



What is the RTP?

The Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) is a long range (20-25 year) transportation plan for the Santa Cruz County area. The long range transportation plan assesses the transportation challenges we face now and those we will face in the future. The plan includes strategies to address our transportation challenges, a list of unmet multimodal transportation needs (highway, road, transit, bicycle, pedestrian, freight, airport, etc.), and priorities for limited funds. The RTP is updated every four or five years to address new trends, issues, and priorities, and to incorporate new state and federal regulations. The last Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan was adopted in June 2010. The next plan is scheduled for adoption in mid-2014.

How is the long range transportation plan developed?

The first step is to identify the objectives for the region’s transportation system and craft overarching goals and policies, used to guide decisions. The 2014 RTP includes system-wide evaluation measures, or targets, to track progress towards achieving the goals. Next, an estimate of all the potential local, state and federal sources available for transportation projects is developed. Projects that advance the goals and targets are then identified by transportation agencies, local jurisdictions, and the public. Based on

an analysis of different scenarios and anticipated funding, the RTC prioritizes and identifies projects that could be funded over the next 25 years. A second-tier list of additional projects that could be implemented should more funding become available is also identified. The program of projects is then reviewed to identify potential environmental impacts. As shown in the adjacent graphic, there are opportunities at every stage of the development of the RTP for public, agency and committee input. The goals/policies, funding estimates and project lists build on each other and input at the early stages will shape the draft and final plan.

Key:

- Public
- Committees
- Agencies & Staff
- Governing Boards/ Decision Makers

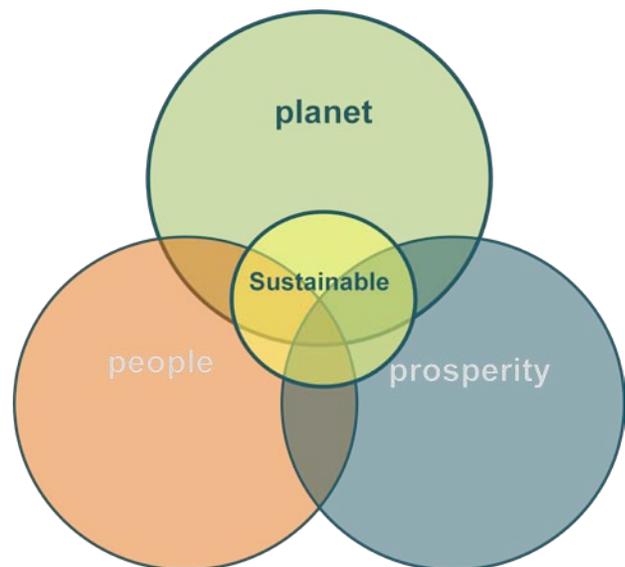


The 2014 Regional Transportation Plan provides information on the following:

- Transportation needs in the region through 2035, based on population growth, environmental, economic and other social trends.
- The amount of state, federal, and local funding available for transportation projects and new sources of funding needed to deliver high priority projects.
- Sustainability of the transportation system and sustainable outcomes utilizing the Sustainable Transportation Analysis and Rating System (STARS).
- New legislative requirements, including SB375, which stipulate that regions must meet greenhouse gas reduction targets by reducing vehicles miles traveled through a coordinated land use and transportation plan called the Sustainable Communities Strategy.
- “Complete Streets” as a tool for planning for a balanced and multi-modal transportation system, particularly for those transportation improvements needed to accommodate growth.

Why a focus on sustainability?

The RTC represents diverse transportation interests and assesses the impacts of transportation investments on environmental, economic and social concerns. A focus on sustainability can assist in providing balanced evaluation of transportation projects and programs, recognizing that these areas are intertwined, not exclusionary. This approach evaluates how transportation investments impact people’s health and safety, the economic vitality of the region, and the universal need for a healthy planet. Some investments are win/win, but many require trade-offs in the three areas of economy, environment and people. This focus on sustainability assists the RTC in identifying these trade-offs and achieving multiple long-term goals.



How can you get involved?

- Tell us what you think should be addressed in the RTP. Provide input as elements of the plan are developed. Tell us what projects and funding options you think should be considered for the transportation system. Provide feedback on the targets used to evaluate transportation projects and programs.
- Stay informed. Review materials on the RTP webpage: <http://www.sccrtc.org/funding-planning/long-range-plans/rtp/>
- Ask to be added to the RTP E-news List by emailing info@sccrtc.org, calling 831-460-3200 or signing up on the RTC website www.sccrtc.org
- Send comments to SCCRTC: info@sccrtc.com or 1523 Pacific Avenue, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- Participate in the development of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments’ Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS) called Moving Forward Monterey Bay, www.ambag.org.