



Active Transportation: Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7

Project Description

The Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7 project (as defined in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail {MBSST} Network Master Plan) proposes to construct 2.1 miles of the MBSST's rail trail spine between Natural Bridges Drive and Pacific Avenue at the Santa Cruz Wharf. The existing facility is along the publicly-owned railroad right-of-way. Alternate routes have high bicycle and pedestrian crash histories, making this a high priority project in mid-Santa Cruz County.

The goals of this project are to increase the numbers of people biking and walking, improve safety and mobility of non-motorized users, and to provide high-quality connections to schools, parks, and community facilities. When constructed, this project will be one portion of the planned 32-mile rail trail network that parallels the entire coastline of Santa Cruz County.

The Segment 7 project will provide connections to several existing open spaces such as the Terrace Lands at Younger Lagoon Reserve, Antonelli Pond Park, Natural Bridges State Beach, Neary Lagoon Wildlife Refuge, as well as West Cliff Drive bike/pedestrian path, and the Wilder Ranch path.



Project Highlights

- Provides a low stress, off-street dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trail, improving safety and connectivity to schools, employment centers, and transit facilities
- Over 30,000 residents live within 1 mile of the corridor, where 9 schools and 28 parks are located
- Provides a safer car-free alternative to Mission Street and connects to the Beach Street bikeway
- Enhances mobility and transportation for disadvantaged communities

Project Delivery Strategy

The City of Santa Cruz is leading the project delivery. The City is delivering Segment 7 in stages due to funding availability. Phase 1, from Natural Bridges to Bay/California, has been constructed. Phase 2, from Bay/California to the Pacific Avenue roundabout by the wharf entrance, is under construction.



PROJECT FACT SHEET

Updated September 2023

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Total Programming

Estimated Total Cost	\$20M
Funding Sources	
Measure D (Active Transportation)	\$2.1M
Measure D (Local-Neighborhood)	\$1M
Other Secured*	\$17M

*Includes SB1 Active Transportation Program, Coastal Conservancy, Congressional Earmark, FORT/BSCC Donations, City of Santa Cruz, and STIP funds.

Project Status/ Schedule

Construction of Phase 1 was completed in December 2020 and the trail is now open. Construction of Phase 2 began in July 2022 and is scheduled to be completed in Winter 2023.



Project Rendering: Segment 7, Phase II