



Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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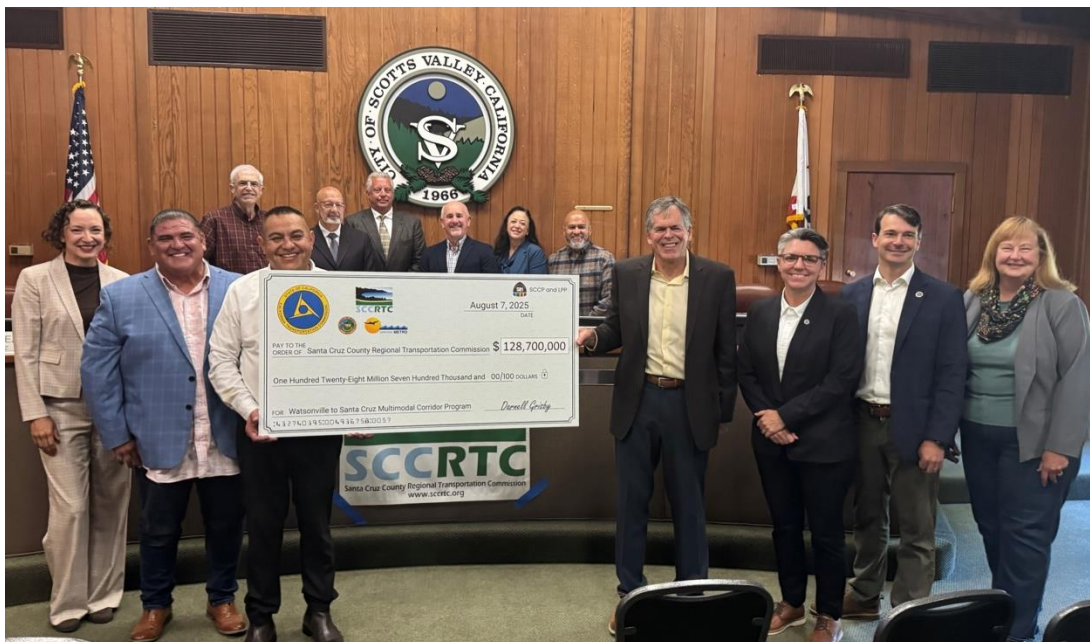
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) August 7, 2025 Meeting Highlights

RTC Accepted the Grant Award of \$128.7 Million in SB 1 Funds from the California Transportation Commission

California Transportation Commissioner Bob Tiffany presented a ceremonial check to the RTC in the amount of \$128.7 million of Senate Bill 1 (SB1) grant funds for its Watsonville to Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program for the implementation of several multimodal projects throughout the county. Projects that will be funded with this grant award include Highway 1 auxiliary lanes and bus-on-shoulder facilities between State Park Drive and Freedom Boulevard, Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 in Aptos, Soquel Drive Multimodal improvements, and infrastructure to support Santa Cruz METRO RAPID service between Watsonville and Santa Cruz.

This funding is part of \$684.7 million in SB 1 funds allocated by the CTC in June through its Solutions for Congested Corridors Program (SCCP) and Local Partnership Program (LPP) to repair and improve transportation infrastructure throughout the state. Statewide, the RTC was one of only seven projects to receive SCCP funding (\$103.7M) and one of 11 projects to receive LPP funding (\$25M).



Professional Services for Climate Resilience Planning at Specified Vulnerable Locations of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Right-of-Way

The Commission authorized an agreement with HDR, Inc. to prepare a climate resilience plan for specified vulnerable locations of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) right-of-way (ROW). In 2024, the RTC was awarded a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning grant to undertake a climate resilience study for specified vulnerable locations of the SCBRL corridor with the purpose of preparing for climate change impacts and a goal of a resilient and functional transportation corridor regardless of what the corridor is used for in the future. This planning effort builds directly upon the RTC's [2024 Climate Adaptation Vulnerability Assessment and Transportation Priorities Report \(CAVA\)](#) findings and recommendations, to develop climate resilient concepts at four vulnerable locations, explicitly considering the impacts of sea level rise, flooding, bluff retreat, and coastal erosion. The planning study is scheduled to be completed in 2027.

Public Hearing: Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Milestone 4

The Commission received a presentation on the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail (ZEPRT) Project's Milestone 4, received public comments, and provided input on the item. Milestone 4 is the final deliverable in the development of the project concept for the ZEPRT Project. The concept developed is for the proposed implementation of a new daily passenger rail service and multi-use trail operating on the RTC-owned Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) corridor. The report also details the development and related background, analysis, and related assumptions, findings, and potential next steps developed as part of the project concept development in 2023-2025 through robust coordination and outreach. The Draft Project Concept Report integrates feedback received from extensive public engagement as well as technical analyses, engineering development, and stakeholder coordination. Input can still be provided through the virtual open house at <https://zeprt.com>, or via email to zeprt@sccrtc.org through Aug. 22, 2025.

For next steps, the Project team will prepare the final Project Concept Report. The final Project Concept Report will incorporate feedback from the Milestone 4 public engagement activities, Commission input, and technical refinements. After the Commission receives the final Project Concept Report, the Project will have the opportunity to move into Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Documentation through the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, subject to the availability of funding.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings **Regional Transportation Commission Meeting**

Thursday, September 4, 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.

Transportation Policy Workshop

Thursday, August 21, 2025, 9:00 a.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.