



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) May 4, 2023 Meeting Highlights

Presentation from City of Capitola

The Commission received a presentation from City of Capitola Public Works Director Jessica Kahn on the City's 2023 transportation projects. To date this year, the City has completed three projects: 41st Avenue Adaptive Traffic Signal System; Clares Street Traffic Calming; and the 2022 Road Rehabilitation Project in coordination with the County of Santa Cruz. The City recently started the Kennedy Drive Sidewalk project, and this summer will begin construction on the Capitola Road Rehabilitation Project from 41st Avenue to 30th Avenue which will include new bicycle and pedestrian improvements, ADA curb ramps and updated striping. Design also began on the Upper Pacific Cove Pedestrian Path, a new path and point of access to the future Coastal Rail Trail.

Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Funds

The Commission programmed approximately \$650,000 in Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds to the Santa Cruz METRO Transit District's Youth Ride Free pilot program.

Transportation Development Act and State Transit Assistance Funds

The Commission approved \$875,569 in Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds and \$267,177 in State Transit Assistance (STA) funds for Community Bridges to provide transportation for seniors and people with disabilities; \$104,234 in TDA funds for the Volunteer Center Transportation Program to provide transportation for seniors free of charge to medical appointments, grocery shopping and other necessary activities; \$8,912,046 in TDA funds and \$5,776,922 in STA funds for METRO's fixed-route public transit and ADA complementary paratransit operations in Santa Cruz County; \$72,000 in TDA funds for Ecology Action's Bike to Work program; and \$156,000 for the County Health Services Agency's Ride 'n Stride program and Community Traffic Safety Coalition.

2023 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List

Following a public hearing, the Commission adopted the [2023 Unmet Paratransit and Transit Needs List](#). Unmet transit and paratransit needs are those transportation needs which are not being met by the current public transit system, have community support, and do not duplicate transit services provided publicly or privately. The Commission solicited input from the public and worked with the RTC's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC), Santa Cruz METRO Transit District, Lift Line-Community Bridges, the Volunteer Center and other local organizations to identify unmet transit needs of transit-dependent or disadvantaged persons. The RTC, METRO and

other community transportation service providers will consider unmet paratransit and transit needs from the list as funding becomes available.

Highway 1 State Park to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder Project Amendment to the Measure D Five Year Program of Projects

The Commission authorized the amendment of the Measure D Five Year Program of Projects and Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans to program an additional \$4,570,000 to cover the difference between the originally programmed funds and the amount needed to award the construction contract for the [Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on Shoulder Project between the State Park Drive and Bay Avenue/Porter Street](#) interchanges, which also includes the replacement of the Capitola Avenue overcrossing and a new bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing at Mar Vista Drive. The project was advertised for construction bids in fall 2022. Two bids were received by the April deadline with the low bid coming in 7.4% higher than the engineer's 2022 estimate. Since that time, labor and material costs have increased due to unusually high inflation caused by supply chain and other external factors. RTC staff and Caltrans recommended awarding the contract rather than re-advertising it which would require additional engineering and would delay construction by a season with no guarantee that more competitive bid prices would result from a readvertisement. The project is expected to begin construction in fall 2023.

Federal Lands Access Program Grant Award and Funding Agreements to Construct the North Coast Rail Trail (Segment 5) from Wilder Ranch to Davenport and Coastal Rail Trail-Cotoni Coast Dairies Overpass Connection

The RTC, in coordination with Federal Highway Administration Central Federal Lands (CFL), is implementing the North Coast Rail Trail (Segment 5). In December 2022, the RTC received notice that the Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) awarded the North Coast Rail Trail \$15.5 million in grant funding for construction of Phase II (2.1 miles of trail and two formal parking lots) and Phase III (Cotoni Coast Dairies Highway 1 Overpass) of the project. FLAP funding for Phase I (5.4 miles of trail) awarded in 2015 (\$6.3 million) was increased to \$22.3 million due to updated cost estimates for Phase I bringing the total in FLAP funding for the North Coast Rail Trail project to nearly \$38 million. With this new FLAP funding, the project is now fully funded. The Commission authorized Executive Director Guy Preston to enter into agreements with CFL, who will lead construction of the North Coast Rail Trail, to establish roles and responsibilities of each party and funding commitments for each of the projects. Final design and permitting for Phases I and II are scheduled to be complete in 2023 and construction funding is programmed for 2024. Phase III is scheduled to complete environmental review in 2024, design in 2025, and begin construction in 2027.

Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 and 9 (Pacific Avenue to 17th Avenue) Environmental Review

The Commission adopted a resolution to accept the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 [Final Environmental Impact Report \(FEIR\)](#) as adequate for decision making and adopted Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation and Monitoring and Reporting Program for the proposed project in its entirety, Ultimate Trail Alignment (trail next to the tracks) and the Optional First Phase: Interim Trail (trail in place of existing tracks) to allow the RTC to take discretionary action on either alignment in the future. As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Santa Cruz prepared the FEIR and certified it in March. The FEIR evaluates potential impacts of constructing Segments 8 & 9. As a responsible agency, the RTC complies with CEQA by considering the Segments 8 & 9 FEIR and by reaching its own conclusions on whether and how to approve the project.

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, June 1, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, May 8, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 18, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Budget & Admin/Personnel Committee

Thursday, June 8, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, June 13, 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.