



Category: Rail Measure D

2016 Santa Cruz County Transportation Sales Tax Fiscal Year 2024/25 Highlights

FY24/25 Measure D Revenue and Expenditure Snapshot

Measure D Allocation	\$1,991,649
Interest earnings & adjustments	-\$984,858
Carryover from Prior Years	\$6,454,371
Expenditures	\$3,358,759
Carryover Balance	\$4,102,403

Highlights of Measure D Investments FY24/25*

*See the Expenditure Report for full list of how Measure D was spent this year

Track infrastructure

- Description: *Ongoing railroad infrastructure preservation*
- Project Benefits: Maintains safety, drainage needs, and prevents major impacts to Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line or adjacent properties
- FY24/25 Measure D spent: \$1,139,642
- Total Project Cost: ongoing

Rail Transit – Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Analysis

- Description: *Preparation of operating concept, preliminary engineering, and environmental document for Zero Emission Passenger Rail & Trail project*
- Complete Street elements: Off-street project. Transit component; trail component of project (Coastal Rail Trail Segments 13-20 & Capitola Trestle)
- Project Benefits: First stages of implementing rail service and completing the rail trail on the Santa Cruz Branch Line
- FY24/25 Measure D spent: \$2,219,117
- Total Project Cost: TBD

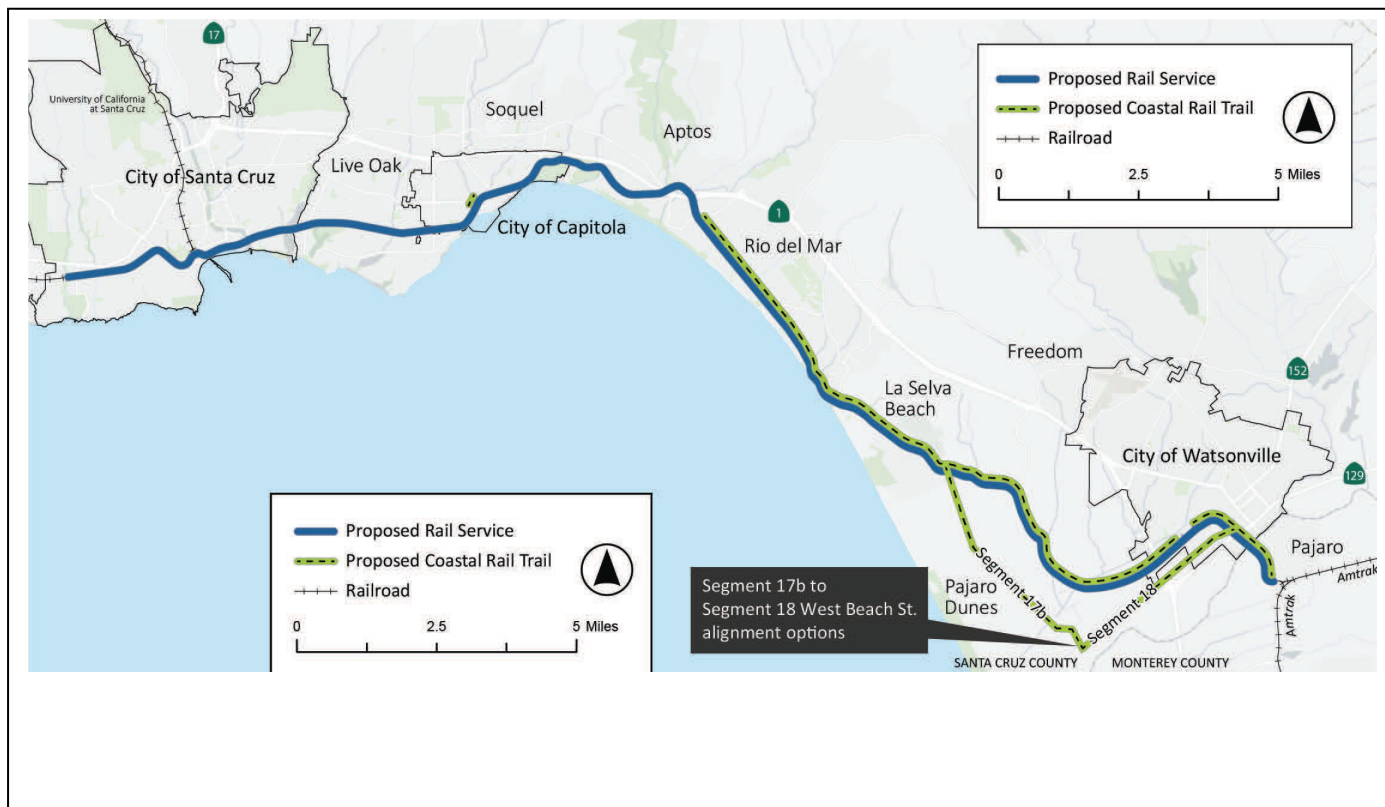
ZERO EMISSION PASSENGER RAIL AND TRAIL





ZEPRT Public Workshop, Watsonville

MAP OF ZERO EMISSION PASSENGER RAIL & TRAIL PROJECT



Leveraged Funds

Measure D funds have been used to secure \$285,000 in state Short Line Railroad Improvement Program funds and \$3.45 million in Transit and Intercity Rail Capital Program funds.

Planned Investments for Carryover Balances and Future Funds

RTC adopted its most recent 5-year program of projects (plan) following a public hearing at its November 2025 meeting. The 5-year plan identifies projects RTC plans to spend carryover balances and anticipated future Measure D funds on, including:

- Rail infrastructure preservation (ongoing)
- Rail Transit project – operating concept, preliminary engineering, and environmental document. The Concept Report was completed in Fall 2025.

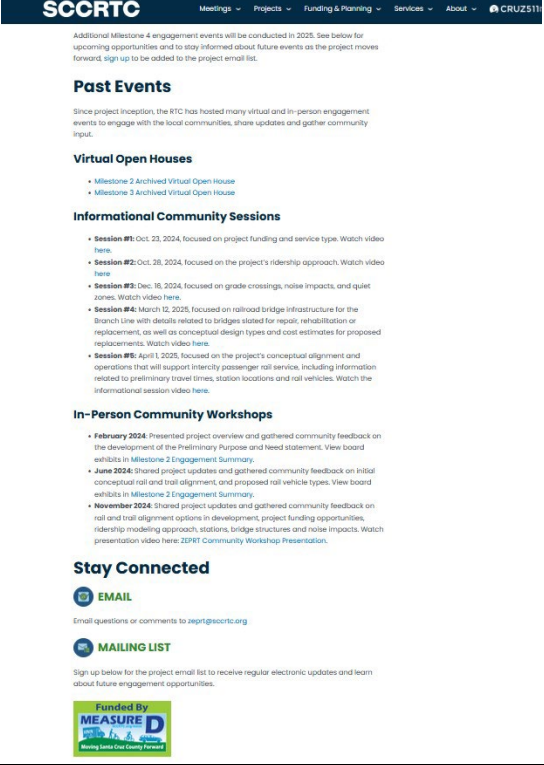
Additional information about this project is online at:

- The 5-year plan is online at: www.sccrtc.org/MeasureD
- <https://sccrtc.org/projects/rail/santa-cruz-branch-rail-line/>
- <https://sccrtc.org/projects/rail/zeprt/>

Measure D Annual Report Cover Sheet - Fiscal Year 2024/25
RTC Category: Rail Infrastructure

