



**Santa Cruz County
Regional Transportation Commission**

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

**August 7, 2025
12:00 p.m.**

In-Person Meeting

Scotts Valley City Council Chambers
1 Civic Center Drive
Scotts Valley, CA 95066

Alternative Remote Location

231 Oakes Road, Santa Cruz, CA 95064

Remote Participation (see page 5 for more information)

RTC Zoom

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89597173447>

Dial-in: +1 312 626 6799

Webinar : 895 9717 3447

Accessibility: See last page for details.

En Español: Para servicios de traducción al español, diríjase a la última página.

Agendas Online: <https://scrtc.org/meetings/commission/agendas/>

COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

City of Capitola	Gerry Jensen
City of Santa Cruz	Fred Keeley
City of Scotts Valley	Steve Clark
City of Watsonville	Eduardo Montesino
County of Santa Cruz	Felipe Hernandez
County of Santa Cruz	Justin Cummings
County of Santa Cruz	Kimberly DeSerpa
County of Santa Cruz	Manu Koenig
County of Santa Cruz	Monica Martinez
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Rebecca Downing
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Vanessa Quiroz-Carter
Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District	Vacant
Caltrans (ex-officio)	Scott Eades

The majority of the Commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

1. Roll call
2. Consider AB2449 Just Cause and Emergency Circumstances requests
3. Oral communications

Any member of the public may address the Commission on any item within the jurisdiction of the Commission that is not already on the agenda. The Commission will listen to all communication, but in compliance with State law, and may not take action on items that are not on the agenda.

Prior to delivering comments, speakers are requested to state their name for the public record.

4. Additions or deletions to consent and regular agendas

CONSENT AGENDA

All items appearing on the consent agenda are considered to be minor or non-controversial and will be acted upon in one motion if no member of the RTC or public wishes an item be removed and discussed on the regular agenda. Members of the Commission may raise questions, seek clarification or add directions to consent agenda items without removing the item from the consent agenda as long as no other Commissioner objects to the change.

No consent items.

REGULAR AGENDA

5. City of Santa Cruz's Urgent Request to Use the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's Railroad Bridge Crossing the Santa Cruz Harbor Temporarily for Pedestrian and Bicycle Access During Construction of the City's Murray Street Bridge Retrofit Project
(Commissioners Fred Keeley, Justion Cummings, and Manu Koenig)

- a. Staff Report

6. Next meetings

The next Transportation Policy Workshop is scheduled for August 21, 2025 at 9:00a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Fourth Floor, Watsonville, CA 95076.

The next RTC meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2025 at 9:00a.m. at the Watsonville City Council Chambers, 275 Main Street, Fourth Floor, Watsonville, CA 95076.

HOW TO REACH US

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

LIVE BROADCASTS

Meetings of the RTC are broadcast live by Community Television of Santa Cruz. More information about channels and schedule can be found online (www.communitytv.org) or by calling (831) 425-8848.

AGENDA PACKETS

Complete agenda packets and all documents relating to items on the open session are posted online at <https://sccrtc.org> at least 72 hours prior to the meeting. Sign up for E-News updates at sccrtc.org/about/esubscriptions/

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Items on the agenda: Written comments received by 9:00 a.m. on Wednesday before the meeting will be posted to the RTC website by 2:00 p.m. that same afternoon to allow time for Commissioner review. The opportunity to make oral comments is offered prior to the discussion period of each item.

Items not on the agenda: Written comments on topics within the RTC's jurisdiction, but not on the agenda, that are received during the monthly correspondence period will be posted to a public document. The correspondence period cut-off is 12:00 p.m. on the second Monday prior to the RTC meeting. A link to that document is provided in the Correspondence Log of that month's meeting. The opportunity to make oral comments to the Commission on such topics is offered during Oral Communications.

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

The public may participate in the meetings of the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) in person or remotely via the provided Zoom link. If technical difficulties result in the loss of communication for remote participants, the RTC will work to restore the communication; however, the meeting will continue while efforts are being made to restore communication to the remote participants. Members of the public participating by Zoom are instructed to be on mute during the proceedings and to speak only when public comment is allowed, after requesting and receiving recognition from the Chair.

PARTICIPACIÓN REMOTAMENTE

El público puede participar en las juntas de la Comisión Regional de Transporte (RTC) en persona o remotamente a través del enlace Zoom proporcionado. Si

problemas técnicos resultan en la pérdida de comunicación con quienes participan remotamente, la RTC hará lo posible por restaurar la comunicación. Pero, la junta continuara mientras se hace lo posible por restaurar la comunicación con quienes participan remotamente. A los miembros del público que participan por Zoom se les indica que permanezcan en silencio durante los procedimientos y que hablen solo cuando se permitan comentarios públicos, después de solicitar y recibir el reconocimiento del presidente.

ACCESSIBILILTY

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission does not discriminate on the basis of disability and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. This meeting location is an accessible facility. If you wish to attend this meeting and require special assistance in order to participate, please contact RTC staff at 460-3200 (CRS 800/735-2929) at least three working days in advance of this meeting to make arrangements. People with disabilities may request a copy of the agenda in an alternative format. As a courtesy to those persons affected, please attend the meeting smoke and scent-free.

