



Coastal Rail Trail

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network

Project Description

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) is a Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) proposed 50-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail project. The spine of the trail network will be the 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail from Davenport to Watsonville, to be built within or adjacent to the RTC-owned rail right-of-way. The remaining miles will be connecting paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, other roadway improvements or unpaved coastal spur trails.

The Coastal Rail Trail promises to be a highly valuable asset to the Santa Cruz County community for transportation, recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor-serving purposes. It will connect to neighborhoods, schools, parks, transit hubs, commercial and other activity centers. Approximately 18 miles of projects are currently under development or constructed, and 16.5 miles are fully funded. Project delivery includes completing design, engineering and environmental permitting, as well as receiving public input.

Approximately \$135M to date has been secured from state/federal grants and private donations. Additionally, Measure D, the voter-approved transportation sales tax, will allocate approximately \$175M for the trail over 30 years.

Following extensive public outreach, the RTC prepared and adopted an award-winning Master Plan. All local jurisdictions through which the trail will traverse have also adopted the Master Plan as a guide for implementation. The RTC and its partner agencies continue to develop and construct the Coastal Rail Trail.



Project Highlights

- ▶ Half the county population, 92 parks and 44 schools are located within 1 mile of the rail line.
- ▶ Approximately 18 miles of trail are either under development or constructed. Construction of the first project began in 2019.
- ▶ To date, approximately \$135M has been secured from state/federal grants and private donations, and \$52M in Measure D Regional-Active Transportation and Measure D- Neighborhood funds.
- ▶ Measure D will allocate approximately \$175M for the trail over 30 years.
- ▶ 13 miles of projects are advancing from the planning to project development phase as part of the Zero Emission Passenger Rail & Trail project



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Status of Funded Rail Trail Projects

North Coast: Davenport to Wilder Ranch (Segment 5)

- Project Description:** 7.5 miles along the north coast of Santa Cruz County adjacent to Wilder Ranch and Cotoni Dairies State Parks Trail. Phase I-Wilder Ranch to Panther/Yellowbank Beach. Phase II-Panther/Yellowbank Beach to Davenport including new parking lots in Davenport and at Panther/Yellowbank Beach, improved access to parking lot at Bonny Doon Beach, and a pedestrian crossing in Davenport; Phase III-construction of a pedestrian overpass over Hwy 1 connecting the Coastal Rail Trail on the coastal side to Cotoni Coast Dairies National Monument on the inland side of Hwy 1.
- Project Status:** Preconstruction activities for Phases I & II were completed in 2023. Construction began in 2024. Phase III began design in 2025 and is expected to begin construction in 2027.

City of Santa Cruz: Natural Bridges Drive to Pacific Avenue/Santa Cruz Wharf (Segment 7)

- Project Description:** 2.1 miles of the Coastal Rail Trail through neighborhoods on the Westside of the City of Santa Cruz and providing access to businesses and activity centers.
- Project Status:** Phase I (Natural Bridges Drive to California Avenue) was completed in December 2020. Phase II (California Avenue to Pacific Avenue at the Wharf) was completed in May 2025.

City of Santa Cruz/County of Santa Cruz: Boardwalk to 17th Avenue (Segments 8 & 9)

- Project Description:** 2.2 miles of Coastal Rail Trail.
- Project Status:** Phase I (widening of the San Lorenzo River Walkway at the Boardwalk) was completed in May 2019. Phase II preliminary design and engineering were completed in 2023. Final design is scheduled for completion in 2026 and the project is scheduled to go to construction in 2027.

County of Santa Cruz/City of Capitola: 17th Avenue to State Park Drive (Segments 10 & 11)

- Project Description:** 4.7 miles of Coastal Rail Trail.
- Project Status:** Environmental was completed in spring 2024. Final design is scheduled to be completed in 2026 and the project is scheduled to go to construction in 2027.

County of Santa Cruz: State Park Drive to Rio Del Mar Boulevard (Segment 12)

- Project Description:** 1.25 miles of Coastal Rail Trail. This section is being advanced as part of the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder project from State Park Drive to Freedom Boulevard.
- Project Status:** Environmental was completed in 2024. The RTC was successful in securing 2024 SB1 Solutions to Congested Corridors and Local Partnership Program competitive funds, which fully funds construction of this project. The project is expected to go to construction as soon as 2026.

City of Watsonville: Lee Road to Walker Street (Segment 18)

- Project Description:** 1.2 miles of Coastal Rail Trail.
- Project Status:** Phase I (Ohlone Parkway to the Watsonville Slough Trail Network trailhead) was completed in summer 2021. Phase II & III of Segment 18 are combined with development of the RTC's Electric Passenger Rail Transit Project.