Measure D Financial Information	
FY Formula Allocations	\$1,991,649
Beginning Balance (unspent prior years Measure D Revenues/carryover and Interest)	\$6,454,371
Interest earned in FY (including interest earned on balances carried over from prior years) and prior period adjustments	-\$984,858
Total Measure D Funding Available in FY	\$7,461,162
Total Measure D Funds Spent in FY	\$3,358,759
Total Measure D Balance (Rollover to <u>FY25/26</u>)	\$4,102,403
Measure D Compliance Documents – Check with “x” documents included	
1. Annual Report Cover Sheet <i>(this document)</i>	X
2. FY24/25 Audited Financials for Measure D funds <i>(see “Measure D Audit Guidance” for additional information)</i>	One for all RTC categories
3. Expenditure Report Spreadsheet: List of projects that Measure D formula funds (direct allocations) were spent on.	Attached
a. Grouped projects supplemental information	N/A
4. Annual Report Highlights	Attached
5. Map	See Highlights & Fact Sheets
6. Performance Measures Report Spreadsheet	N/A
7. 5-Year Program of Projects (5-Year Plan)	Attached
8. Ongoing Public Outreach for Projects Using Measure D Funds	
a. Description of Public Outreach Process: RTC regularly provided project updates to the public. Several news articles were written about the Zero Emission Passenger Rail & Trail project. Fact sheets and other information on the project are available on the RTC website. The RTC used a variety of channels to reach the public to inform them of and gather input on the project, social media, RTC website, enews, in-person and virtual public meetings and workshops, online open houses, etc. Signage on public outreach materials also include information that the project was funded by Measure D.	
b. Sample(s) of public outreach on Measure D-funded projects conducted during the reporting year <i>(Attach samples or provide links to outreach. This is not the adoption of your 5-Year Plan)</i> https://www.sccrtc.org/rtc-to-host-informational-community-sessions-on-zero-emission-passenger-rail-and-trail-projects-concept-development-2/ https://www.sccrtc.org/rtc-hosting-two-upcoming-in-person-community-workshops-and-a-virtual-open-house-for-the-zero-emission-passenger-rail-and-trail-project/	

https://www.sccrtc.org/rtc-to-host-informational-community-session-on-bridge-infrastructure/ https://www.sccrtc.org/rtc-to-host-capitola-town-hall-on-rail-and-trail-projects/ https://www.sccrtc.org/zero-emission-passenger-rail-trail-project-draft-project-concept-report-now-available-for-review/		
c. Website with Measure D information <i>(per Article III.A.7.)</i>	Web address: https://sccrtc.org/funding-planning/measured/	
d. News Article: <i>(Attach a copy of or weblink to at least one news article or press release about Measure D-funded projects in the past fiscal year. News release should inform public that project is funded by Measure D. Per Article III.A.8.)</i> • https://lookout.co/carmageddon-rtc-plans-pop-ups-office-hours-to-answer-questions-on-4-3b-rail-project/story • https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2025/03/03/santa-cruz-county-rtc-to-host-town-halls-detailing-rail-line-projects/ • https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2024/12/02/santa-cruz-rtc-to-share-passenger-rail-study-progress/?clearUserState=true • https://kioncentralcoast.com/news/santa-cruz-county/2024/11/12/regional-transportation-commission-to-hold-public-input-workshops-tuesday-and-wednesday/ • https://lookout.co/rtc-hosting-passenger-rail-and-trail-information-sessions-in-late-october		
e. Signage: <i>(Photos of Measure D logo on signs at construction sites and on public education materials/websites.) Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail project webpage</i>		

	
f. Evidence that the 5-year program of projects adopted at the start of FY24/25, and subsequent decisions programming & budgeting Measure D funds, were approved through a public process. <i>(List webpages/links and dates of decisions or attach staff report, resolutions, public hearing notice, committee meetings, etc)</i> i. Public hearings at RTC meetings: 11/7/24: FY24/25-28/29 5-year plans - News Release: https://www.sccrtc.org/measuredinput/ ii. Advisory Committee Review of draft plans: October 2024 Bicycle Committee Elderly and Disabled Transportation Advisory Committee (E&D TAC) Interagency Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC)	
Date of 5-Year Plan Public Hearing soliciting input on 5-Year Plan <i>(per Article III.A.4.)</i>	Date: 11/7/24
Date annual 5-year Plan approved by Governing Board	Date: 11/7/24
g. Photos: <i>(Attach before/after and construction photos if available of projects/work done in the reporting year.)</i>	See Highlights Doc
h. Fact Sheets on larger projects	Attached

