



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) April 2, 2026 Meeting Highlights

Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) Member Appointments

The Commission approved two new appointments to the Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee. New committee member Kendra Webster was appointed to represent Social Services Seniors (County) and new committee member Bobi Wood was appointed to represent Santa Cruz METRO.

Highway 1 State Park Drive to Bay Avenue/Porter Street Auxiliary Lanes, Bus on Shoulder, and Mar Vista Bicycle and Pedestrian Overcrossing Project – Amendment to Construction Cooperative Agreement with Caltrans to Increase Construction Support Funding

The RTC 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 bicycle and pedestrian overcrossing at Mar Vista Avenue and the new Capitola Avenue overcrossing, in partnership with Caltrans. The RTC is the project sponsor responsible for funding construction capital and construction support costs and Caltrans is the implementing agency for construction, responsible for administering the construction contract and associated construction support activities. Since construction began, the Project has progressed substantially but has encountered numerous challenges that have increased construction capital and construction support costs. The project has experienced unforeseen challenges that have resulted in additional construction support costs. Caltrans estimates the total projected construction support funding shortfall to be about \$6.7 million to complete construction of the project early next year. RTC staff reviewed the information provided by Caltrans, met with Caltrans construction and project management teams several times, verified submitted information, and found the request to be substantiated given the documented increases in staffing demands, consultant usage, change orders, and extended project duration. The Commission approved an amendment to the cooperative agreement with Caltrans to cover the cost overruns using Measure D-Highway Corridor funds.

Approval of a Separation Agreement and Mutual Release with the current Rail Operator for the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line and for an Administration, Coordination, and License Agreement with a new Rail Operator over a portion of the SCBRL

The Commission approved a Separation Agreement and Mutual Release to effectively and amicably terminate the Administration, Coordination, and License (ACL) Agreement with St. Paul & Pacific Railroad (SPPR), a subsidiary to Progressive, Rail, Inc. Per the Separation Agreement, SPPR will transition rail operations, including assignment of relevant agreements, provide all track and inspection records, and file appropriate documents with the Surface Transportation Board. This decision marks a necessary step in the development of transportation solutions along the RTC-owned branch line, including the Coastal Rail Trail in the near-term and passenger rail in the long-term. This action also preserves the existing freight and recreational rail uses along the branch line.

The RTC is fully committed to continuing freight service for the existing freight customers in Watsonville. The Commission approved a new ACL Agreement with Chicago Rock Island & Pacific Rail to serve as the common carrier for the Watsonville Branch Line, between Pajaro/Watsonville Junction and Lee Road, to continue and expand freight service. This action will ensure uninterrupted freight service to the existing three customers who ship and receive goods by rail. Rock Island Rail is a privately owned railroad headquartered in Biloxi, Mississippi with diverse operations across the United States and experience with enhancing degraded rail and track infrastructure for improved operations.

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026-27 Proposed Budget

At the beginning of each calendar year, staff prepares a proposed RTC and Measure D budget for the following fiscal year. The FY2026-27 budget proposed for the RTC and Measure D reflects the most recent revenue projections from the Santa Cruz County Auditor for Transportation Development Act (TDA) revenues, State Controller's Office of California for State Transit Assistance (STA) and State of Good Repair (SGR) revenues, and Hinderliter de Llamas (HdL) for Measure D revenues. The FY2026-27 budget includes continued delivery of Highway 1, Coastal Rail Trail, traveler assistance, regional planning, and other ongoing RTC projects and programs, and the implementation of Measure D. The Commission approved the proposed FY2026-27 budget and work program, and accepted Transportation Development Act and Measure D revenue forecasts and estimates.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

[Regional Transportation Commission Meeting](#)

Thursday, May 7, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

[Safe on 17 Taskforce](#)

Wednesday, April 8, 2026, 10:00 a.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, April 13, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, April 14, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 16, 2026, 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.