

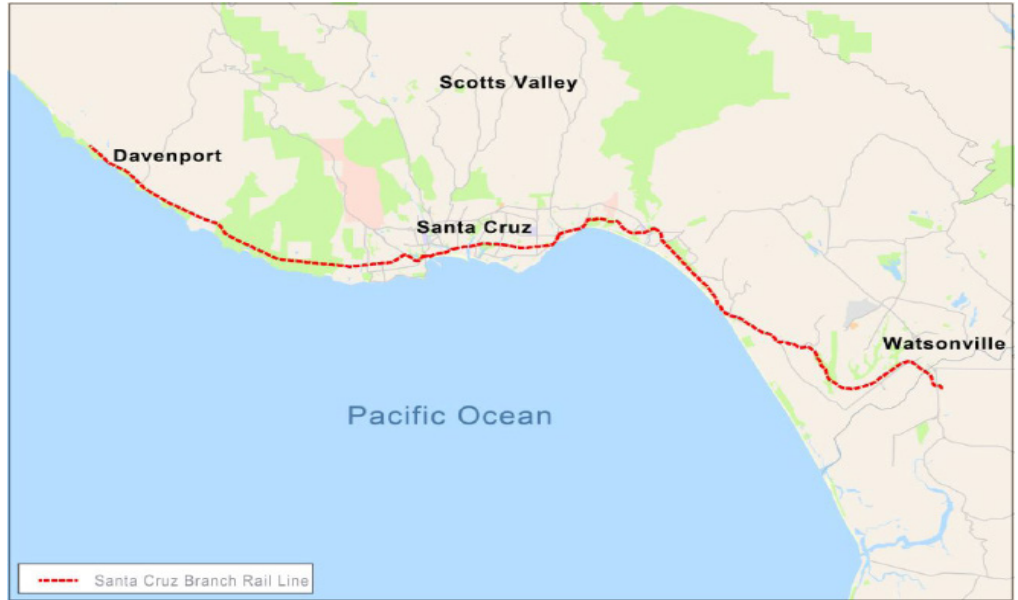


# Active Transportation: RTC PM and Maintenance

## Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line

The 32-mile Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) is a continuous transportation corridor that spans the length of the county offering tremendous potential for new mobility options for residents and visitors alike. In 2013, the RTC adopted the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network Master Plan and certified a programmatic Environmental Impact Report. The Coastal Rail Trail, serving as the system's spine, is a result of a 20-year effort to purchase the SCBRL, which was first established in 1876. On October 12, 2012, the RTC successfully closed escrow, placing title of the branch line into public ownership with the commitment of facilitating passenger and freight service, as well as creating a multi-use bicycle and pedestrian trail.

This important transportation corridor is within one mile of more than 80 parks, 25 schools, approximately half of the county's population, provides access to the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary at several key locations, and connects to regional and state rail lines.



## RTC Project Management and Maintenance

The RTC is responsible for managing the overall development of the Coastal Rail Trail corridor, including oversight, technical assistance, and implementing some of the project development work for segments of the trail.

The RTC is also responsible for maintaining the portion of the right-of-way outside of the railroad easement. The short-line railroad operator, Saint Paul & Pacific Railroad, is responsible for maintaining the infrastructure within the railroad easement.

It is important to maintain the corridor in order to:

- ▶ Retain the integrity of the land to support future increased transportation use
- ▶ Support existing storm water drainage systems that flow along and across the corridor
- ▶ Limit impacts to adjacent properties from trees or sediment

The RTC has a Preventative Maintenance Program that outlines procedures for RTC staff to carry out maintenance operations, with individual inquiries being tracked using ArcGIS, a mapping and analytics platform. Regular inspections and repair or cleanup work within the right-of-way will maintain the corridor for future use and limit impacts to adjacent jurisdictions and private property.

General property management of a railroad right-of-way must account for federal railroad law and oversee various activities, such as access for utility companies or local government jurisdictions.



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## Program Highlights

### Maintenance

- ▶ Semiannual inspections of full corridor
- ▶ Track and process individual requests from neighbors or local jurisdictions for maintenance
- ▶ Future trail maintenance agreements for constructed segments
- ▶ Annual clearing of drainage facilities and grass mowing
- ▶ Repair of drainage facilities
- ▶ Removal of encampments, trash, or problem trees as needed
- ▶ Other vegetation control as needed

### Other Property Management

- ▶ Management of utility crossings and leases
- ▶ Processing of right-of-entry agreements
- ▶ Addressing illegal encroachments, altered drainage, and dumping of sediment and trash from adjacent farmers and property owners



## Total Programming

Total Funding Secured*	\$	7.7M
Funding Sources		
Measure D (Active Transportation)	\$	7.7M
Other	\$	0

\*Reflects Measure D-funded oversight and maintenance costs FY17/18-FY24/25 for all segments (1.1M/yr on average).