9. Maintenance of Effort	N/A
10. Planned Use of Fund Balances & Potential Liabilities	
a. Fund Balances, Carryover Projects, and Description of planned, longer-term and future uses of Measure D revenues, if known. • Ongoing Track infrastructure, signage, maintenance, inspection, and repairs: The RTC continues to perform basic maintenance of railroad infrastructure in areas not currently served by the shortline operator. • Zero-Emission Passenger Rail & Trail Project: The RTC continues to seek grant funding to fully fund the environmental phase of the project, and has funding available to serve as local match dollars. b. Future Liabilities: <i>(Describe possible liabilities, including information on how future costs for projects not yet completed are anticipated to be funded.)</i> • RTC staff has developed a long term corridor maintenance plan. There are 37 bridges on the rail line with several requiring repair. Track infrastructure, signage, maintenance, bridge inspections, and repairs will be ongoing expenses. Those costs are anticipated to be funded primarily by Measure D. Staff are prioritizing work in order not to perform work that might be replaced by the future passenger rail and/or trail project. • While environmental review and conceptual designs for the Zero Emission Passenger Rail & Trail Project have been initiated using Measure D, the completion of environmental and design as well as potential future transit service and construction would be funded by other sources, as described in the 2021 Business Plan for the locally-preferred electric rail alternative. • It is currently unknown how much of storm damage repairs will be reimbursed by FEMA and CalOES. As of June 2025, RTC continues to seek \$6.11 million in reimbursements. If RTC does not receive full reimbursement for all of the 2017 and 2023 storm damage, the RTC will need to use additional Measure D funds, above the amounts shown in the Measure D 5-year plan.	

Required Attachments:

- ☐ Measure D Audited Financial Statement
- ☐ Expenditure Report (spreadsheet)
 - ☐ Details for grouped projects, if applicable and not provided above (e.g. location/limits, summary of work done, schedule)
- ☐ Measure D Annual Report Highlights
- ☐ Map(s) of Measure D-funded projects
- ☐ Measure D 5-Year Program of Projects
- ☐ Evidence of public outreach/process for Measure D expenditures (e.g. notices, news releases, board resolutions/staff reports, etc. Links to documents okay.)
 - ☐ News Article or News Release about projects funded by Measure D
 - ☐ Signage photos
- ☐ Photos of project locations (before/after)
- ☐ Fact Sheets for major projects

MEASURE D EXPENDITURE REPORT

Reporting Year **FY24/25**

Recipient Agency/Investment Category **SCCRTC- Rail**

#	Project Name	Project Description/Location		Work Done in FY	Construction or Implementation schedule	FY24/25 Measure D Expenditures	Measure D TOTAL SPENT through reporting year	(Est) Future Year(s) Measure D Expenditures	Leveraged Funds, if any		Total Project Cost
		Project Description <i>(may include additional project components, ex. complete streets, traffic calming, crossing improvements, drainage upgrades, etc.)</i>	Location/Limits (if grouped project, list each location/limit)						Leveraged Fund Amounts <i>(grants & other funds where Meas. D used as match)</i>	Leveraged Fund Source(s) Name(s)	
1	Track infrastructure, signage, maintenance and repairs	On-going maintenance, repair and rehabilitation of railroad track infrastructure and signage	Throughout rail corridor	General maintenance and repairs	ongoing	\$ 1,139,642.06	\$5,417,685	Ongoing - Est. \$400-\$1M/year	\$285k	SLRIP	varies/ongoing
2	Rail Transit - Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Analysis (Zero Emission Rail Transit & Trail Project)	Preparation of operating concept, preliminary engineering, and environmental document for electric rail transit and trail project on the branch line	Rail corridor between Natural Bridges Dr and Pajaro	Project Concept Report developed, Executive Summary released	Completion of full Environmental analysis not fully funded	\$ 2,219,117.28	\$2,612,426	TBD	\$3.5 M	TIRCP	TBD
						\$ 3,358,759.34					

