



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

CONTACT: Shannon Munz, Communications Specialist (smunz@sccrtc.org)

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) May 1, 2025 Meeting Highlights

2025 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List

Following a public hearing, the Commission adopted the [2025 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List](#). Unmet transit and paratransit needs are those transportation needs which are not being met by the current public transit system, have community support, and do not duplicate transit services provided publicly or privately. The Commission solicited input from the public and worked with the RTC's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC), Santa Cruz METRO, Lift Line-Community Bridges, the Volunteer Center and other local organizations to identify unmet transit needs of transit-dependent or disadvantaged persons. The RTC, Santa Cruz METRO and other community transportation service providers will consider unmet paratransit and transit needs from the list as funding becomes available.

Highway 1 41st Avenue to Soquel Drive Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Project – Caltrans request for additional funding to cover cost overruns on the Construction Capital component of the project

The RTC in partnership with Caltrans is currently constructing the Highway 1 auxiliary lanes and bus-on-shoulder project between the Soquel Avenue/Drive and 41st Avenue interchanges, which includes the new bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing over Highway 1 at Chanticleer Avenue. The RTC is the project sponsor, and Caltrans is the implementing agency for construction. As the project sponsor, the RTC is responsible for cost overruns on the construction and construction support components of the project.

On September 5, 2024, the RTC approved \$2.5 million in Measure D-Highway Corridor funds to cover a portion of the cost overruns on the construction capital component of the project. On April 3, the RTC approved adding \$1 million in Measure D-Highway Corridor funds in order to keep the project moving. Subsequently, Caltrans estimated \$1.849 million additional funds on top of the \$1 million previously approved would be needed in order to close out the project. With the project estimated completion date being summer of 2025, these funds are crucial in order to complete project construction. The cost estimates from Caltrans construction staff are conservative and a contingency is included, therefore RTC staff anticipates that the entire requested amount of \$1.894 million is sufficient to complete construction but could come in lower than the requested amount.

The Commission authorized the Executive Director to amend the construction Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans for a total value not to exceed \$1.849 million for the construction capital component of the project, and to program an additional \$1.849 million of Measure D-Highway Corridor funds in the fiscal year (FY) 2024-25 budget.

Nearly \$16 Million Approved for Transit and Specialized Transportation Services

The RTC, as the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency for Santa Cruz County, is responsible for selecting projects to receive certain state and federal funds, including state Low Carbon Transit Operations Program (LCTOP) funds generated from cap-and-trade auction proceeds, Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds generated from ¼% of the 7.25% state sales tax and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds generated from tax on diesel fuels. \$14,613,764 was approved for Santa Cruz METRO, most of which will be used for their operations and service and some for the purchase of a hydrogen fuel cell bus. \$1,016,712 was approved for Community Bridges Lift Line, most of which will be used for rides for people who cannot use regular transit or paratransit and some for the purchase of a DC fast charger. \$109,132 was approved for The Volunteer Center to provide rides to people in need with volunteer drivers. These projects will reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase the number of transit and paratransit riders, and advance equity goals to increase service for low-income individuals.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Regional Transportation Commission Meeting (Special Evening Meeting)

Thursday, July 12, 2025, 6:00 p.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, May 12, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (Special Meeting)

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Transportation Policy Workshop

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 15, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

RTC and committee meetings are 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.