



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Sept. 7, 2023 Meeting Highlights

Executive Directors Report

Executive Director Guy Preston announced that the [RTC was awarded \\$1.9 million](#) in Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant Program funds for three sustainable transportation planning studies. The studies will focus on enhancing rural highway safety on the county's six conventional highways (1, 9, 236, 35, 129 & 152); transportation demand management strategies for 22 miles of coastal highway from the City of Santa Cruz northern city-limits to the Santa Cruz/San Mateo County line; and for Coastal Resiliency along the Highway 1 Corridor at Waddell and San Vicente creeks. RTC staff will provide more information regarding schedule and public participation opportunities over the next few months. Executive Director Preston also announced the launch of a new program to offer door-to-door transportation for all county residents requiring a wheelchair accessible vehicle to any destination in the county at a flat-rate fee of \$5. The RTC received funding from the California Public Utilities Commission's new Transportation Network Company's Access for All program to administer and manage the program locally and the RTC selected Community Bridges to provide the service through an expansion of its existing Lift Line services. The program will launch Sept. 18 and Lift Line's self-service mobile app will be the primary scheduling point of contact. To register for the program and receive a login for the app, local residents can contact the Community Bridges Lift Line office at 831-688-9663.

Highway 1 State Park-Freedom Auxiliary Lanes, Bus-on-Shoulder, and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans

The Commission approved entering into a Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for the right-of-way and final design components of the [Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder Project between State Park Drive and Freedom Boulevard](#), which includes Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail. This agreement is needed to designate the RTC as the implementing agency, with Caltrans providing oversight. The agreement is also needed to memorialize the funding plan for the project. The Commission also amended the Professional Services Agreement with the project's engineering consultant to add additional scope to the project identified through environmental and final design activities. Final design activities are scheduled to continue through the end of 2024, and the project is scheduled to begin construction in 2025 pending availability of funds for construction.

Rejection of bid for the Phase 2 Debris Removal and Erosion Repair Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

The Commission rejected the bid for construction of the Phase 2 Debris Removal and Erosion Repair Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL). The project's scope of work included debris removal and erosion control work in several areas of the SCBRL corridor that were impacted by the severe winter storms in December 2022 and January 2023. Staff recommended rejecting the bid because it was unreasonable, and because the bid prices may have been higher than typical unit prices for recent construction projects due to the lack of competition, the fact that specialized rail mounted equipment is needed to perform the work, and the construction window in which bidders were required to complete the work. Staff determined that most of the work can be postponed, and multiple/modified bid packages can be issued to address cost and schedule issues after the upcoming rainy season. However, one site (Milepost 8.32) needs to be addressed urgently before the rainy season begins this fall. Staff plans to issue an emergency contract to complete this urgent work.

Coastal Rail Trail Segment 5 Maintenance Agreements

The Commission approved entering into a Cooperative Agreement with the County of Santa Cruz to perform trail maintenance for North Coast [Segment 5 of the Coastal Rail Trail](#) for a five-year term. The Commission also approved entering into a Maintenance Agreement with Caltrans to assign to the RTC the responsibility for maintenance of proposed parking lots located within the Caltrans right-of-way. Maintenance of the trail includes regular sweeping, vegetation management, litter removal, monthly trail inspections, trash receptacle dumping, graffiti removal, encampment clean up, and comfort station servicing, as well as repairs of signage, fences, bike racks, and benches as needed. Segment 5 recently completed 100% project design and is scheduled to begin construction as soon as Spring 2024, with an estimated two-year construction period. Construction of Segment 5 will provide a 7.5-mile dedicated bicycle and pedestrian facility between Wilder Ranch and Davenport.

Recommendation for Executive Director Recruitment

The Commission held interviews during open session of the RTC meeting with two recruiting firms for recruitment of a new RTC Executive Director. Current Executive Director Guy Preston recently announced his retirement to be effective December 1, 2023. The RTC's General Counsel issued a Request for Proposals for Executive Director Recruitment Services to six experienced recruitment firms. Four firms submitted proposals and two finalists were selected by an Ad Hoc Committee made up of RTC Commissioners. CPS-HR Consulting was selected to provide recruitment services for the Executive Director recruitment.

[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.

[Regional Transportation Commission Meeting](#)

Thursday, Oct. 5, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

[Transportation Policy Workshop](#)

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

[Interagency Technical Advisory Committee](#)

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

[Bicycle Advisory Committee](#)

Monday, Oct. 2, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

[Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 10, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

[Budget & Admin/Personnel Committee](#)

Thursday, Oct. 12, 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.