Project Description

Highway 9 serves as the “Main Street” and economic center for the towns of Felton, Ben Lomond, Brookdale, and Boulder Creek and is an interregional arterial connecting Silicon Valley and Santa Cruz.

Corridor Plan

Measure D designates $10 million for transportation projects in the Highway 9 corridor that will improve travel for residents of the San Lorenzo Valley (SLV). Since Measure D, state, federal, and other local revenues are limited, a first step in identifying priority projects was development of a comprehensive Highway 9-SLV Complete Streets Corridor Plan. Building on past public input and planning activities, the plan identifies, evaluates, and prioritizes transportation projects on Highway 9 and connecting county roads through the SLV that can be implemented in the short- and mid-term to address challenges on the corridor. The plan focuses on safety for pedestrians, bicyclists, and motorists; access to schools, businesses, and bus stops; traffic operations, pavement conditions, drainage, and other needs in this travel corridor.

The plan includes conceptual complete street designs and provides a framework for partnering with Caltrans to implement investments that address community concerns, improve multi-modal safety, access, connectivity, economic vitality, and environmental quality, and improve the condition of existing infrastructure (e.g. fill potholes).

The final plan was received by the RTC Board on June 27, 2019 and will be submitted to Caltrans and the County of Santa Cruz for consideration. The RTC will continue to work in partnership with Caltrans, the County, Santa Cruz METRO and stakeholders to facilitate implementation of priority projects and concepts identified in the plan. The final plan is online at www.sccrtc.org/slvplan.

Priority Projects

The Highway 9 Corridor Plan identifies over 30 priority projects for the corridor, including the following:

- Pedestrian and bicycle paths to SLV schools and modifications to improve traffic flow along the schools’ entrances
- Modifications to Felton, Brookdale, Ben Lomond, and Boulder Creek town centers to create safer pedestrian walking and crossing facilities, reduce speeding, and improve access to businesses
- Corridor-wide roadway maintenance, storm damage repairs, and emergency preparedness; pedestrian safety and visibility improvements; and shoulder widening for bicycles

The plan will be used to secure grants and facilitate subsequent design, environmental review, and construction of these and other priority projects.
Highway 9 Pedestrian Crosswalks and Enhancements

A $250,000 Highway Safety Improvement Program grant and Measure D funds will be used for pedestrian crossing safety enhancements on Highway 9 (State Route 9/SR9) in the San Lorenzo Valley. The project includes upgrades to five intersections and a range of treatments, such as installation of high-visibility striping and signage, advance warning flashing beacons, and Rectangular Rapid Flash Beacons. Five locations with high foot traffic and a history of collisions involving pedestrians were identified as priorities for these funds. Caltrans is reviewing these locations for constructability:

- SR9/Redwood Drive in Felton
- SR9 midblock crossing between Graham Hill Road and Kirby Street in Felton
- SR9/Clear Creek Road in Brookdale
- SR9/Forest Street in Boulder Creek
- SR9/Pool Drive in Boulder Creek