

# 2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan Goals and Policies

## Goal 1

**Reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT) in order to establish livable communities that improve people's access to their regular needs.**

### Policies

- 1.1 Prioritize funding to improve multimodal access to and within key destinations<sup>1</sup> for all ages and abilities.
- 1.2 Ensure network connectivity by closing gaps in the bicycle, pedestrian, and transit networks.
- 1.3 Develop dedicated transit facilities that will improve transit access and travel time and will promote smart growth and transit-oriented development.
- 1.4 Plan and fund projects that create a human-centered transportation system.
- 1.5 Support land use decisions that locate new development close to existing services, particularly those that serve transportation disadvantaged populations.

## Goal 2

**Eliminate transportation related fatalities and serious injuries for all transportation modes.**

### Policies

- 2.1 Prioritize funding for safety projects and programs that will result in the county experiencing zero traffic-related deaths and serious injuries, or Vision Zero.
- 2.2 Encourage projects that improve safety for youth, vulnerable users, and transportation disadvantaged populations.
- 2.3 Support projects that provide access to emergency services.
- 2.4 Support project design that reduces the potential for serious injury or death by mitigating human mistakes, encouraging safer behaviors, and facilitating safe travel by the most vulnerable users.

---

<sup>1</sup> Key destinations for Santa Cruz County residents may include employment and commercial centers, schools, healthcare, coastal access, and parks.

- 2.5 Incorporate transportation system security and emergency preparedness into transportation planning and project and program implementation.

## **Goal 3**

**Deliver transportation improvements and maintenance cost effectively and responsive to the needs of all users of the transportation system.**

*The manner in which access and safety policies referenced in Goal #1 and Goal #2 are delivered can impact cost-effectiveness, ecological function, and distribution of benefits amongst population groups.*

### **Policies**

- 3.1 Prioritize transportation projects that cost-effectively improve access for all and provide sustainable transportation trips.
- 3.2 Maintain and operate the existing transportation system cost-effectively and in a manner that adapts the current transportation system to maximize existing investments.
- 3.3 Improve coordination between agencies in a manner that improves efficiencies and reduces duplication (e.g., paratransit and transit, road repairs, signal synchronization, Transportation Demand Management programs).
- 3.4 Implement Transportation System Management programs and projects on major roadways across Santa Cruz County that increases the efficiency of the existing transportation system.
- 3.5 Support new or increased taxes and fees that reflect the cost to operate and maintain the transportation system.
- 3.6 Enhance local economic activity through improving freight mobility, reliability, efficiency, and competitiveness.
- 3.7 Solicit broad public input on all aspects of regional and local transportation plans, projects, and funding actions.

## **Goal 4**

**Establish a climate-resilient transportation system that anticipates, adapts to, and mitigates the impacts of climate change.**

### **Policies**

- 4.1 Deliver transportation investments in a way that reduces climate change impacts, increases tree canopy, where appropriate, improves habitat and water quality, and enhances sensitive areas.

- 4.2 Adapt the transportation system to withstand climate change impacts such as sea level rise, extreme weather events, and changes in temperature and precipitation patterns.
- 4.3 Reduce greenhouse gas emissions to mitigate climate change impacts by planning and funding projects that reduce vehicle miles traveled (VMT).
- 4.4 Expand transportation demand management programs that decrease the number of vehicle miles traveled and result in mode shift.
- 4.5 Incorporate climate change projections into transportation planning and decision-making to proactively address potential risks and vulnerabilities.

## **Goal 5**

**Ensure that plans, investments, policies, and transportation decisions will reduce disparities for historically and systemically marginalized, underserved, and excluded populations.**

*Such populations include people with low incomes, people with disabilities, communities of color, and other transportation disadvantaged and equity priority communities.*

### **Policies**

- 5.1 Demonstrate that planned investments will reduce disparities in safety and access for transportation disadvantaged populations.
- 5.2 Maximize input and decision-making for transportation plans and projects within disadvantaged populations.
- 5.3 Prioritize funding for climate resilient transportation projects in areas with high concentrations of disadvantaged populations.
- 5.4 Mitigate the displacement impacts of transportation improvements on low-income residents and local small businesses.
- 5.5 Prioritize transportation investments serving low-income neighborhoods and new affordable housing projects.