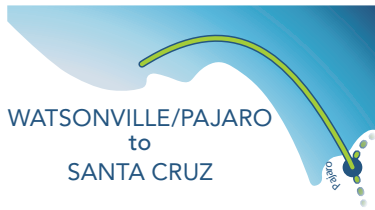


## ZERO EMISSION PASSENGER RAIL AND TRAIL



# FACT SHEET

## FEBRUARY 2024

## ZERO EMISSION PASSENGER RAIL AND TRAIL PROJECT

The Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project proposes a new high-capacity passenger rail service and stations on approximately 22 miles of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) from the city of Santa Cruz in the north to Pajaro, just south of Watsonville. The project also proposes 12 miles of Coastal Rail Trail: Segments 13-20 from Rio del Mar Boulevard through the community of La Selva Beach and the city of Watsonville, as well as the Capitola Trestle reach (Segment 11, Phase 2).

The project aims to take advantage of the publicly owned rail right-of-way to provide passenger rail service to connect the most populated areas of Santa

Cruz County to each other and to the greater region as well as to provide integrated intercity travel options for riders on the Central Coast. Passengers will be able to bypass Highway 1 and local arterials that are highly congested, providing high-quality connections to key destinations within the county.

The project builds on studies previously completed by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), including the Rail Transit Feasibility Study in 2015 and the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis & Rail Network Integration Study in 2021, which identified a locally preferred alternative for Electric Passenger Rail.



**Handouts for item 27**  
**PROJECT SCHEDULE**

In October 2023, RTC began work on the Project Concept Report. This report is anticipated to be completed in spring 2025 and will define, evaluate, and develop a project build concept to be advanced into subsequent tasks. Key milestones for this phase of work are listed to the right.

Throughout these activities, meaningful, proactive, and focused public and stakeholder outreach will occur, including several virtual and in-person public workshops and open house meetings.

Following completion of the Project Concept Report, the project will move into Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation, and then through Right-of-Way and Final Design.

**02/01/2024 RTC Meeting**

**Project Concept Report – Milestones and Engagement Opportunities**

WINTER 2024

- PRELIMINARY PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT
- PROJECT LOOK AHEAD

★ WE ARE HERE

SUMMER 2024

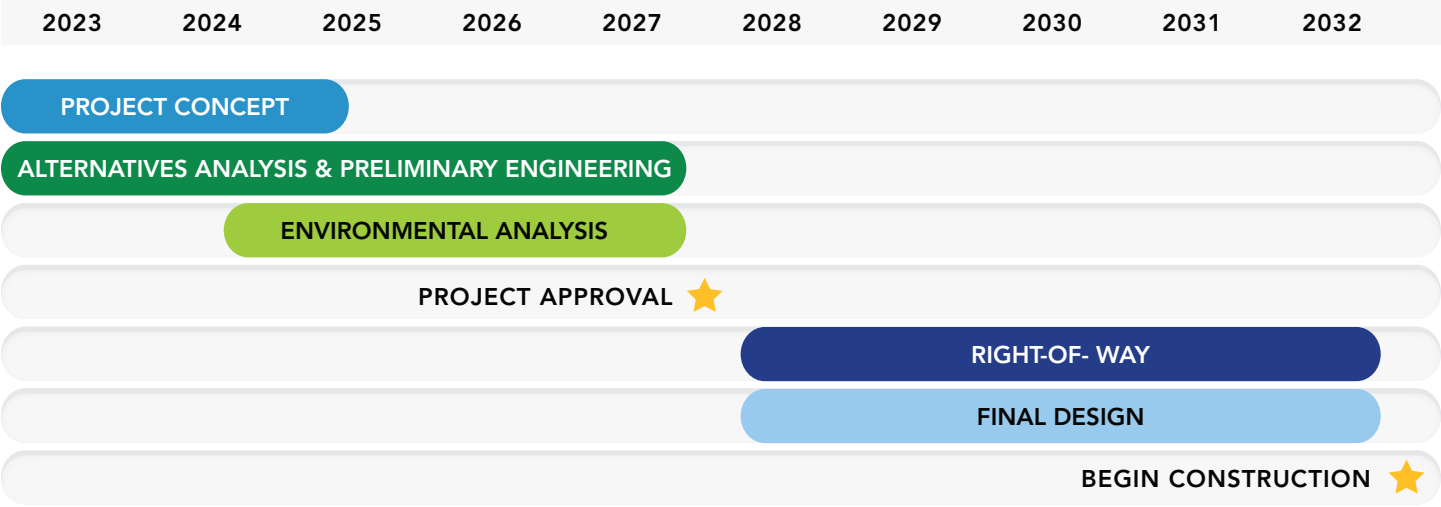
- CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENTS
- ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE TYPES

