



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

CONTACT: *Shannon Munz, Communications Specialist (smunz@sccrtc.org)*

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) October 2, 2025 Meeting Highlights

New Brighton Railroad Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project

The Commission accepted informal bids for the New Brighton Railroad Bridge Storm Damage Repair Project along the Branch Rail Line and authorized the executive director to execute a contract with the lowest responsible bidder, Granite Rock Company. The bridge walkways and handrails were damaged by a fallen tree in 2023 when Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties were hit by severe winter storms, which brought heavy rain and high winds, resulting in damage to the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line. The project will be funded by a temporary loan from the RTC's Regional Surface Transportation Program Exchange (RSTPX). Staff will seek disaster relief reimbursement funds from Cal OES and FEMA through their public assistance programs to pay back the RSTPX loan.

Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 and 10 & 11 Project Delivery

The Commission received information about Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 and 10 & 11 cost reduction and project delivery strategies. Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 and 10 & 11 ("Projects") are ready to begin final design. The City of Santa Cruz is the project sponsor for Segments 8 & 9 and the County of Santa Cruz is the project sponsor for Segments 10 & 11. At the September 4, 2025, meeting, the Commission received information regarding updated construction cost estimates for the Projects, including the need for additional funding to complete preconstruction activities and for construction based on current cost estimates. The Commission directed staff to work with project sponsors to reduce costs and deliver Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8-11 projects.

Options to facilitate project delivery based on current cost estimates include seeking additional funding, reducing the project scope, and/or modifying the project design. Scope changes are expected to result in a reduction of state and federal funding. Under a phased approach to project delivery, previously awarded funding that is not reduced by the granting agency would be focused on delivering the first phase. Subsequent phases would require additional grant funding and remaining Measure D-Active Transportation funds would be exhausted or very limited.

The Commission established a committee composed of Chair Montesino, Commissioner Keeley and Commissioner Koenig to meet with the California Transportation Commission to discuss options for preserving grant funding already awarded for the projects, if the scope is reduced. The Commission also directed staff to return to the November meeting with cost estimates for preparing final design for both the interim trail and the ultimate trail, and with details on the process for constructing Segments 13-20 from Aptos to Watsonville and Pajaro.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings
Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, November 6, 2025, 9:00 a.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.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, October 16, 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.