

DRAFT

2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan **DRAFT Goals and Policies**

Goal #1

Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in order to establish livable communities that improve people's access to their regular needs.

Policies

- 1.1 Improve multimodal access to and within key destinations¹ for all ages and abilities.
- 1.2 Ensure network connectivity by closing gaps in the bicycle, pedestrian and transit networks.
- 1.3 Develop dedicated transit facilities that will improve transit access and travel time and will promote smart growth and transit oriented development.
- 1.4 Plan and fund projects that create a human-centered transportation system.
- 1.5 Support land use decisions that locate new development close to existing services, particularly those that serve transportation disadvantaged populations.

Goal #2

Eliminate transportation related fatalities and serious injuries for all transportation modes.

Policies

- 2.1 Prioritize funding for safety projects and programs that will achieve Vision Zero.
- 2.2 Encourage projects that improve safety for youth, vulnerable users, and transportation disadvantaged populations.
- 2.3 Support projects that provide access to emergency services.
- 2.4 Support project design that reduces the potential for serious injury or death by mitigating human mistakes, encouraging safer behaviors, and facilitating safe travel by the most vulnerable users.
- 2.5 Incorporate transportation system security and emergency preparedness into transportation planning and project/program implementation.

¹ Key destinations for Santa Cruz County residents may include employment and commercial centers, schools, healthcare, coastal access, and parks.

Goal #3

Deliver transportation improvements cost effectively, responsive to the needs of all users of the transportation system.

The manner in which access and safety policies referenced in Goal #1 and Goal #2 are delivered can impact cost-effectiveness, ecological function, and distribution of benefits amongst population groups.

Policies

- 3.1 Support transportation projects that cost effectively improve access and provide sustainable transportation trips
- 3.2 Maintain and operate the existing transportation system cost-effectively and in a manner that adapts the current transportation system to maximize existing investments.
- 3.3 Improve coordination between agencies in a manner that improves efficiencies and reduces duplication (e.g., paratransit and transit; road repairs; signal synchronization; TDM programs).
- 3.4 Implement Transportation System Management programs and projects on major roadways across Santa Cruz County that increases the efficiency of the existing transportation system.
- 3.5 Support new or increased taxes and fees that reflect the cost to operate and maintain the transportation system.
- 3.6 Enhance local economic activity through improving freight mobility, reliability, efficiency, and competitiveness.
- 3.7 Solicit broad public input on all aspects of regional and local transportation plans, projects and funding actions.

Goal #4

Establish a climate-resilient transportation system that anticipates, adapts to, and mitigates the impacts of climate change.

Policies

- 4.1 Deliver transportation investments in a way that reduces climate change impacts, increases tree canopy, where appropriate, improves habitat and water quality, and enhances sensitive areas.
- 4.2 Adapt the transportation system to withstand climate change impacts such as sea level rise, extreme weather events, and changes in temperature and precipitation patterns.

- 4.3 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change impacts by planning and funding projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- 4.4 Expand demand management programs (TDM) that decrease the number of vehicle miles traveled and result in mode shift.
- 4.5 Incorporate climate change projections into transportation planning and decision-making to proactively address potential risks and vulnerabilities.

Goal #5

Ensure that plans, investments, policies, and transportation decisions will reduce disparities for historically and systemically marginalized, underserved, and excluded groups, including people with low incomes, people with disabilities, communities of color, and other transportation disadvantaged and equity priority communities.

Policies

- 5.1** Demonstrate that planned investments will reduce disparities in safety and access for transportation disadvantaged populations.
- 5.2** Maximize input and decision-making for transportation plans and projects within disadvantaged populations
- 5.3** Prioritize funding for climate resilient transportation projects in areas with high concentrations of disadvantaged populations
- 5.4** Mitigate for the displacement impacts of transportation improvements on local residents and businesses
- 5.5** Prioritize transportation investments serving low-income neighborhoods and new affordable housing projects