



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) April 6, 2023 Meeting Highlights

Appreciation for Local Public Agency Staff for Work Done During Recent Storms

The Commission adopted a resolution extending its commendation and appreciation to Caltrans, the County of Santa Cruz, City of Watsonville, City of Capitola, City of Santa Cruz, and City of Scotts Valley Public Works Departments, and Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO) staff for their continued work serving the Santa Cruz County community and ensuring the safety of the traveling public throughout the 2022-2023 storm season. Recent severe storms brought heavy rainfall, damaging winds, flooding, widespread power outages, snowfall in areas unaccustomed to snow, and evacuations for hundreds of residents. Caltrans and local public works departments worked tirelessly around the clock to clear trees and other debris, make emergency repairs, and restore access to critical transportation facilities throughout the region, and METRO assisted with the evacuation of residents that were most vulnerable to flooding.

Go Santa Cruz County Program Update

The Commission received an update on the RTC's Cruz511 and GO Santa Cruz County programs and provided input on a pilot program to incentivize the use and purchase of electric bicycles. The Commission also extended contracts for marketing services and employer outreach services for the [GO Santa Cruz County](#) program. The RTC offers transportation demand management (TDM) and motorist information services under the [Cruz511](#) Rideshare program and encourages travelers to maximize the efficiency of the existing transportation system by providing information and resources to choose sustainable modes of transportation. Additionally, the RTC offers ride matching and trip planning services through the Go Santa Cruz County online platform and provides incentives and cash rewards to commuters for choosing sustainable commute options. There are 4,076 participants enrolled in the GO Santa Cruz County program as of March 2023. Since the countywide expansion in April 2021, nearly 3,000 new users have joined. Since the platform was first made available in August 2019, all participants have logged more than 100,000 walk, bike, carpool, vanpool, transit, and telecommute trips, saving an estimated \$300,000 in direct commuting costs. By choosing not to drive alone, participants saved more than 215 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions from being released into the atmosphere, which is the equivalent of 46 gas powered vehicles driven for one year.

Fiscal Year 2023-24 Proposed Budget

At the beginning of each calendar year, staff prepares a proposed RTC and Measure D budget for

the following fiscal year. The FY2023-24 budget proposed for RTC and Measure D reflects the most recent revenue projections from the Santa Cruz County Auditor for TDA funds, State Controller's Office of California for State Transit Assistance (STA) funds, and consultant Hinderliter de Llamas for Measure D funds. The FY2023-24 budget includes continued delivery of Highway 1, trail, traveler assistance, regional planning, and other ongoing RTC projects and programs, and the implementation of Measure D. The Commission approved the proposed FY2023-24 budget and accepted Transportation Development Act and Measure D revenue forecasts and estimates.

Santa Cruz County Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Priorities Report

The Commission approved an agreement for professional consulting services to perform the Santa Cruz County Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Priorities Report (CAVA). The RTC, the County of Santa Cruz Department of Public Works, the Santa Cruz County Office of Response, Recovery, and Resiliency, and the Santa Cruz County Planning Department will partner to develop the report for unincorporated Santa Cruz County maintained roads and the entirety of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. This project will build on existing vulnerability assessments for the county and update and expand them using the most up-to-date tools for mapping a broad range of climate change impacts. Incorporating input from stakeholders, vulnerable populations, and the community, the identified transportation projects will then be prioritized for actions to enhance resilience based on a set of prioritization metrics. The final report is expected to be completed in January 2025.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

The COVID-19 pandemic state of emergency was lifted as of February 28, 2023. RTC and committee meetings are now being 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 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 RTC website at least 3 days before each meeting and will also include participation 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). 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, May 4, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, April 10, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

[Interagency Technical Advisory Committee](#)

Thursday, April 20, 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.