



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) November 6, 2025 Meeting Highlights

Commissioner Report: Meeting with California Transportation Commission – Options for Active Transportation Program Cycle 6-Funded Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 through 11 Projects

Commissioners Fred Keeley, Manu Koenig, and Eduardo Montesino met with California Transportation Commissioner (CTC) Carl Guardino and staff from both agencies on October 20, 2025, regarding the Active Transportation Program (ATP) Cycle 6 grant award for the Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8 through 11 project. The meeting was held to discuss potential options for delivery of the Segments 8 through 11 project in light of significant construction cost escalation since the time of the original grant award. Commissioners inquired whether the RTC could retain the full Cycle 6 ATP grant amount while reducing the project scope to phase Segment 11 to a later date. Segment 11 represents approximately 2.5 miles of the total 6.7-mile project, and the CTC indicated that a one-third reduction in length is significant and would be unlikely to retain the full funding award. CTC staff said that they could still consider this request but would need to review a side-by-side comparison of project benefits between the original project scope and the proposed reduced-scope project. CTC staff confirmed that no additional ATP or other program funding is available to address the unprecedented cost escalation affecting transportation infrastructure projects statewide. CTC staff also expressed an openness to creative delivery approaches, such as an interim trail, that could achieve cost savings.

Public Hearing: Adoption of the Consolidated Grants Program and Regional Transportation Improvement Program

Following consideration of public and advisory committee input, the Commission adopted the 2025 Consolidated Grants Program and the 2026 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP), approving road, bike, pedestrian and transit projects to receive the region's anticipated formula share of certain state and federal funds totaling approximately \$15 million. RTC staff used metrics to evaluate the projects that align with regional, state, and federal goals in the areas of access, safety, infrastructure condition, system performance and reliability, sustainability, resiliency, health, equity, and deliverability.

Projects that received funding include:

- Coastal Rail Trail Segments 8-9 and 10-11
- Multimodal Projects on Soquel Drive, Freedom Blvd, and Bay Ave in Capitola
- Santa Cruz METRO 90X express bus service between Santa Cruz and Watsonville using the new red bus-only shoulders on Highway 1
- Pavement maintenance, roadway rehabilitation and traffic calming projects on local roads throughout the county
- New and upgraded bike/pedestrian facilities projects in Capitola, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville

The Commission also designated \$1 million in future State Transportation Improvement Program shares for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project. See the full project list [here](#).

Public Hearing: Measure D: Five-Year Programs of Projects for Regional Projects and Lift Line

The Commission received input from the public and approved the Fiscal Years (FY) 2025/26-2029/30 Measure D five-year programs of projects for regional projects funded by Measure D, and Community Bridges Lift Line projects. Measure D regional projects include Active Transportation/Rail Trail, Highway Corridors, Rail Corridor preservation, Highway 17 Wildlife Crossing, and San Lorenzo Valley-Highway 9 Corridor Improvements. The approved Measure D 5-year plan adds funding to projects previously approved in the plan and shifts funds between years to match project delivery schedules and project expenditure needs for a variety of projects in the Measure D Active Transportation, Highway and Rail categories. Some of the Measure D regional projects under construction currently and into the next year include Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus-on-Shoulder between Bay/Porter and State Park, including a new bicycle/pedestrian overcrossing at Mar Vista Avenue, and Segment 5 of the Coastal Rail Trail from Wilder Ranch to Davenport on the Santa Cruz County North Coast. No new projects were programmed funds.

Community Bridges Lift Line will continue to use its Measure D funds for three additional drivers, to support expanded weekday and weekend paratransit service, on vehicle operation costs, and on its new operations facility.

The approved 5-year plans for spending Measure D funds are on the RTC website: www.sccrtc.org/move.

Highway 1 Freedom Blvd to State Park Drive Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder, and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project - Construction Implementation Strategy Options

The Commission received a presentation on two strategies for the implementation of the construction component of the Highway 1 Freedom Boulevard to State Park Drive Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder, and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 Project. Final design and right of way is underway on the project which is scheduled to be construction-ready in fall 2026, and a decision is needed on which agency will serve as the implementing agency for the construction component of the project. Serving as the implementing agency for construction of the project entails advertising, awarding, and administering the construction contract. RTC staff and Caltrans developed two strategies for implementation of the project – a hybrid implementation by Caltrans (highway portion) and the RTC (rail trail portion), or have the RTC implement the entire project.

The Commission approved the Caltrans/RTC hybrid implementation which would require splitting the project into two construction contracts. Staff has worked with Caltrans to develop a plan to split the two projects and will bring more information on the feasibility of the split to the Commission at a subsequent meeting for approval, as well as recommendations for entering into the needed Cooperative Agreements for the construction component, awarding and amending of construction management and design contracts to adopt plans, specifications, and engineer's estimate for the project, and to add two additional staff to the RTC's Capital Projects department.

Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Right of Entry Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for the Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail

The Commission approved a resolution authorizing Executive Director Christensen to execute a Right-of-Entry Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for a temporary pedestrian and bicycle trail between

Seabright Avenue and 7th Avenue, and to use adjacent areas of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line corridor for construction staging to support the Murray Street Bridge Seismic Retrofit and Barrier Replacement Project. The agreement is subject to approval by the RTC's contracted railroad operator, Saint Paul & Pacific Railroad, a subsidiary of Progressive Rail, Inc. The Commission directed staff to continue facilitating reviews and approvals by Progressive Rail for both the temporary use of the railroad bridge and the staging area. This temporary trail will provide a vital connection for community members to businesses in the Seabright and Harbor neighborhoods during construction of the Murray Street Bridge Project, which has an estimated duration of two years.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, December 4, 2025, 9:00 a.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 1:30 p.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, December 8, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, December 9, 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.