate and parallel routes: the Highway 1 freeway, Soquel Drive, and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Coastal Rail Trail. Due to local topographical constraints, they all come together in the central business district of the town of Aptos in mid-Santa Cruz County.

The Project improvements include the construction of bus-on-shoulder improvements on Highway 1 at three interchanges, two sets of auxiliary lanes, 1.25 miles of Class I path, four bicycle and pedestrian bridges, 2.4 miles of buffered and protected bike lanes, pavement rehabilitation, traffic signal upgrades, and enhanced rapid bus stops that will include in-lane bus boarding platforms, bus shelters, and real-time displays. Improvements will be made to the Watsonville Transit Center and bus stops in Watsonville to serve local and regional routes. The improvements will work together to reduce congestion, improve travel times, improve air quality, and support the mobility needs of low-income communities.
**Contract 1 - Highway 1 + Rail Trail**

- Add Bus on Shoulder (BOS) hybrid facility between the State Park and Freedom interchanges
- Add two sets of auxiliary lanes (State Park to Rio Del Mar, Rio Del Mar to Freedom)
- Widening of the Highway 1 bridge over Aptos Creek and Spreckles Drive
- Install soundwalls and retaining walls
- Add four bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing bridges
- Add 1.25 miles of Coastal Rail Trail along RTC-owned Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL)

**Contract 2 - Soquel Drive**

- Provide upgrades to signals to feature adaptive signal control
- Add transit priority at signals
- Install buffered and protected bike lanes
- Add sidewalk gap closures and upgrades, connections to Aptos schools
- Install ADA curb ramps at intersections
- Upgrade crosswalk visibility by installing rapid flashing beacons

**Contract 3 - Transit**

- Add two zero-emission buses for SC Metro’s Cross-County Routes
- Install in-lane bus boarding platforms at 34 locations
- Add bus shelters at 40 locations
- Provide solar-powered real time arrival displays at 41 locations
- Add ticket validators at 38 locations

**Schedule**

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**Cost**

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* Solutions for Congested Corridors, Local Partnership, and Trade Corridor Enhancement Programs