FALL 2024

- REFINED CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT
- STATION/LAYOVER FACILITY AND MAINTENANCE LOCATIONS


WINTER 2025


- DRAFT PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT
- NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT



**STAY CONNECTED**

The RTC and its project partners are committed to meaningful public engagement throughout the project’s lifecycle. Community participation is vital to aid in minimizing impacts while meeting the needs of riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians. There are many voices in our community, and we want to hear yours.

 Visit the project webpage for updates and sign up for the contact list: [sccrtc.org/zeprt](https://sccrtc.org/zeprt)

 Email us with comments or questions: [zeprt@sccrtc.org](mailto:zeprt@sccrtc.org)

 Attend future public meetings and provide comments throughout the planning process

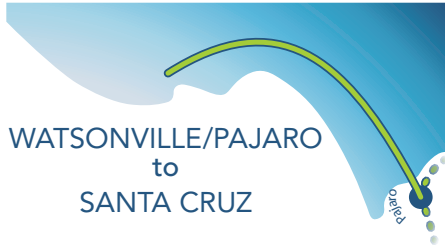


SCAN HERE



## **ZERO EMISSION**

PASSENGER RAIL AND TRAIL



# Join us for an **Open House**

Learn about the **Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project** and provide input on the project's Preliminary Purpose and Need.

The project proposes new passenger rail service and stations on approximately 22 miles of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and 12 miles of Coastal Rail Trail: Segments 13-20 as well as the Capitola Trestle reach (Segment 11, Phase 2).

### **IN-PERSON**

**Monday, Feb. 12**

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsay Park Family Center  
1301 Main St., Watsonville

**Tuesday, Feb. 13**

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Live Oak Grange  
1900 17th Ave., Santa Cruz

### **VIRTUAL**

Beginning **Feb. 5** at  
**[sccrtc.org/zeprt](https://sccrtc.org/zeprt)**



or scan this **QR code**



**From:** [Brian Peoples](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us](#); [rlj12@comcast.net](#); [Zach Friend](#); [rpquinn@pacbell.net](#); [bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us](#); [Felipe.hernandez@santacruzcounty.us](#); [thekristenbrown@gmail.com](#); [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](#); [Andy Schiffrin](#); [Justin.cummings@santacruzcounty.us](#); [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](#); [Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson](#); [vanessa.quiroz@cityofwatsonville.org](#); [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](#)  
**Subject:** Southern California trail falling onto rail along Coastal Bluff  
**Date:** Friday, January 26, 2024 1:41:52 PM

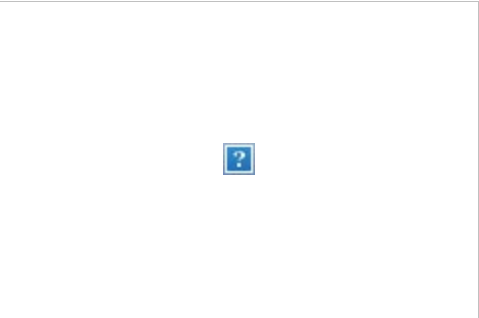
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RTC,

(See Photo) Southern California rail service along Pacific Coast SHUTDOWN INDEFINITELY due to mudslide. This is a great example of why there will never be a new passenger rail along Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor that is 20 feet from the Pacific Ocean in multiple locations.

Let's stop wasting time and tax dollars on a boondoggle train and an expensive, narrow substandard trail next to tracks. Time to railbank, pull/recycle rails & ties and build the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail NOW!

HERE IS ARTICLE: <https://www.sfgate.com/travel/article/coastal-calif-mudslide-suspends-surfliner-train-18628455.php>



### Coastal California mudslide suspends popular section of train line indefinitely

A mudslide in San Clemente, Calif., caused areas of three Amtrak and Metrolink train lines to close indefinitely, including the Pacific Surfliner train.

[www.sfgate.com](https://www.sfgate.com)

Brian Peoples  
Trial Now

## “Elevated” trail next to tracks