MEASURE D EXPENDITURE REPORT

#	Project Name	Consistency with 5-year plan		Stats - if applicable				Other
		Project in approved 5-year plan?	If not in 5-year plan or different amount or scope, why different?	New Bike Lane Miles	New Ped Path or Sidewalk Miles	Miles of pavement rehab/repair (pothole, seals, etc)	If Complete Streets not incorporated into project, why not?	Other Notes or Information <i>(optional)</i>
1	Track infrastructure, signage, maintenance and repairs	Yes	na	na	na	na	na	
2	Rail Transit - Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Analysis (Zero Emission Rail Transit & Trail Project)	Yes	na	12 (bike +ped)		na	na	Portion of project will charge to Trail category in future years for the trail component

Measure D: 5-Year Program of Projects (FY24/25-FY28/29)

Rail Corridor (8% of Measure D Revenues)

ADOPTED - Fall 2024

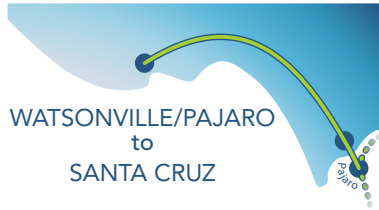
Previously updated 6/6/19, 6/27/19, 10/3/19, 5/7/20, 9/3/20 and 6/6/21, 10/7/21, 6/16/22, 11/3/22, 12/1/22, 8/3/23, 11/2/23.

						Planned ¹					Total Measure D	Proposed Updates- Fall 2024
	Project	Description	Est. Schedule	FY23/24 Est. Actuals	Prior Years	FY24/25	FY25/26	FY26/27	FY27/28	FY28/29		
1	Rail Infrastructure Preservation	Railroad bridge inspections and analysis, railroad bridge rehabilitation (including Pajaro River Bridge grant match), and ongoing maintenance and repair of railroad track infrastructure and signage.	Ongoing	\$455,865	\$5,086,876	<u>\$1,641,000</u>	<u>\$1,485,000</u>	<u>\$1,345,000</u>	<u>\$1,795,000</u>	<u>\$1,535,000</u>	\$12,887,876	Carry over \$547k unspent from FY24. Updated to reflect lower FY21/22 and FY22/23 audited actuals as well. Ongoing work, add funds for 5th year. Add \$703k total.
2	Rail Transit -Preliminary Engineering and Environmental Analysis (Zero Emission Rail Transit & Trail Project)	Preparation of operating concept, preliminary engineering, and environmental document for electric rail transit and trail project on the branch line	Concept Report - 2023-2025	\$0	\$106,389	<u>\$3,566,000</u>	<u>\$858,000</u>	<u>\$900,000</u>	\$0	\$0	\$5,430,389	Carry over \$830k unspent from FY24. Move \$2m from FY26 sooner to FY25.
3	Santa Cruz County Regional Conservation Investment Strategy	Match to Wildlife Conservation Board grant for early mitigation planning for transportation projects.	FY19/20-Fall 2022		\$8,249						\$8,249	
Completed Projects												
4	Completed: Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCS), past lawsuits, and Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis (TCAA)	Completed UCS, TCAA and lawsuit	2018-2019		\$1,888,225						\$1,888,225	
5	2017 Storm Damage Repair & Cleanup	Repair and cleanup of damage resulting from the 2017 winter storms including one washout, minor slides and various downed or compromised trees. Portion of costs anticipated to be reimbursed by FEMA	Spring 2020-2022		\$1,678,868						\$1,678,868	Additional Measure D funds may be needed for 2017 storms and lesser 2023 storms if not reimbursed by FEMA. Based on final reconciliation, some costs may be billed to Measure D-Trail (general corridor maintenance not specific to tracks).
Total Measure D Expenditures				\$455,865	\$8,768,607	\$5,207,000	\$2,343,000	\$2,245,000	\$1,795,000	\$1,535,000	\$21,893,607	
5a	FEMA reimbursement for storm damage repairs	This is an estimate. Final reconciliation of storm damage costs paid by Measure D and FEMA reimbursements still pending.		\$0	(\$1,185,590)						-\$1,185,590	Note- this is an estimate. Additional \$6M has been requested (to repay Measure D and RSTPX short-term loan).

