

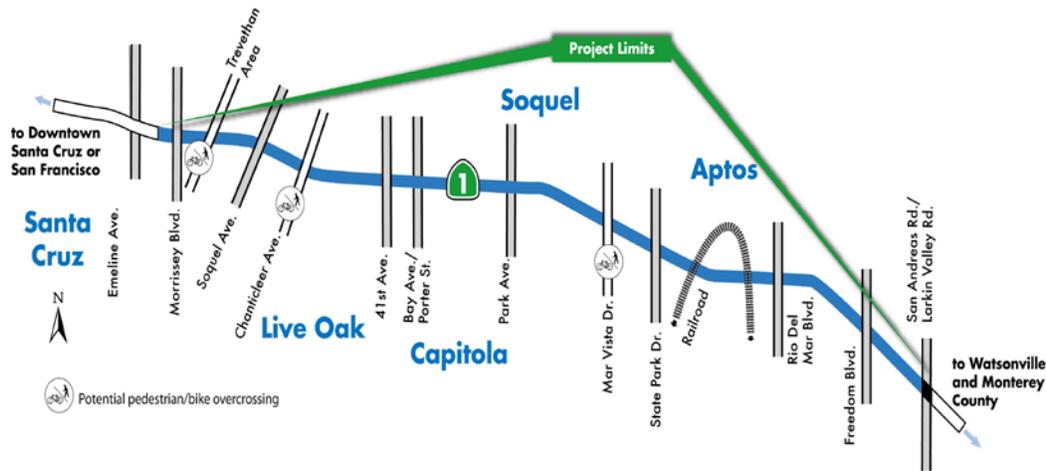


Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program

Fact Sheet
May 2017

Program Elements

- ❖ Auxiliary Lanes
- ❖ 3 Pedestrian/Bike Bridges
- ❖ Upgraded Interchanges
- ❖ Ramp Metering
- ❖ HOV/Carpool Transit Lane



The RTC, in cooperation with Caltrans and the Federal Highway Administration, released the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the improvement of Highway 1 between Santa Cruz and Aptos in November 2015. The findings of the DEIR including technical studies can be found on-line at: www.sccrtc.org/hwy1eir. The Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program is designed to provide solutions to the deficiencies known to exist with the central artery of the county's transportation system.

Needs and Challenges

The goal of the Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program is to address several different needs to the backbone of the county's existing transportation network:

- Bottlenecks along Highway 1 causing increasing congestion during peak travel times.
- Unpredictable travel times experienced by commuters, commerce, visitors, and emergency vehicles on a daily basis.
- "Cut-through" traffic on local streets as motorists increasingly seek "short-cuts" to avoid congestion on Highway 1.
- Limited opportunities for protected pedestrian and bicycle crossings of Highway 1 in the urbanized area of the county.
- Leverage local transportation funds to attract state and federal grant funding to expand the Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program to relieve traffic congestion.

Key Findings of the Draft Environmental Impact Report

- Affordable incremental improvements (such as auxiliary lanes) will provide congestion relief for the morning commute and increase the efficiency of the highway (vehicles and persons carried per hour) in the evening.
- If nothing is done, highway congestion is projected to become far worse than current conditions leading to even more traffic diverting to local streets and roads.
- There are significantly more collisions on Highway 1 compared to similar facilities in the state leading to even greater congestion and travel delays.
- Three new bicycle/pedestrian crossings plus sidewalks and bike lanes on all new structures crossing the highway are included in the Highway 1 construction plans.
- Air quality "criteria pollutants" are projected to be significantly reduced in the ultimate improvement scenario (High Occupancy Vehicle – HOV Alternative) – a 36% decrease in nitrogen oxide and carbon monoxide and 44% reduction in reactive organic gas.

Project Funding and Phasing

Existing and projected transportation revenues are insufficient to fully fund the Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program as a single project (estimated to cost \$600 million). The DEIR recognizes this reality and includes a strategy for phased construction as funds become available.

In November 2016, Santa Cruz County became the 24th county in the state to adopt a local sales tax measure dedicated to transportation improvement projects - \$125 million of which is dedicated to the Highway 1 Corridor.



Measure D provides funding for the following:

- Highway 1 - 41st Ave/Soquel Auxiliary Lanes
- Highway 1 - Park Ave/Bay-Porter Auxiliary Lanes
- Highway 1 - State Park Drive/Park Ave Auxiliary Lanes
- Highway 1 - Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge at Chanticleer
- Highway 1 - Pedestrian/Bicycle Bridge at Mar Vista
- Freeway Service Patrol, Traveler Information-Cruz511, Carpool/Vanpool, and the Safe on 17 Programs

Construction of the next Highway 1 improvement project, auxiliary lanes between 41st Avenue and Soquel Drive and pedestrian/bicycle crossing of Highway 1 at Chanticleer Avenue is anticipated to begin in 2021 following completion of environmental documentation, final engineering, right of way, and utility relocation work. This section of Highway 1 has been the most congested and heavily traveled thoroughfare for residents, visitors, goods movement and emergency services in the county.

At every opportunity the RTC will seek to leverage local Measure D funds to attract state and federal grant funds to expand the Highway 1 Corridor Investment Program to realize long term potential of the corridor. Future project phases would continue to construct auxiliary lanes down the Highway 1 corridor and reconstruct highway interchanges (such as Morrissey Boulevard, Soquel Drive, and 41st Avenue). These projects will be prioritized based on current traffic conditions to relieve congestion and avoid traffic hot spots. Interchange improvements would include widening of local roadways, structures, and ramps for future ramp metering with transit and emergency vehicle by-pass lanes.

Stay Informed About Highway 1 Projects

If you wish to receive information, contact the SCCRTC at:

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1523 Pacific Ave., Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone (831) 460-3200 ~ fax (831) 460-3215
email: info@sccrtc.org ~ website: www.sccrtc.org

To continue receiving information about Highway 1 and other projects, subscribe to the E-newsletter on the SCCRTC website: www.sccrtc.org/enews.