



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
phone: (831) 460-3200
email: info@scrtc.org; website: www.scrtc.org*

*CONTACTS: Shannon Munz, Communications Specialist (smunz@scrtc.org)
Sarah Christensen, Executive Director (schristensen@scrtc.org)*

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Oct. 3, 2024 Meeting Highlights

Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 and Segments 10 & 11 Projects Construction Cost Reduction Strategies

The Commission received an update regarding strategies to reduce Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 and 10 & 11 Projects construction costs and approved entering into a Memorandum of Understanding with Santa Cruz, Big Trees and Pacific Railway (Roaring Camp Railroads) for relocation of railroad tracks along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line, as needed, to reduce construction costs for the two projects.

The City of Santa Cruz is the project sponsor for the Segments 8 & 9 Project and the County of Santa Cruz is the project sponsor for the Segments 10 & 11 Project. Both projects have completed the environmental and preliminary engineering phase of project development. The Projects are proceeding through the final design phase with final designs expected to be complete in 2026. As currently designed, the proposed trail projects require relocation of the existing railroad tracks in select locations to fit the trail adjacent to the railroad tracks in the Ultimate Trail Configuration.

In Spring 2024, original cost estimates from 2022 for construction and right of way for the Segments 8 & 9 and Segments 10 & 11 Projects were increased by approximately \$43 million combined for the two Projects. The \$43 million cost increase is currently not funded. As part of the effort to reduce construction costs associated with the projects, staff worked closely with the City of Santa Cruz and County of Santa Cruz staff to conduct a value engineering analysis to reduce costs for the two Projects. Staff also worked with Roaring Camp Railroads to identify opportunities for track relocation at Roaring Camp Railroads' expense where required to accommodate construction of the Coastal Rail Trail next to the rail. Staff will continue to pursue competitive grant funds to close the funding gap for the two projects.

Highway 9 Boulder Creek Complete Streets Project Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans and Consultant Contract with HMM Engineers

The Commission approved entering into a cooperative agreement with Caltrans and a professional engineering services contract with HMM, Inc. for the Highway 9 Boulder Creek

Complete Streets Project's approval and environmental phase (PA/ED). The Highway 9 Boulder Creek Complete Streets Project is a critical infrastructure initiative aimed at improving safety, accessibility, and mobility for all users along the Highway 9 corridor in the Boulder Creek community between River Street and Bear Creek Road in San Lorenzo Valley. The project proposes to improve multi-modal use of the Route 9 Corridor by widening the road, improving bus stops, installing Class II bike lanes, installing sidewalks, installing multi-use paths, and installing and enhancing crosswalks.

Organizational Restructuring

The Commission approved the new organizational chart, salary schedule, new positions and a budget amendment to memorialize the completion of the RTC's organizational restructuring that has been underway since 2020. The restructuring intends to improve the operations and performance of the agency by establishing three new departments:

- Planning, Programming & Transportation Services;
- Capital Project Delivery; and
- Internal Services.

The RTC will be actively recruiting for several positions in the coming months, including a Director of Capital Projects, Director of Internal Services, Real Property Specialist, Real Property Technician, Accountants, Supervising Transportation Planners, and a Transportation Engineer.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

[Regional Transportation Commission Meeting](#)

Thursday, Nov. 7, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

[Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee](#)

Tuesday, Oct. 8, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

[Budget, Administration & Personnel Committee](#)

Thursday, Oct. 10, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

[Bicycle Advisory Committee](#)

Monday, Oct. 14, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

[Interagency Technical Advisory Committee](#)

Thursday, Oct. 17, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

RTC and committee meetings are now being held in person. Non-voting members of the Commission and its committees, as well as members of the public and staff, will have the option to participate in person or remotely, provided equipment is available at the meeting location to allow remote participation. If there are technical difficulties during a meeting that prevent

remote participation, the meeting will continue. Please check the RTC website [<https://scrtc.org/meetings/calendar/>] or call 460-3200 to confirm meeting and video conference information for future meetings. Agendas are posted to the website at least 3 days before the meeting and will also include attendance information. Meetings may be canceled if there are no action items to be considered by the committee.

The RTC is committed to its compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Please contact the RTC at least 3 days in advance of a meeting if special accommodations are needed. If any document, webpage, meeting, or recording is inaccessible to you, kindly notify us at info@scrtc.org or by calling 831-460-3200.

Public input on transportation issues is welcomed and encouraged. For more information, visit the SCCRTC website at www.scrtc.org or call 460-3200. Some Regional Transportation Commission meetings are televised countywide by Community TV of Santa Cruz. Consult www.communitytv.org or call 831-425-8848 for schedule and station information.