



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Aug. 3, 2023 Meeting Highlights

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Guy Preston announced he will retire on Dec. 1, 2023. During his 5-year tenure with the agency, he has used his expertise in planning, engineering, public policy, and program/project management to develop and deliver multi-modal transportation projects. These include programs aimed at long-term sustainability, while maximizing the efficiency of Santa Cruz County's current transportation system, improving mobility and providing for universal access. Executive Director Preston is a licensed civil engineer with a 34-year career, which included positions at Caltrans, the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, the California High-Speed Rail Authority, and his own consulting firm. The Commission plans to meet in Closed Session on August 17, 2023, to consider options related to the appointment of a new Executive Director effective as of December 2, 2023.

Fiscal Year 21/22 Measure D Annual Report

The Commission accepted the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee's [Measure D Annual Report for FY21/22 \(English\)](#) ([Spanish](#)). Based on the committee's review of the audits and expenditure reports from recipient agencies, the annual report includes a letter from the Committee confirming that agencies complied with the provisions and requirements of the voter-approved Ordinance in FY21/22. The annual report focuses on the financials and findings of the audits and highlights progress in delivering the Measure D Expenditure Plan.

Highway 1 Construction Update

The Commission received an update on the construction of Highway 1 auxiliary lane and bus-on-shoulder projects. Phase 1 of the project from 41st Avenue to Soquel, including a bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing at Chanticleer Avenue, is currently under construction and is expected to be completed in 2025. The contractor is currently installing two retaining walls, a drainage system on the northbound side of the highway, and building the foundation for the new Chanticleer overcrossing. Phase 2 from State Park Drive to Bay/Porter, including the replacement of the Capitola Road overcrossing and a bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing at Mar Vista Avenue, will begin construction in fall 2023 and is expected to be completed in 2026. The RTC has a robust public outreach plan in place to ensure community members are aware of the construction timeline and impacts. Staff will also be coordinating with local agencies on public outreach for upcoming construction projects, including the Soquel Drive Multimodal Project (County of Santa Cruz), the

Murray Street Bridge Project (City of Santa Cruz), and the Harkins Slough bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Highway 1 (City of Watsonville).

Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan Public Hearing

The Commission held a public hearing on the [Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan](#). A Public Participation Plan that guides regional planning agencies and local jurisdictions in the public participation process is federally required for agencies that either receive federal funds or are subject to a federally-required action. The Draft 2023 Public Participation Plan incorporates strategies to ensure that, to the greatest extent possible, interagency consultation and public participation are an integral part of the regional transportation planning and decision-making process. Public input received by August 23, 2023, will be considered for incorporation into the final plan. Written comments can be submitted via email to hadamson@ambag.org with the subject line "2023 PPP," or mailed to Heather Adamson, AMBAG, 24580 Silver Cloud Court, Monterey, CA 95340.

Zero-Emission Rail Planning – Contract and Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program Grant

The Commission authorized agreements with state agencies to use \$3,450,000 in Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program (TIRCP) grant funding to prepare the Project Concept Report for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail & Trail Project. The Commission also authorized an additional \$1,630,000 in Measure D-Rail funding needed to fully fund the Project Concept Report and authorized the RTC to enter into a professional engineering and environmental services contract with HDR Engineering, Inc. for \$7,703,548.

Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) Call for Projects

The Commission approved evaluation criteria and the proposed process for programming approximately \$27 million in state and federal funds. The RTC is responsible for selecting projects to receive these federal and state funds. The RTC will issue a call for projects and select projects through a competitive application process. Projects will be recommended for funding based on project benefits, input from the RTC's advisory committees, and a public hearing scheduled for the December 7, 2023, RTC meeting. Approved projects are programmed in the RTC's Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP).

[Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings](#)

RTC and committee meetings are now being held in person. 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.

Special Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 17, 2023

Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 7, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, Aug. 18, 2023, 1:30 p.m. (*Please note this meeting may be cancelled)

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.