TO: Regional Transportation Commission  
FROM: Luis Pavel Mendez, Deputy Director  
RE: Right of Entry for Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Bridge Rehabilitation

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve improvements shown on Exhibit 1 that were requested by the La Selva Beach Improvement Association (LSBIA) and that extend into the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line right-of-way to provide access to Stacy and Witbeck for rehabilitation of the La Selva Beach railroad trestle.

BACKGROUND

After completing the purchase of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (Branch Line), the RTC secured funding to make improvements to the Branch Line with a focus on rehabilitating bridges. After two rounds of bidding, in August 2013, the RTC awarded a contract to Stacy and Witbeck in the amount of $4,189,001 to rehabilitate four rail road bridges. The most significant of those bridges is the La Selva Beach trestle.

DISCUSSION

To rehabilitate the La Selva Beach bridge, Stacy and Witbeck proposes access to the bridge through the property of the La Selva Beach Improvement Association (LSBIA). Stacy and Witbeck plans to establish a crane pad at the end of the LSBIA property and place a crane at that location to dismantle and then assemble the bridge with new components. The LSBIA has agreed to provide access to Stacy and Witbeck in exchange for some improvements. Some of those improvements extend into the Branch Line right-of-way and require RTC approval.

Exhibit 1 shows the following improvements requested by the LSBIA:

**Area 1A (Remove & Replace Damaged Concrete Walkway)** – Remove and replace 6” Class V portland cement concrete. New walkway will be reinforced with #4 rebar at 16” on center and dowelled into the existing walkway with #4 dowels at 24” on center. Walkway will be poured with a 12” deep by 6” wide thickened edge on the north and south edges. Walkway will be broom finished. Additionally, one bay of lagging will be removed from the existing soldier beam and lagging wall to allow for widening the walkway in order to match the width of the existing walkway that runs under the La Selva Bridge.
Area 2A (New 6’ Chain Link Fencing) - Install new 6’ high chain link fencing with 3 strands of barbed wire. New fencing will extend from the termination point of the existing chain link fencing on the west side of the access driveway and terminate under the La Selva Bridge at the same station as the chain link fencing on the north side of the asphalt pathway. The pink line shows the alignment.

Area 3A (Drainage Culvert Invert Repair) – Remove all vegetation and debris from the invert of the existing culvert (on the east side of the track). Clean existing pipe of vegetation and debris. Install a layer of geotextile fabric under 12”-18” of ¼ ton rock at the pipe invert (on the east side of track) to prevent further erosion of the invert location. The red area shows the proposed location.

Area 4A (Widen AC Driveway) – Install ¾” Type A asphalt pavement. Pavement section will be 3” thick. Existing asphalt will be sawcut to a neat edge and tacked with SS-1 oil prior to paving operation. Subgrade will be proof rolled prior to paving operation. The orange area shows the proposed location.

Area 5A (Remove & Replace Damaged Barbed Wire) – Remove and replace 3 strand barbed wire on existing chain link fencing. Existing chain link fencing is to remain. The green line shows the alignment.

Areas 1A, 2A and 3A include work on the Branch Line right-of-way and Stacy and Witbeck has agreed to provide the improvements at no additional cost to the project. The LSBIA owns property on both sides of the Branch Line right-of-way and has had a paved path under the La Selva Beach railroad bridge for many years. During a site visit with representatives from Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay (SC&MB) Railway there was concern expressed with the fence alignment of the fence first proposed by the LSBIA due to inspection needs. The fence alignment was modified accordingly as shown on Exhibit 1. Staff recommends that the RTC approve the improvements requested by the LSBIA that extend into the Branch Line right-of-way.

SUMMARY

The La Selva Beach Improvement Association (LSBIA) requested some improvements to allow access to Stacy and Witbeck for rehabilitation of the La Selva Beach railroad trestle. Some of those improvements extend into the Branch Line right-of-way and Stacy and Witbeck will provide them at no additional cost to the bridge rehabilitation project. Staff recommends that the RTC approve the improvements requested by the LSBIA that extend into the Branch Line right-of-way as shown on Exhibit 1.

Exhibits:
1. Improvements requested by LSBIA to provide access through property
EXHIBIT 1 - PROPOSED IMPROVEMENTS FOR LSBIA