



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Nov. 7, 2024 Meeting Highlights

Milestone 3 of Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Kicks Off

The RTC has kicked off Milestone 3 for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project (ZEPRT). Milestone 3 is the third out of four key milestones in the development of the ZEPRT Project Concept Report which is anticipated to be completed in spring 2025 and will define, evaluate, and develop a project build concept to be advanced into subsequent tasks. As part of Milestone 3, the RTC will be hosting two community workshops and a virtual open house to share updates and receive public input related to rail and trail alignment options in development, project funding opportunities, ridership modeling approach, stations, bridge structures, and noise impacts.

In-Person Community Workshops

Community Workshop #1

*Tuesday, Nov. 12, 2024 | 6-7:30 p.m.
Henry J. Mello Center
250 E Beach St., Watsonville*

Community Workshop #2

*Wednesday, Nov. 13, 2024 | 6-7:30 p.m.
Live Oak Community Center
1740 17th Ave., Santa Cruz*

Presentation will begin at 6:15 p.m., followed by an interactive workshop to gather community input.

Virtual Open House:

Visit the Virtual Open House anytime, 24/7, to conveniently participate when it works for you and share your input by Dec. 20, 2024 at ZEPRT.com.

Targets, Project List, and Financial Element for the 2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan

The Commission provided input on and approved the draft targets, the draft project list and the draft financial element for the 2050 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and directed staff to proceed with next steps. The RTP is a state-mandated, long range planning document that serves as a guide for future transportation funding decisions. It outlines transportation challenges and establishes investment priorities for all of Santa Cruz County. The plan includes lists of transit, highway, local road, bike, and pedestrian needs in the region and estimates the amount of local, state and federal dollars that may be available for these projects over the next 20 to 25 years. The RTP is updated every four years to reflect the latest funding estimates and project needs. The comprehensive project list in the draft 2050 RTP encompasses all proposed projects and programs deemed necessary for the effective

operation, maintenance, and enhancement of the county's transportation system through 2050, with an estimated total cost of about \$13.3 billion.

Next steps include reviewing and analyzing each project and categorizing the projects into two lists – Constrained (projects that can realistically be completed with expected funding by 2050 – about \$6 billion) and Unconstrained (projects that require additional funding to be completed by 2050). There will be additional public input opportunities related to project prioritization. After the project list is separated into constrained and unconstrained lists, the draft final project list will be brought back to project sponsors, advisory committees and the public for review. The RTC will consider final approval of the Constrained project list in early 2025.

Public Hearing: Measure D: Five-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects and Lift Line, and Senate Bill 1 Cycle 4 Project Update

The Commission received input from the public and approved the Fiscal Years (FY) 2024/25-2028/29 Measure D five-year programs of projects for regional projects funded by Measure D, and Community Bridges Lift Line projects. Measure D regional projects include Active Transportation/Rail Trail, Highway Corridors, Rail Corridor preservation, Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing, and San Lorenzo Valley-Highway 9 Corridor Improvements. Some of the regional projects under construction currently and into the next year include Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulders between Soquel and State Park, including new bicycle/pedestrian overcrossings at Chanticleer Avenue and Mar Vista Avenue, and Segment 5 of the Coastal Rail Trail from Wilder Ranch to Davenport on the Santa Cruz County North Coast. Also included is the completion of project development activities for a number of projects across all categories to ensure the start of construction within the next five years. No new projects are being programmed funds. Community Bridges Lift Line will continue to use its Measure D funds to support expanded weekday and weekend paratransit service, electric fleet upgrades, and on its new operations facility. The approved 5-year plans for spending Measure D funds are on the RTC website: www.sccrtc.org/move.

The Commission also approved splitting the Highway 1 Freedom Boulevard to State Park Drive auxiliary lanes and bus-on-shoulder project and the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 project into two separate stand-alone projects. The Highway 1 and Rail Trail components of this project have been a single project through the environmental and design phases. However, Caltrans has requested that the RTC lead the construction component of the Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 project as they do not want to construct improvements outside of the state highway system. Additionally, the Commission committed to implementing the construction component of the Segment 12 project. The Splitting of the projects in two is contingent on the RTC being awarded SB1 cycle 4 grant funding that the RTC is applying for with Caltrans as a co-nominator for the project.

Amendments to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 RTC Budget & Work Program and Measure D Budget

The Commission approved amending the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024-25 RTC Budget & Work Program and Measure D budget to incorporate information from prior year-end balances, new projects or funds, updated estimates, and other necessary changes for regional programming and pass-

through revenues, operating, and capital. Proposed budget changes to the RTC Budget and Overall Work Program include updates to specific line items including staffing resources for staffing of six new positions, administration for consultant support to assist with items including recruitment of the new positions, employee relations, organizational development, and review of policies, and planning program budget for planning efforts. The proposed FY 2024-25 budget amendment for Measure D includes proposed amendments to programming for projects and programs that receive Measure D funds, including San Lorenzo/Highway 9, Freeway Service Patrol, Rail, Active Transportation/Coastal Rail Trail and Highway.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, Dec. 5, 2024, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, Nov. 21, 2024, 1:30 p.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, Dec. 9, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, Dec. 10, 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://sccrtc.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@sccrtc.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.sccrtc.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.