

AGENDA: October 2, 2025

TO: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

FROM: Riley Gerbrandt, Associate Transportation Engineer and
Janine Ramirez, Engineering Intern

RE: Accept Bids and Award Construction Contract for the BR14.85
New Brighton Railroad Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends the Regional Transportation Commission (Commission)

- Adopt the resolution (Attachment 1) accepting informal bids for the BR14.85 New Brighton Railroad Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (Branch Line),
 - Authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder, Granite Rock Company, for a total value not to exceed \$119,123.00 and a total contract allotment of \$131,035.30; and
 - Authorize the Commission's Director of Capital Projects to approve individual contract change orders (CCO's) at a value not to exceed \$25,000 per CCO, provided the total contract allotment is not exceeded.
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BACKGROUND

In late December 2022 and January 2023, Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties were hit by severe winter storms, which brought heavy rain and high winds, resulting in damage to the Branch Line. The damage consisted of downed trees, landslides, slip-outs, embankment washouts, erosion, flooding, bridge damage, and deposition of debris and sediment. On January 4, 2023, the Governor of the State of California proclaimed a state of emergency throughout California. In January 2023, the president of the United States of America issued an order for Federal aid to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in the affected areas.

After the storm, Commission staff received a notification from California State Parks reporting multiple eucalyptus trees had fallen on the New Brighton Railroad Bridge at milepost 14.85 of the Branch Line. Staff held an inspection and identified damaged handrails, handrail cables, and broken concrete sections on the bridge walkways. Handrails and walkways are

essential to maintaining and inspecting bridges along the Branch Line, providing access for personnel for inspections and repairs as well as maintaining compliance with Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) requirements.

On February 9, 2023, staff submitted a Request for Public Assistance to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), and on March 15, 2023, staff submitted a Request for Public Assistance to the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES). These requests were approved, meaning that FEMA and Cal OES recognized the Commission as an eligible applicant for which federal and state public assistance reimbursement grant funds can be awarded for eligible work.

Staff subsequently coordinated with representatives of FEMA and Cal OES to submit necessary forms and documentation in order to identify damages, emergency work, and permanent work related to the severe winter storms that may be eligible for reimbursement through the respective federal and state public assistance programs. Subsequently, FEMA issued a determination memorandum (DM30634) on October 15, 2024, denying funding for FEMA Project No. 711866 to repair the bridge at milepost 14.85, stating, "The work to repair and replace the Bridge at MP 14.85 is not eligible because the Applicant has not demonstrated that it was in active use along the Facility at the start of the incident period for FEMA-4683-DR-CA, and none of the exceptions specified in the PAPPG¹ apply." [Item 21 of the Commission's December 5, 2024 meeting agenda](#) provided an update on repairs to the Branch Line damaged by previous severe winter storms in Santa Cruz County, including an analysis of the status of funding for the 2023 Storm Damage Repairs, which includes the repair of this bridge at milepost 14.85. Staff submitted a first appeal to DM30634 within the required time period, and the appeal was supported by Cal OES, but staff have not yet received a response from FEMA regarding this first appeal.

Commission staff issued a task order with the Commission's on-call engineering consultant, Mark Thomas, to prepare plans, specifications, and an engineer's estimate for the repair of the cable railing and concrete slab walkways of the New Brighton Railroad Bridge that were damaged the severe winter storms. The engineer's estimate for the work is \$163,830.

Commission staff applied for a right-of-entry permit from the California Department of Parks and Recreation to conduct necessary construction activities within New Brighton State Beach property. The right-of-entry permit was approved and filed, authorizing the Commission and its

¹ FEMA. (2020, June 1). *Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide* (Version 4). U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Federal Emergency Management Agency.

contractor(s) to use specified areas to complete the work between October 15 and December 31, 2025.

