



*Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) May 7, 2026 Meeting Highlights

Regional Transportation Commission Programming & Budget Amendments and Fiscal Year 2026-27 Transportation Development Act (TDA) Claims

The Commission approved amending the RTC Programming and FY 2025/26 and FY 2026/27 Budget to amend previously programmed projects, as requested by project sponsors, and shift funding to reflect scope and funding updates. The RTC has regularly approved requests from project sponsors to shift funds to other projects that the RTC has approved for funding, in order to help fill funding gaps, cost increases, or integrate additional complete streets elements.

Additionally, the RTC allocates Transportation Development Act (TDA) funds from the region's ¼ cent share of the state's 7.25 cent sales tax and State Transit Assistance (STA) funds, which are generated from the sales tax on diesel fuel. TDA claims for Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District, Community Bridges, the Volunteer Center, and RTC administration and planning were approved, which allows recipients to use the funds starting in the next fiscal year.

Authority to Enter into an Administration, Coordination, and License Agreement with Santa Cruz County Coastal Rail for the Remainder of the Freight Easement over the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

The Commission approved entering into an Administration, Coordination, and License (ACL) Agreement with Santa Cruz County Coastal Rail (SCCCR). To advance the RTC's goal of utilizing the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) for transportation purposes, the RTC created SCCCR as a separate entity to serve as the designated common carrier for the SCBRL. The purpose of SCCCR under the ACL is to preserve the Remainder of the Freight Easement for reactivation of freight service when the repairs to the infrastructure are made and there is a reasonable request for freight shipping service, and to provide functions to manage and maintain the easement property and facilities. Staff anticipates SCCCR will remain the non-operating common carrier for the foreseeable future and will have limited responsibilities. The Commission will retain the rights to advance key public projects, like the Coastal Rail Trail and Passenger Rail, within the corridor so long as they do not permanently interfere with freight use.

2026 Draft Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List

Following a public hearing, the Commission adopted the [2026 Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List](#). Unmet transit and paratransit needs are those transportation needs which are not being met by the current public transit system, have community support, and do not duplicate transit services provided publicly or privately. The Commission solicited input from the public and the RTC's Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC), partner agencies and other local organizations to identify unmet transit needs of transit-dependent or disadvantaged persons. The RTC, Santa Cruz METRO and other community transportation service providers will consider unmet paratransit and transit needs from the list as funding becomes available.

Upcoming RTC and Committee Meetings

Regional Transportation Commission Meeting

Thursday, June 11, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Monday, May 11, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

Elderly & Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee

Tuesday, May 12, 2026, 1:30 p.m.

Interagency Technical Advisory Committee

Thursday, May 21, 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.