



Measure D Updates

Fall 2023

In November 2016 Santa Cruz County voters passed Measure D, providing stable, local funds to help local agencies address some of the significant backlog of transportation needs in Santa Cruz County. Measure D funds are being used to maintain and improve local roads, highways, bridges, sidewalks, bicycle facilities, and transit. The following highlights a few of the projects that Measure D is helping to fund.

Highway Corridors: Highway 1

- The RTC, in partnership with Caltrans, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District (METRO), and the County of Santa Cruz, continues to work on Highway 1 between Soquel Drive and Freedom Boulevard. These projects include:
 - Five new sets of auxiliary lanes and a bus-on-shoulder facility 7.5-miles in length;
 - Replacement of the Capitola Avenue overcrossing with added sidewalks and bicycle lanes;
 - Four new Highway 1 bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings at Chanticleer Avenue in Live Oak, Mar Vista Drive in Aptos, and two rail trail bridges; and
 - Sound walls and retaining walls.
- **41st Avenue-Soquel Drive auxiliary lanes, bus-on-shoulder & Chanticleer Avenue bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing project:** Construction began in 2023 and is expected to be completed by the end of 2024. A camera has been set up to let people watch construction of the bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Highway 1 at: <https://cwwp2.dot.ca.gov/vm/loc/d5/sr1chanticleeravepedoc.htm>



Retaining Wall No. 5



Chanticleer Bicycle/Pedestrian Overcrossing



- **State Park-Bay/Porter auxiliary lanes, bus-on-shoulder, Mar Vista bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing & Capitola Avenue bridge replacement project:** Caltrans awarded the construction contract in June 2023. Construction is starting in Fall 2023 and is expected to be completed in 2025. The Capitola Avenue bridge replacement is scheduled for Spring 2024.
- Measure D funds were used to leverage SB1 Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) and Local Partnership Program (LPP) grants for the Highway 1 projects between Soquel Drive and State Park Drive.
- **Freedom Boulevard-State Park Drive auxiliary lanes, bus-on-shoulder & Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 project:** The project includes the 1.25-mile Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail between State Park Drive and Rio Del Mar/Sumner. The public reviewed the draft environmental document earlier this year, with the final environmental impact report expected to be released by the end of 2023 and construction scheduled to begin in 2025, pending availability of grant funding. Caltrans and the RTC secured a \$30 million federal MEGA grant for the project and continue to seek other grants, using Measure D as match, for construction.

Commuter Assistance Programs

- **Traveler Information and Transportation Demand Management**
 - The RTC, in partnership with the City of Santa Cruz, UCSC, Ecology Action, and other entities, used Measure D funds to continue to promote “Go Santa Cruz County,” a robust transportation demand management program, including an online commute manager and rewards platform. The program provides assistance and incentives to commuters to ride the bus, join a carpool, telecommute, ride a bike, or walk to work. People who live or work anywhere in Santa Cruz County can learn more and sign up at: www.gosantacruzcounty.org. As of October 2023, more than 4,859 participants enrolled in GO Santa Cruz County and have logged more than 1 million non-single-occupancy vehicle (SOV) trips or 1.1 million non-SOV miles traveled, reducing 339 tons of CO₂ greenhouse gas emissions.
 - The [Cruz511 website](http://Cruz511) continued to provide rideshare, transit, bicycle, traffic information, and county road and lane closure information to the public, and was used extensively during the 2023 winter storms to identify roadway closures.



Highway Safety and Congestion Reduction Programs

- The Freeway Service Patrol (FSP) roves segments of Highway 1 and Highway 17 to help stranded motorists on the highway during weekday commute hours and on a limited schedule on weekends. Regular weekday morning FSP operates 6 a.m.-9 a.m. on Highway 1 and 6:30 a.m.-9:30 a.m. on Highway 17. Weekday PM service operates from 3:30 p.m.-6:30 p.m. on both Highway 1 and 17.
- \$50,000 in Measure D–Highway Corridor funds are annually designated for additional CHP enforcement on the Santa Cruz County portion of Highway 17 to reduce collisions and improve safety.

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) Rail Trail

- Construction of Segment 7, Phase II of the Coastal Rail Trail is underway and expected to be completed in Winter 2023. This City of Santa Cruz project connects Segment 7, Phase I at Bay Street/California Avenue and Pacific Avenue at the Santa Cruz Wharf. The City of Santa Cruz used Measure D funds to leverage grant funding from the California Active Transportation Program to construct this project.
- The City of Santa Cruz certified the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) earlier this year and is scheduled to complete designs for Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 (Seabright to Live Oak) in Spring 2024. Construction is scheduled to start in 2026.
- For more information on sections of the trail in the City of Santa Cruz, visit: www.cityofsantacruz.com/CoastalRailTrail
- The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 & 11 was released in October 2023 for public review and comment through December 15, 2023. View the Draft EIR [here](#). The final design phase is expected to be completed in 2025 with construction scheduled to begin in 2026.
- 1.25-mile Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail between State Park Drive and Rio Del Mar/Sumner is being developed as part of the Highway 1 Freedom-State Park project (see above).
- The North Coast Rail Trail project (Wilder Ranch State Park to Davenport) is scheduled to start construction in early 2024. The RTC used Measure D to leverage grants from the Federal Land Access Program for this project.



