



2014 RTC at-a-glance

Sharpened focus on sustainability.



In 2014, assessments of long range needs and revenues identified a funding shortfall and the need to plan for a sustainable transportation future.

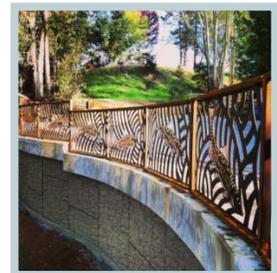
2014 Regional Transportation Plan

With extensive community engagement, the RTC completed a major update of the long range Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) using sustainability targets to prioritize projects and programs to receive funding through the year 2035. The population of Santa Cruz County is expected to grow by 37,000 in this timeframe. The adopted 2014 RTP shows how much funding is available for ongoing operation and maintenance of the existing transportation network, as well as for safety, operational, roadway improvements, highway, transit, bicycle, and pedestrian projects. However, many of the transportation projects identified by the community cannot be pursued due to unpredictable federal and state transportation revenues resulting in a funding shortfall of about \$150 million per year. The RTP includes direction to seek local, secure funds and work began planning for a transportation ballot measure in 2016.. The Regional Transportation Plan was coordinated with the Monterey Bay region’s Metropolitan Transportation Plan, Sustainable Communities Strategies, Complete Streets Guidebook, and used the Sustainable Transportation Analysis and Rating System to incorporate a sustainability framework. .



Funding Transportation

One of the RTC’s major responsibilities is to secure as much funding for our region as possible. In 2014, 19 transportation projects advanced using funds obtained by the RTC including: pavement preservation projects on local roads, the Arana Gulch Multiuse Trail, Nelson Road Storm Damage repair, Soquel/Park Way intersection safety improvements, and bus stop repairs throughout the county. For a full list of projects using RTC-secured funds, please see the RTC website.



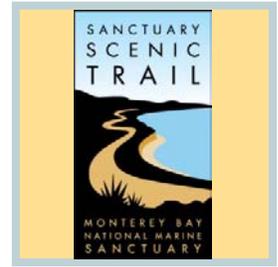
Highway 1 Corridor

Landscape planting was completed for the Soquel/Morrissey Auxiliary Lanes project and virtually all of the plant material survived the one year plant establishment period during local water rationing restrictions. Maintenance and upkeep of the highway including landscaping is now the responsibility of Caltrans. The RTC continued with planning and environmental analysis for the Highway 1 corridor to Aptos and another pair of auxiliary lanes on Highway 1 between Soquel Drive and 41st Avenue. The cost of this next auxiliary lane project is approximately \$27million. Based on our region’s historical allocation of about \$3.5 million annually, the project could start construction as early as 2020.



Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST)

The RTC awarded funding for two trail segments -- one in Watsonville and the other in Santa Cruz – and preliminary planning, design and pre-construction activities began in 2014. The adopted Master Plan for the MBSST, the 32-mile spine of which is known as the Rail Trail, won three planning excellence awards this year. To ensure coordination and trail uniformity, the Master Plan was adopted by the County of Santa Cruz and the City of Watsonville. In addition, the RTC approved policies to receive private funding and considered similar policies related to volunteer labor. An expanded funding partnership was established between the RTC and the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County to include the rail trail into their larger capital fundraising campaign. Coordination continued with Friends of the Rail and Trail and People Power who collected private donations for preliminary work on the two funded segments.



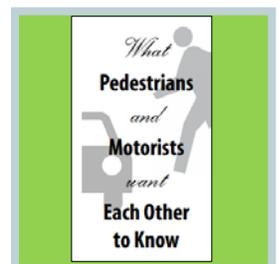
Rail Corridor

In accordance with agreements made as a condition of acquisition of the Saanta Cruz Branch Rail Line, RTC-contracted bridge rehabilitation work began on four structures of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The La Selva Beach Railroad Trestle is the largest of the four projects and rail service for points north was discontinued during construction of that bridge. The RTC also launched a Passenger Rail Study to assess passenger rail feasibility based on goals, evaluation framework and service scenarios identified with the community. Partnering with Roaring Camp Railroad and Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway, the RTC showcased the historic Portland Cement Steam locomotive enjoyed by many in the community. The RTC approved a two-year contract with the Santa Cruz & Monterey Bay Railway for the seasonal Train to Christmastown out of Watsonville. In addition, the RTC conducted rail corridor maintenance activities including: authorization of a mural in Aptos (privately funded), and coordination with the Volunteer Center for graffiti cleanup days, vegetation and trash removal.



Pedestrian Safety Work Group

A subcommittee of the RTC’s Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee, the Pedestrian Safety Work Group continued outreach activities in 2014 developing a new brochure titled “What Pedestrians and Motorists want Each Other to Know.” Included are tips for both pedestrians and motorists regarding right-of-way, expected behaviors, traffic laws, and minimizing distractions. The English and Spanish brochure is available in an electronic format on the RTC website and the print version is available by contacting the RTC.



RTC: Committed to advancing a sustainable transportation future!

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