1- Funds may be shifted between years based on actual expenditures/use rates when sufficient cash capacity exists.

2- Actuals and carryover to be adjusted based on audited actuals. Shown here are preliminary estimates.

ZERO EMISSION PASSENGER RAIL AND TRAIL



FACT SHEET
JUNE 2025



ZERO EMISSION PASSENGER RAIL AND TRAIL PROJECT

The Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project (ZEPRT) proposes a new high-capacity passenger rail service and stations on approximately 22 miles of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line from the city of Santa Cruz in the north to Pajaro, just south of Watsonville. The project also proposes 12 miles of Coastal Rail Trail Segments 13-20 from Rio del Mar Boulevard through the community of La Selva Beach and the city of Watsonville, as well as the Capitola Trestle portion (Segment 11, Phase 2).

The project aims to take advantage of the publicly owned rail right-of-way to provide passenger rail service to connect the most populated areas of Santa Cruz County to each other and to the greater region

as well as to provide integrated intercity travel options for riders on the Central Coast. Passengers will be able to bypass Highway 1 and local arterials that are highly congested, providing high-quality connections to key destinations within the county.

The project builds on studies previously completed by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), including the Rail Transit Feasibility Study in 2015 and the Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis & Rail Network Integration Study in 2021, which identified a locally preferred alternative for Electric Passenger Rail.



In addition to the 22 miles of rail transit service, the new trail would nearly complete the 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail providing a dedicated multi-use bicycle/pedestrian travel facility serving the proposed passenger rail stations by developing 12 more miles of the trail that are not constructed or currently under development.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

In October 2023, RTC began work on the Project Concept Report. This report is anticipated to be completed in fall 2025 and will define, evaluate, and develop a project build concept to be advanced into subsequent tasks. Key milestones for this phase of work are listed to the right.

Throughout these activities, meaningful, proactive, and focused public and stakeholder outreach continues to occur, including several virtual and in-person meetings.

Following completion of the Project Concept Report, with the RTC Commission's approval and subject to funding availability, the project has the opportunity to advance into preliminary engineering and environmental review.

WINTER
2024

- PRELIMINARY PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT
- PROJECT LOOK AHEAD

SUMMER
2024

- CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENTS
- ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE TYPES

FALL
2024

- ONGOING CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT UPDATES
- STATION LOCATIONS AND FEATURES
- RIDERSHIP APPROACH

SUMMER
2025

- DRAFT PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT
- PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES
- NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

WE ARE HERE ★

STAY CONNECTED

The RTC and its project partners are committed to meaningful public engagement throughout the project's lifecycle. Community participation is vital to aid in minimizing impacts while meeting the needs of riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians. There are many voices in our community, and we want to hear yours.



Visit sccrtc.org/zeprt for updates and to sign up for the project's email list.



Email us at zeprt@sccrtc.org with comments or questions.



Attend future public meetings and provide comments throughout project concept development.



SCAN HERE

