Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Update

Guy Preston, Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
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Meeting Conditions of Prop 116 Funds

Short-line railroad operator in place

- 10-year ACL executed between SCCRTC and Progressive Rail, Inc.

- Active freight service

- Passenger rail service requirement met by recreational passenger rail service until commuter rail service is implemented
January 2019 Adoption of the Unified Corridor Investment Study

- Unanimously affirmed leaving railroad infrastructure in place
- High-capacity transit service planned for the rail corridor
- Freight service continuing
- Excursion passenger rail service in the near term

Next Step - Alternatives Analysis

- Simplifies the future CEQA analysis and reduces cost and duration
Ongoing Efforts

- Storm Damage Repairs – completion 2020

- Inspections of 29 bridges
  - Repairs needed to timber trestles

- Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail within the corridor adjacent to the rail

- Working with Caltrans Rail
  - Pursuing Network Integration Study funds for Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line
  - Participating in regional and statewide Network Integration Study efforts