



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) September 4, 2025 Meeting Highlights

Fiscal Year 23/24 Measure D Annual Report

The Commission accepted the Measure D Taxpayer Oversight Committee's [Measure D Annual Report for FY23/24](#). Based on the committee's review of the audits and expenditure reports from recipient agencies, the annual report includes a letter from the Committee confirming that agencies complied with the provisions and requirements of the voter- approved Ordinance in FY23/24. The annual report focuses on the financials and findings of the audits and highlights progress in delivering the Measure D Expenditure Plan.

Week Without Driving

The Commission adopted a resolution proclaiming Sept. 29 through Oct. 5, 2025, as Week Without Driving in Santa Cruz County. Week Without Driving is a national campaign that invites people to explore a new perspective on mobility. Whether due to age, ability, or financial circumstances, nearly a third of Americans cannot drive but rely on a transportation system designed for driving. The Week Without Driving is a chance to see the world differently. Participants are encouraged to complete their daily routines without driving, using alternative forms of transportation instead. Santa Cruz County residents are encouraged to sign up for the challenge at www.gosantacruzcounty.org and then log any eligible trip (bike, walk, transit, carpool/vanpool) during the challenge period for a chance to win prizes from local businesses. One trip log equals one raffle entry. As part of the campaign, the RTC will also host a webinar on its Hazard Report system where community members can report something that makes it challenging for people walking or biking, like a big pothole or a blocked sidewalk. Join the webinar on Monday, Sept. 29 from 5:30 - 6:30 p.m. to learn more and see a demo. (Webinar link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84745923132>)

Highway 1 State Park to Bay/Porter Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder Project Amendment to Construction Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans, Amendment to Measure D Five-Year Program of Projects for Highway Corridors Category, Amendment to Fiscal Year 2025-26 Budget, and Authorization to Secure Short-Term Financing

The RTC in partnership with Caltrans is currently constructing the Highway 1 auxiliary lanes and bus-on-shoulder project between the Bay Avenue/Porter Street and State Park Drive interchanges, which includes the replacement of the Capitola Avenue Overcrossing and a new bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing at Mar Vista Drive. 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. Since its inception, the project has made significant progress, but various unforeseen conditions have caused delays and increased costs, requiring adjustments to both the schedule and the budget. The unanticipated issues have nearly exhausted the project's contingency with construction scheduled to continue through the end of 2026. Given the complexity of ongoing construction and the potential for additional unforeseen conditions, staff recommended replenishing the contingency fund to maintain schedule integrity and avoid future funding shortfalls. The Commission approved amending the construction Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans and the Measure D Highway Corridors 5-year program of projects to program an additional \$6.6 million in Measure D funds in FY2025-26 for the construction capital component of the project. The Commission also authorized Executive Director Christensen to initiate the process for financing needed to secure additional resources for the Measure D Highway category to cover Caltrans cost overruns and other construction costs, which includes securing and entering into an agreement for bond counsel services, and return to the RTC with a financing plan for consideration.

Measure D Active Transportation Expenditures and Financing Options

Additional funding is needed to advance Coastal Rail Trail projects based on current cost estimates. Project costs for Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8-11 were recently updated, identifying a funding shortfall of \$72 million including, design, right-of-way, environmental mitigation and construction components. The Measure D Active Transportation category will not generate sufficient funds over the life of the measure to cover these cost estimates. These cost estimates will continue to be updated as the project advances to construction. The Commission directed staff to work with Coastal Rail Trail project sponsors and funding partners on strategies to reduce costs and deliver Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8-11, which could include modifications to the scope of the project. Staff was also directed to contact state and federal elected officials and the California Transportation Commission to appeal for additional funding to bring Segments 8-11 to completion as proposed. The Commission authorized Executive Director Christensen to initiate the process for financing needed to secure additional resources for the Measure D Active Transportation category to cover approved project costs and programming, which includes securing and entering into an agreement for bond counsel services and return to the Commission with a financing plan for consideration. Additionally, the Commission asked staff to return to the December meeting with a report on railbanking.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, October 2, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, Sept. 18, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Budget, Administration & Personnel Committee

Thursday, October 9, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, October 13, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, October 14, 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.