DISCUSSION

On Thursday September 4, 2025, staff released a Request for Bids (RFB) No. 2227 to qualified contractors on the Commission's Informal Bidding Contractors List, soliciting informal bids to conduct repairs to the New Brighton Railroad Bridge handrails and walkways. The scope of work includes removal and installation to the broken concrete sections, as well as removal and replacement of handrail posts and cable railing. Commission staff hosted a non-mandatory site visit on September 17, 2025 with interested contractors.

On September 25, 2025, two informal bids were received, with the lowest complete and responsible bid being \$119,123 from Granite Rock Company.

The work needs to be completed between October 15 and December 31, 2025 in conformance with the requirements of the right of entry permit from the California Department of Parks and Recreation. **Staff recommends the Commission adopt a resolution (Attachment 1) accepting the bids (Attachment 1, Exhibit A) and authorize the Executive Director to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder, Granite Rock Company, for a total amount not to exceed \$119,123.00 and a total contract allotment of \$131,035.30 for the BR14.85 New Brighton Railroad Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.** Once the contract is awarded and all requirements of the contract are met, staff will issue a notice to proceed to the contractor to begin contract work on or after October 15, 2025. The work is expected to be completed by December 31, 2025.

Field adjustments to construction projects may be, and often are, needed during prosecution of construction work. Project specifications may require the approval of construction CCO's to make contract modifications for such field adjustments. In order to streamline the ability for Commission staff to address relatively minor CCO's, **staff recommend that the Commission, through adoption of the aforementioned resolution (Attachment 1), authorize the Commission's Director of Capital Projects to approve individual CCO's at a value not to exceed \$25,000 per CCO, provided the total contract allotment is not exceeded.**

FISCAL IMPACT

There are no new fiscal impacts associated with awarding the railroad bridge storm damage repair contract. The project will be funded by a temporary loan from RSTPX, which has sufficient cash flow capacity. Staff will seek disaster relief reimbursement funds from Cal OES and FEMA through their public assistance programs to pay back the RSTPX loan. If reimbursement is not successful, staff will at a future date recommend programming of Measure D-Rail funding in accordance with the described [Item 21 direction](#) and [Resolution 26-25](#) of the Commission made December 5, 2024.

SUMMARY

Two informal bids were received for the BR14.85 New Brighton Railroad Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project soliciting work to repair this bridge along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. Staff recommend awarding a construction contract to Granite Rock Company, who submitted the lowest complete and responsive bid, for a not to exceed amount of \$119,123.00 and a total contract allotment of \$131,035.30. In order to streamline the ability for Commission staff to address relatively minor CCO's that may be required for field adjustments that may arise during prosecution of the project, staff also recommend that the Commission authorize the Commission's Director of Capital Projects to approve individual CCO's, provided the contract allotment is not exceeded.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
 - a. Bid Summary

RESOLUTION NO.

Adopted by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
on the date of October 2, 2024
on the motion of Commissioner
duly seconded by Commissioner

A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING BIDS AND AUTHORIZING THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
TO EXECUTE A CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH THE LOWEST RESPONSIBLE
BIDDER, GRANITE ROCK COMPANY, FOR A TOTAL AMMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED
\$119,123 AND A CONTRACT ALLOTMENT OF \$131,035.30 FOR THE BR14.85 NEW
BRIGHTON RAILROAD BRDIGE STROM DAMAGE REPAIR PROJECT

WHEREAS, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
purchased the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (Branch Line) in October 2012;

WHEREAS, preservation and maintenance of the Branch Line is needed to
support future transportation uses of the Branch Line corridor, including a multi-
use trail next to the rail line and freight and excursion rail services;

WHEREAS, in December 2022 and January 2023, the Branch Line suffered
damages including damage to the BR14.85 New Brighton Railroad Bridge at
Milepost 14.85 due to severe winter storms that hit Santa Cruz County and various
parts of the state;

WHEREAS, the December 2022 and January 2023 severe winter storms were
declared state and federal disasters, and the Commission submitted Requests for
Public Assistance to the California Governor's office of Emergency Services
(Cal OES) and to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA);