SERVICIOS DE TRADUCCIÓN/ TRANSLATION SERVICES

Si gusta estar presente o participar en esta junta de la Comisión Regional de Transporte del Condado de Santa Cruz y necesita información o servicios de traducción al español por favor llame por lo menos con tres días laborables de anticipo al (831) 460-3200 para hacer los arreglos necesarios. (Spanish language translation is available on an as needed basis. Please call (831) 460-3200 at least three days in advance to make advance arrangements.

TITLE VI NOTICE TO BENEFICIARIES

The RTC operates its programs and services without regard to race, color and national origin in accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act. Any person believing to have been aggrieved by the RTC under Title VI may file a complaint by contacting the RTC at (831) 460-3200 or 1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 or online at www.sccrtc.org. A complaint may also be filed directly with the Federal Transit Administration to the Office of Civil Rights, Attention: Title VI Program Coordinator, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Ave., SE, Washington, DC 20590.

AVISO A BENEFICIARIOS SOBRE EL TITULO VI

La RTC conduce sus programas y otorga sus servicios sin considerar raza, color u origen nacional de acuerdo al Título VI del Acta Sobre los Derechos Civiles. Cualquier persona que cree haber sido ofendida por la RTC bajo el Título VI puede entregar queja con la RTC comunicándose al (831) 460-3200 o 1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250, Santa Cruz, CA 95060 o en línea al www.sccrtc.org. También se puede quejar directamente con la Administración Federal de Transporte en la Oficina de Derechos Civiles, Atención: Coordinador del Programa Título VI, East Building, 5th Floor-TCR, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE, Washington, DC 20590.

AGENDA: AUGUST 7, 2025

TO: Regional Transportation Commission (RTC)

FROM: Commissioners Fred Keeley, Justin Cummings, and Manu Koenig

RE: City of Santa Cruz's Urgent Request to Use the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission's Railroad Bridge Crossing the Santa Cruz Harbor Temporarily for Pedestrian and Bicycle Access During Construction of the City's Murray Street Bridge Retrofit Project

RECOMMENDATION

Commissioners Keeley, Cummings, and Koenig request that the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission:

1. Agree to allow the City of Santa Cruz access to the railroad bridge crossing the Santa Cruz Harbor and its approaches for purposes of providing a temporary pedestrian and bicycle facility between Seabright Avenue and 7th Avenue, subject to approval by the railroad operator;
2. Direct the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement with the City of Santa Cruz to facilitate the implementation of these actions in an expedited manner;
3. Direct the Executive Director to work with such other public agencies to facilitate these actions.

BACKGROUND

The City of Santa Cruz reconstruction of the Murray Street bridge is underway. Directly associated with this project are the economic impacts on local businesses. Mostly, these are small businesses that are locally-owned, and are facing significant reductions in revenue (and, therefore, tax revenues to local taxing jurisdictions).

After walking the Seabright business area last week, it was determined by the City of Santa Cruz, and representatives on the Board of Supervisors, that swift action is necessary to provide an alternative route for walkers and bikers so that the project does not have the unintended consequence of shuttering local businesses. Commissioners Keeley, Cummings, and Koenig requested Chair Montesino call a special meeting to hear this urgent request

to take place following the Commission's regularly scheduled meeting on August 7, 2025.

DISCUSSION

On Tuesday August 12, the Santa Cruz City Council intends to direct the City Manager to work with the RTC to develop a temporary pedestrian and bicycle connection across the railroad bridge at the Santa Cruz Harbor, as well as several other economic relief actions, and related actions. The request is for temporary use of the RTC's railroad bridge over the Santa Cruz Harbor and its approaches to provide a vital connection during construction of the Murray Street roadway bridge, which has an estimated duration of two years. In order to move forward as soon as possible, **the following actions are requested:**

- 1. Agrees to allow the City of Santa Cruz access to the railroad bridge crossing the Santa Cruz Harbor and its approaches for purposes of providing a temporary pedestrian and bicycle facility between Seabright Avenue and 7th Avenue, subject to approval by the railroad operator;**
- 2. Direct the Executive Director to negotiate an agreement with the City of Santa Cruz to facilitate the implementation of these actions in an expedited manner;**
- 3. Direct the Executive Director to work with such other public agencies to facilitate these actions.**

The Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line is considered an active freight railroad with the southernmost 3-miles of the line being used to serve freight rail customers in Watsonville, connecting to the state rail network at the Pajaro Junction. The branch line is out of service to heavy rail north of Watsonville due to the condition of the railroad structures. Therefore any modifications to the RTC-owned railroad bridge at the Harbor would not materially interfere with any intended future movements of goods via rail along the branch line for the duration of the temporary use of the bridge, since the facility is out of service and will remain out of service throughout the duration of the temporary use. Any modifications to the RTC-owned railroad

bridge would be removed and the facility restored to its existing condition at the end of the two-year duration.

SUMMARY

The City of Santa Cruz requests the temporary use of the RTC's railroad bridge over the Santa Cruz Harbor for pedestrian and bicycle use during construction of the City's Murray Street roadway bridge project.