

May 2006

City of Santa Cruz Status Report on the Broadway-Brommer Bike/Pedestrian Path
(Requested by Commissioner Keogh at the Commission's March 17, 2005 meeting)

Lead Agency: City of Santa Cruz
Project Description: Install Class 1 bike/pedestrian path through Arana Gulch to connect to existing class 2 bike facilities.
Project Location: Broadway to Brommer Streets and 7th Ave. through Arana Gulch (City of Santa Cruz and Live Oak area of the unincorporated County)
RTIP #: SC 07

Funding Information

Fund Source	Total	Prior Years*	05/06	06/07	07/08	Env'l	Design	ROW	Const
CMAQ	262	262				262			
RSTP	62			62			14		48
RSTPX	140	140					140		
STIP (TE)	1336			1336					1336
TDA	21	21				21			
TSM	12	12				12			
Local	220	25		195			25		195
Total	2053	460		1593		295	179		1579

*Prior year funds reflect funds obligated (and spent in most cases) to date.

Current Schedule for the Broadway-Brommer Project:

Environmental Review: Completed 3/25/03

Design: Fall 2006 (following completion of the Arana Gulch Master Plan and EIR – discussed below)

Right-of-Way (ROW) Schedule: N/A

Construction: Apply for authorization in Fall 2006; Construct 2007

Current Status/Issues:

In 2003 the City Council certified the EIR for the Broadway/Brommer Bicycle/Pedestrian Path. Prior to constructing the path, the Council directed staff to prepare and return with a draft Arana Gulch Park Master Plan covering the following key uses and concepts:

- Resource enhancement and protection (including Santa Cruz tarplant, riparian and wetland and other habitat areas);
- A trail system that includes the Broadway-Brommer Bicycle/Pedestrian path connection (Alternative D2 which includes a bridge crossing Hagemann Gulch and Arana Creek);
- Interpretive displays and overlook areas;

- No on-site parking or restrooms;
- Amend the General Policy and rezone the property to reflect the current land uses anticipated; and
- Initiate an annexation for the strip of city-owned property located along Capitola Road.

Since that time City staff has hired consultants to assist in drafting the Arana Gulch Master Plan, develop the detailed alignment plan and develop a habitat management plan for the Santa Cruz tarplant. Preliminary drafts were presented to Coastal Commission staff in March for their input and comment. Completing the Arana Gulch Master Plan is required of the City prior to submitting a coastal permit application for the path and has been the primary cause of delays to the path project. The City is in the process of hiring an environmental consultant to complete the Master Plan EIR and complete the path Environmental Assessment (EA). The Arana Gulch Master Plan related work is being completed with City funds not dedicated to the path project.

Because the path is in the coastal zone, Coastal Commission staff commented on the draft EIR/EA prepared for the project. They noted that the project violates the underlying zoning of this city property (the property is zoned residential) and is inconsistent with the City's General Plan (the plan calls for a school site and requires a specific plan for any development). Since the property is open space with riparian forest, coastal prairie and wetlands and had been identified as critical habitat as a result of the presence of a Federally listed threatened species, Santa Cruz Tarplant, the Coastal Commission staff recommended that the City correct the inconsistent zoning and conflicts with the General Plan and that the development of a bike path across the property be implemented and planned as part of a overall Park Master Plan for the property. The Master Plan will include an access and trails element which the bike/pedestrian path is a part of. The Master Plan will develop ways to close existing resource damaging use trails and develop trail improvements which will include the bike/pedestrian path in such a way as to impact the various natural resources as little as possible. The preparation of the Park Master Plan is paid for with local funds.

Current Schedule of the Arana Gulch Master Plan:

Fall 2004: The City initiated the preparation of the Arana Gulch Master Plan
September 2005: Finalize Arana Gulch Park Master Plan and Draft EIR on the Master Plan, advertise EIR for review.
January 2006: Complete EIR review period, prepare response to comments; conduct public hearing; certify EIR
April 2006: Apply for Coastal Permit; hearing before Coastal Commission
Summer/Fall 06: Complete plans and specifications for path project
2007: Construct project.