



# Neighborhood Projects: Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing

## Project Description

Construction of a wildlife undercrossing on Highway 17 near Laurel Road in Santa Cruz County to link core wildlife habitat areas on either side of the highway and to allow animals to travel beneath the highway. Mountain lions, bobcats, deer and other wildlife are using the crossing, reducing car crashes with wildlife. The crossing was construction in 2022-2023.

More than 65,000 vehicles travel Highway 17 each day (24 million vehicles a year). The dense traffic, concrete median barriers, and lack of culvert undercrossings or bridges made Highway 17 a barrier for wildlife moving through the Santa Cruz Mountains. Wildlife had been hit trying to cross Highway 17 near Laurel Road.

Caltrans, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission, the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, and resource agencies partnered to construct this project.



## Project Highlights

- ▶ Provides safe passage for wildlife to cross under Highway 17 near Laurel Road
- ▶ Bridges two core wildlife habitat areas on each side of Highway 17
- ▶ Traffic volumes of over 60,00 vehicles per day, combined with a concrete median barrier and a lack of adequate culvert or bridge undercrossings contribute to animal-vehicle collisions along Highway 17.
- ▶ Collaborative project between the Regional Transportation Commission, Land Trust of Santa Cruz County, and Caltrans

## Project Delivery Strategy

Caltrans lead the project delivery. The pre-construction phases were funded with Caltrans State Highway Operation and Protection Program funds. The RTC used Measure D funds to leverage additional SHOPP and Land Trust funds for construction.

<https://sccrtc.org/projects/streets-highways/highway-17/>



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## Total Programming

<b>Estimated Total Cost</b>	<b>\$12.5M</b>
<b>Funding Sources</b>	
Measure D (Neighborhood)*	\$5M
Other Secured**	\$7.5M

\*Includes loan payments (principal and interest)  
 \*\*Includes Land Trust and SHOPP funds.

## Project Status/Schedule

Completed in 2023!



## Funding Partners