Segment 7, Phase II construction



Segments 10 & 11 rendering in Capitola

Rail Corridor

- In October 2022, the RTC awarded a construction contract to install temporary bluff erosion protective measures and drainage maintenance near Manresa State Beach.
- The Pajaro River Bridge repair began in March 2023 and has been completed. Construction was funded by the Shortline Railroad Improvement Program (SLRIP) that the RTC was able to secure using Measure D as match.
- Infrastructure preservation and preventative maintenance, including vegetation and drainage work, continues along the rail corridor. Increased graffiti abatement is occurring to discourage loitering and vandalism. In March 2023, goats were used for vegetation control along four sections of the corridor. Several storm damage repair projects were also completed in 2021 and January 2022. Maintenance requests can be directed to maintenance@sccrtc.org.



Manresa State Beach coastal erosion repair

Highway 9/SLV Corridor

- The RTC and Caltrans are collaborating to incorporate complete streets elements such as sidewalks, bike lanes, and crosswalk improvements into the Highway 9 Capital Preventative Maintenance paving project in Felton, as well as improving auto operations and traffic flow into their next paving project in Felton. The project could go to construction in 2027 pending availability of funds for construction.
- Caltrans has completed a Project Initiation Document (PID) for complete streets improvements throughout the Highway 9 corridor including Ben Lomond, Brookdale, and Boulder Creek. Measure D funds were used to fund the PID and will be used to leverage other funds for projects identified in the document.
- The RTC and a five-jurisdiction team, including Caltrans, Santa Cruz County Public Works, Santa Cruz METRO, and the San Lorenzo Valley Unified School District (SLVUSD) collaborated on solutions to improve walking, bicycling, transit, and auto circulation infrastructure on Highway 9, including the SLVUSD elementary, middle, and high school campus north of Felton, and adjacent county roads. This effort encompassed projects 9-11 of the [SLV Plan](#) and would allow students to walk and bike to school where there are currently limited facilities, as well as improve circulation and traffic flow for transit, school buses, and autos. Preliminary engineering, traffic analysis, and a feasibility and needs assessment for improving multimodal operations to and along the SLV Schools Complex on Highway 9 was completed in September 2023.
- RTC secured partial funding via a federal appropriation, or earmark, for the Boulder Creek Complete Streets Improvements project. This project would construct new sidewalks and pedestrian safety and accessibility upgrades on Highway 9 in Boulder Creek on Highway 9. This includes filling gaps in the sidewalk network, curb extensions/bulb-outs, crosswalk striping, and traffic calming. The project will reduce severe and injury collisions involving pedestrians, support economic development, improve pedestrian access to schools, businesses, parks, and residences. Measure D Highway 9 funds would be used as a match for grants to fully fund the project through construction, which are actively being sought by the program team via a variety of state and federal sources. Construction is expected to begin in 2027.



Bus Route 35 loading/unloading passengers at SLV High School

Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing – Construction Completed!

- Caltrans completed construction of the wildlife crossing under Highway 17 near Laurel Curve in 2023. The project provides long-ranging wildlife—most notably Santa Cruz’s mountain lions—with safe passage under the heavily trafficked highway, reducing crashes between people driving on the highway and the wildlife crossing it. The project is funded by a combination of Measure D, State Highway Operation and Protection Program (SHOPP), and Land Trust funds. Post-construction plant reestablishment is currently underway.



Highlights of Local Jurisdiction Neighborhood Projects

Capitola

- **Capitola Road between 41st Avenue and 30th Avenue:** The city of Capitola is starting construction of roadway rehabilitation and multimodal improvements this fall. The project is funded by a combination of Measure D and State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)-Covid Relief funds.

Scotts Valley

- **Bean Creek Road Improvements:** New pavement, improved drainage, restriping, and the installation of a 4-way stop at the intersection of Bean Creek Road and Bluebonnet Lane was constructed this summer. The project was funded by Measure D & Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange Grant funds from the RTC.
- **Glenwood Drive Repairs:** The city is scoping and designing improvements to Glenwood Drive for work scheduled to start in 2024. The project will include crack sealing, type-2 slurry sealing, addition of bike lanes, and restriping of Glenwood Drive from Scotts Valley Drive to K Street.
- **Scotts Valley Drive Crack Seal:** Crack sealing is an important preventative measure to keep our streets from deteriorating. This fall, crack seal repairs will be done on Scotts Valley Drive from Mt. Hermon Road to Glenwood Drive.



New Bean Creek Road pavement and striping in Scotts Valley (2023)

Watsonville

- **Freedom Boulevard:** Construction will be wrapping up, though some work was delayed due to supply chain issues. The project includes roadway reconstruction, new ADA- compliant driveways & curb ramps, high visibility crosswalks, upgrades to bus shelter, and a new traffic signal at Sydney Ave.
- **Citywide Road, Bikeways, and Trail maintenance and restriping:** City crews have been busy filling potholes and restriping roadways and trails.

County of Santa Cruz

- **Pavement Management Project:** 2023 resurfacing work across the county is near completion.
- **Green Valley Multi-Use Path:** This project will construct a 10-foot-wide bike and pedestrian path along Green Valley Road from Airport Blvd to Mesa Verde Dr. This project is primarily funded by Clean California Grant funds and the county is looking for additional funds due to high construction costs. Construction is planned for Summer 2024.