



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

Coastal Resilience Plans for Highway 1 and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line at San Vicente Creek and Highway 1 at Waddell Creek

The Commission authorized the Executive Director to negotiate and enter into an agreement with the Resource Conservation District (RCD) of Santa Cruz County to develop Coastal Resilience Plans for Highway 1 and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line at San Vicente Creek and Highway 1 at Waddell Creek. Preliminary investigations indicate that the existing Highway 1 bridge over Waddell Creek, and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and future Coastal Rail Trail corridor over San Vicente Creek are vulnerable to coastal climate change impacts. The RTC, in coordination with the RCD, was awarded a Caltrans Climate Adaptation Planning Grant to plan for the long-term resiliency of transportation infrastructure at Highway 1 at Waddell Creek and Highway 1 and the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line at San Vicente Creek. The RTC and the RCD will work in partnership with Caltrans District 5 to produce the resilience plans, which will include community engagement. The project is scheduled to begin in winter 2024 with the Final Coastal Resilience Plans estimated to be completed in spring 2026.

Presentation from Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District

The Commission received a presentation from Santa Cruz METRO CEO Michael Tree on projects they have in the works. Michael Tree said that in October 2022, the METRO Board of Directors set three goals for the agency to work toward: Double ridership within five years; Purchase only zero-emission buses; and Develop 175 units of affordable housing on METRO-owned property by the end of the decade. To meet the first goal, METRO is launching its new pilot program, WAVE SERVICE, in summer 2024 that will add 43% more service that's fast, frequent and reliable; add 64 new jobs to the economy with the economic impact of more than \$32 million to the regional economy; 100,000 residents will have access to WAVE SERVICE within a 5-minute walk; and ridership will double to more than 7 million rides per year during the 3-year pilot. METRO recently bought 57 zero-emission hydrogen buses to work toward the second goal. To address the affordable housing goal, METRO has partnered with the City of Santa Cruz on the Pacific Center North project in downtown Santa Cruz which will include 120 affordable housing units on and adjacent to METRO properties. The project is anticipated to break ground in February 2024. METRO will also be completely redeveloping its Watsonville Transit Center. The project will include 70 affordable housing units and will break ground in the near future.

Public Hearing: Adoption of the 2023 Consolidated Grants Program, Senate Bill (SB) 125 Transit Funding Grants Program and Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Following consideration of public and advisory committee input, the Commission adopted the 2023 Consolidated Grants Program, the 2024 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), and the Senate Bill (SB) 125 Transit Funding Grants Program, approving road, bike, pedestrian and transit projects to receive the region's anticipated formula share of certain state and federal funds totaling approximately \$61.3 million. RTC staff used metrics to evaluate the projects that align with regional, state, and federal goals in the areas of safety, infrastructure condition, system performance, sustainability, resiliency, equity, and public health. Projects that received funding include:

- Santa Cruz Metro Rapid Corridors Project & Transit Operations for its Wave Service
- Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project environmental analysis
- Go Santa Cruz County Bicycle Incentives Program
- Pavement maintenance and roadway rehabilitation projects on local roads throughout the County
- New and upgraded bike/pedestrian facilities projects in Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, Watsonville, Ben Lomond, and on Green Valley Road in the County
- Complete Streets Improvements projects in the Felton-SLV Schools Complex area and the Bay Corridor in Santa Cruz

See the full project list [here](#).

[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, Jan. 11, 2023, 9:00 a.m.

[Bicycle Advisory Committee](#)

Monday, Dec. 11, 2023, 6:00 p.m.

[Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2023, 1:30 p.m.

[Transportation Policy Workshop](#)

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

[Interagency Technical Advisory Committee](#)

Thursday, Dec. 21, 2023, 1:30 p.m. (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.

