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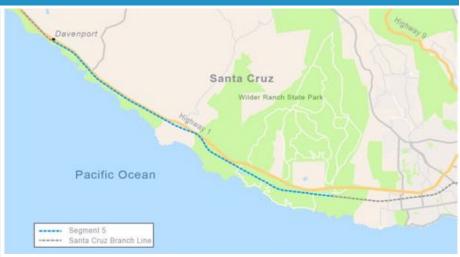**Moving Santa Cruz County Forward**

Active Transportation: Coastal Rail Trail Segment 5

Project Description

The North Coast Rail Trail (Coastal Rail Trail Segment 5 as defined in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail {MBSST} Network Master Plan) proposes to construct 7.5 miles of the MBSST's rail trail spine between Wilder Ranch and Davenport. Segment 5 would be a new multi-use paved path with striping and unpaved shoulders, and parking improvements along the scenic North Coast in Santa Cruz County.

The goals of this project are to provide an accessible bicycle and pedestrian path adjacent to the rail right-of-way for active transportation, recreation, coastal viewshed appreciation, and environmental/cultural education along the existing rail corridor, consistent with the MBSST Network Master Plan. When constructed, this project will be one portion of the planned 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail network that traverses the entire coastline of Santa Cruz County.

Segment 5 is divided into three phases. Phase I covers 5.4 miles from Wilder Ranch to Panther/Yellowbank Beach. Phase II spans 2.1 miles from Panther/Yellowbank Beach to Davenport and includes new parking lots in Davenport and at Panther/Yellowbank Beach, improved access to the parking lot at Bonny Doon Beach, and a pedestrian crossing in Davenport. Phase III includes construction of the Cotoni Coast Dairies Highway 1 overpass that connects the Coastal Rail Trail on the coastal side of Highway 1 to Cotoni Coast Dairies National Monument on the inland side of Highway 1.

* Please note that the North Coast Rail Trail is still in the design phase and is not open to the public. Members of the public should not enter the right-of-way until the RTC announces that construction of the trail has been completed and the trail is open for public use.

Segment 5
Santa Cruz Branch Line

Project Highlights

▶ ADA-accessible trail that maximizes ocean views and scenic coastal vistas along historical and agricultural landscapes

▶ 7.5-mile continuous paved bicycle and pedestrian trail connecting Wilder Ranch to Davenport

▶ Provides car-free alternative access to numerous beaches and recreational facilities along the coast

▶ Links to existing and future trails (such as Wilder Ranch, Cotoni Coast Dairies National Monument, San Vicente Redwoods, etc.) creating bicycle and pedestrian access from the City of Santa Cruz to Davenport

▶ Safety and mobility improvements along a scenic portion of the County adjacent to Highway 1

▶ Improves parking lots and adds restrooms at Davenport and Yellowbank/Panther Beaches

▶ Improves pedestrian crossing of Highway 1 in the town of Davenport

▶ Provides new dedicated bicycle and pedestrian connection from the Coastal Rail Trail to Cotoni Coast Dairies National Monument

Project Delivery Strategy

In partnership with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) - Central Federal Lands (CFL), the RTC is leading project delivery for the North Coast Rail Trail (Segment 5). The RTC is leading state environmental review and CFL is leading federal environmental clearance. CFL will lead construction. The project (Phases I, II & III) is fully funded through a combination of Federal Land Access Program funds, Measure D- Active Transportation funds, and funding provided by the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and the California Coastal Conservancy.

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Project Schedule

Phase I and Phase II state and federal environmental review was completed in 2019 and 2021. Phase I and Phase II final design and permitting are scheduled to be complete in 2023 and construction is scheduled to begin in Spring 2024. Phase III is scheduled to complete environmental review in 2024, design in 2025, and begin construction in 2027.

Total Programming

Estimated Total Cost	$51.4M
Funding Sources	
Measure D (Active Transportation)	$8.5M
Federal Lands Access Program	$37.7M
Other Secured*	$5.25M
Need	$0.0M

*Includes Land Trust of Santa Cruz County and RSTPX funds.