



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) June 12 2025 Meeting Highlights

Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Update

Following a presentation by Riley Gerbrandt, Associate Engineer and Mark McLaren, Project Manager from HDR, Inc., the Commission discussed the results of Milestone 4 in the development of the project concept report. The Draft Project Concept Executive Summary was included in the report and posted to the website as an Attachment to item 31. The full Concept Report, expected later this summer, will include the Project Purpose and Need, Conceptual Project Definition, Transit Ridership and Revenue Forecast, Station Locations and Access, Conceptual Rail and Trail Alignments, Rail Operations Plan and Vehicle Type, Conceptual Rail Transit Station and Layover and Maintenance Facility Locations, Conceptual Passenger and Freight Rail Interface Assessment, Railroad Bridge Assessment and Network Infrastructure, Conceptual Project Cost Estimates, Environmental Screening, Funding and Regulatory Strategy, and Public Engagement Findings. The virtual open house for Milestone 4 went live on June 12, 2025.

The Commission directed staff to prepare and present a financial report utilizing the data in the project concept report to calculate the amount required to cover 20%, 30%, 40% and 50% of capital costs and cover 100% of operations and maintenance costs with local funds, and provide a table of taxes that could provide such local funds.

2025 Consolidated Grants Evaluation Criteria and Process

In its capacity as the state-designated Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA), the RTC is responsible for selecting projects to receive certain federal and state funds employing a competitive and performance-based selection process reflecting Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) priorities. Approved projects are programmed in the RTC's Regional Transportation Improvement Program. To achieve this, the RTC conducts a consolidated grants process and the call for projects is expected to be issued on June 30, 2025. Applications will be due on September 15, 2025. The RTC approved criteria that will be used to evaluate projects and guide project sponsors, and which include Access for All, Safety and Health, System Preservation/Infrastructure, System Performance, Climate Change and Resiliency, and Equity.

Staff expects between \$10-17 million to be made available this funding cycle from the region's formula share of state and federal funds. Funding sources will include the 2026 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the 2024 Local Partnership Program (LPP-f), and the

Surface Transportation Block Grant (STBG)/Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX).

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, August 7, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, August 11, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, August 12, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, August 21, 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.