



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
phone: (831) 460-3200  
email: [info@scrtc.org](mailto:info@scrtc.org); website: [www.scrtc.org](http://www.scrtc.org)*

*CONTACTS: Shannon Munz, Communications Specialist ([smunz@scrtc.org](mailto:smunz@scrtc.org))  
Mitch Weiss, Interim Executive Director  
Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director*

## **Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) May 2, 2024 Meeting Highlights**

### ***Presentation from City of Capitola***

The Commission received a presentation from City of Capitola Public Works Project Manager Kailash Mozumder on the City's 2024 transportation projects. To date this year, the City has completed two projects: the Kennedy Drive Sidewalks project that included 550 feet of new sidewalk, ADA curb ramps, a class II bike lane, and updated crosswalks; and the Capitola Road Rehabilitation project that included road rehabilitation from 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue to 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue, bicycle and pedestrian improvements, ADA curb ramps, and updated striping. The City currently has six projects underway: the Upper Beach and Village Parking Lot Pedestrian Path project which will go out to bid in late May; the Bay/Hill Intersection Pedestrian Safety Quick Build which will go out to bid in summer 2024; the B-Cycle Regional Bike Share that includes 50 e-bikes, and the installation of 18 docking locations and 100 docks; 2023 Storm Damage Repairs to critical infrastructure and roadways from December 2023 and January 2024 storms; the 2024 Pavement Maintenance Project that includes maintenance and rehabilitation of arterial, collector and residential streets and is currently ongoing; and the Traffic Signal Battery Backup System project. Future projects the City has planned are the AB413 Daylighting Implementation project; 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue Multimodal Corridor Improvements; and Cliff Drive Resiliency.

### ***Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Update, Alignment Horizontal Clearances, and Right-of-Way Setbacks***

The Commission received an update on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Concept Report development. As part of Milestone 2 of the project, the project design team is in the process of developing horizontal and vertical alignments, with an intent to provide an optimized design that will, to the greatest extent possible, accommodate both rail and trail facilities within the existing Branch Line right-of-way. Assumptions need to be made for design methodology used in developing the project alignments, and staff provided a review of the alignment development process, recommended typical cross sections, and recommended right of way setbacks for the Project. To meet the objectives of the project and requirements of regulatory agencies, such as the California Public Utilities Commission,

as well as to provide guidance to the project team as it undertakes the alignment analysis, the Commission adopted the typical design sections recommended by staff as guidelines for passenger rail service on the Branch Line. The project team will continue to analyze the constrained locations of the corridor that may not meet the typical design section guidelines to develop options which may include implementing design exceptions or identifying right-of-way needs of the project. In order to preserve, to the maximum extent practicable, the ability to construct the project, to effectively operate freight and passenger rail service, and to optimize use of the Branch Line for transportation related facilities, the Commission adopted, as a standard guideline, a 25-foot wide setback for the construction of new structures, as measured from either the centerline of the Branch Line main track at the time of development review or from the established project centerline alignment, whichever is closest to the proposed development and instructed staff to coordinate with partner agencies to refine and optimize the implementation of the setback standard during review of specific proposed developments adjacent to the Branch Line. As next steps, the Project team is developing the initial conceptual alignment and plans to seek community input in the summer of 2024 as milestone 2, followed by the refined conceptual alignments, station locations, and facilities in the fall of 2024 as milestone 3. The Project Concept Report is milestone 4 and is expected to be completed in early 2025.

#### ***Resolution to Reduce Speed Limit to 25 MPH on Sections of Highway 9***

Assembly Bill 43 enacted in 2021, allows a speed limit of 25 mph on state highway segments that meet defined business and residential district criteria. Based on analysis by Commission staff such criteria are met in Brookdale between Western Avenue and Pacific Street, in Ben Lomond between Miles Street and Marshall Creek Court and in Felton between Macarthur Road and Russell Avenue, which currently have speeds higher than 25 mph. Therefore, per Caltrans request, the Commission approved a resolution requesting that Caltrans reduce the speed limit in these areas to 25 mph. This is consistent with the 2019 Highway 9/San Lorenzo Valley Complete Streets Corridor Plan, which identified reducing speed limits in town centers to help improve safety for vulnerable users such as pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit users.

#### ***\$708,000 in Low Carbon Transit Operations Program Funds Programmed***

The Commission programmed \$147,000 to Community Bridges Lift Line for the purchase of one electric vehicle for the specialized transportation services that Lift Line provides, and \$561,115 to Santa Cruz METRO to provide free fares for all bus riders from September 2024 through August 2025 as a component of METRO's Reimagined Transit Service. Santa Cruz METRO will also use an additional \$631,662 in Low Carbon Transit Operations Program funds provided by the state directly to METRO for the free fares. These projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the number of transit and paratransit riders, and advance equity goals to increase service for serve low-income individuals.

#### **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 and video conference information for future meetings. Agendas are posted to the website at least 3 days before the meeting and will also include attendance 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) during this time of national emergency. 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](mailto:info@sccrtc.org) or by calling 831-460-3200.

**[Regional Transportation Commission Meeting](#)**

Thursday, June 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

**[Budget, Administration & Personnel Committee](#)**

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

**[Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee](#)**

Thursday, May 9, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

**[Bicycle Advisory Committee](#)**

Monday, May 13, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

**[Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee](#)**

Tuesday, May 14, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

**[Transportation Policy Workshop](#)**

Thursday, May 16, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

**[Interagency Technical Advisory Committee](#)**

Thursday, May 16, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

*Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC website at [www.sccrtc.org](http://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](http://www.communitytv.org) or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.*