WHEREAS, plans, specifications, and an engineer's estimate were prepared
for the repair of the storm damages to the BR14.85 bridge;

WHEREAS, A right-of-entry permit was approved by the California
Department of Parks and Recreation to complete the BR14.85 storm damage
repair work between October 15 and December 31, 2025;

WHEREAS, On September 4, 2025, commission staff solicited informal bids
from qualified contractors on the Commission's Informal Bidding Contractors List
to complete repairs to the New Brighton Railroad Bridge handrails and walkways;

WHEREAS, two informal bids were received on September 25, 2025, with the

lowest complete and responsible bid being \$119,123 received from Granite Rock Company;

WHEREAS, in order to streamline the ability for Commission staff to address relatively minor contract change orders (CCO's) that may be required for field adjustments that may arise during prosecution of the project, the Commission may authorize certain staff to approve individual CCO's, provided the contract allotment is not exceeded.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SANTA CRUZ COUNTY REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION THAT:

1. The bids (Exhibit A) are hereby accepted;
2. The Executive Director is authorized to enter into an agreement with the lowest responsible bidder, Granite Rock Company, for the BR14.85 New Brighton Railroad Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line for an amount not to exceed \$119,123, with a total construction allotment of \$131,035.30, which includes a 10% contingency;
3. The Director of Capital Projects is authorized to approve individual CCO's at a value not to exceed \$25,000 per CCO, provided the total contract allotment is not exceeded; and
4. The Executive Director is authorized to approval all CCO's, provided the contract allotment is not exceeded.

AYES: COMMISSIONERS

NOES: COMMISSIONERS

ABSTAIN: COMMISSIONERS

Eduardo Montesino, Chair

ATTEST:

Sarah Christensen, Secretary

Exhibits: A. Bid Summary

Distribution: RTC Project Manager, RTC Fiscal, Contractor

EXHIBIT A

SCCRTC RFB 2227 BID SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 25, 2025

BR14.85 New Brighton Railroad Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project

					Engineer's Estimate		Granite Rock Company		TYMAN Construction, Inc.**	
Item No.	Item Code	Item	Units	Quantity	Unit Price	Extension	Unit Price	Extension	Unit Price	Extension
BID ITEM LIST - BASE BID										
1	120090	Construction Area Signs	LS	1	\$3,500.00	\$3,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$4,750.00	\$4,750.00
2	120100	Traffic Control System	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00
3	128651	Portable Changeable Message Sign (EA)	EA	3	\$10,000.00	\$30,000.00	\$1,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,000.00	\$3,000.00
4	130100	Job Site Management	LS	1	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00
5	130200	Prepare Water Pollution Control Program	LS	1	\$4,500.00	\$4,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
6	510053	Structural Concrete, Bridge	CY	1	\$26,000.00	\$26,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$32,000.00	\$58,837.00	\$58,837.00
7	520102	Bar Reinforcing Steel (Bridge)	LB	131	\$24.92	\$3,264.00	\$73.00	\$9,563.00	\$10.00	\$1,310.00
8	600114	Bridge Removal (Portion)	LS	1	\$35,000.00	\$35,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$58,837.00	\$58,837.00
9	750501	Miscellaneous Metal (Bridge)	LB	268	\$100.00	\$26,800.00	\$45.00	\$12,060.00	\$35.00	\$9,380.00
10	999990	Mobilization	LS	1	\$14,766.00	\$14,766.00	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$7,400.00	\$7,400.00
Totals - Base Bid Items						\$163,830.00		\$119,123.00		\$157,014.00
Totals - Base Bid and all Bid Alternative Items						\$163,830.00		\$119,123.00		\$157,014.00

Apparent Low Bid is ...	\$119,123.00
Granite Rock Company	

Bid Items Total	\$119,123.00	
Contingencies	\$11,912.30	10%
Design Support During Construction	\$17,868.45	15%
Construction Management	\$35,736.90	30%
Total Construction Cost Estimate	\$184,640.65	