

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission 2024 State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) Fact Sheet



Figure 1 The 2024 RTIP reflects the RTC board’s prioritization of fix-it-first local road projects and complete streets.

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) is proposing to use \$8.602 million in STIP funds to support 5 high priority projects in Santa Cruz County during the five-year 2024 STIP program period, from fiscal years (FY) 2024-25 through 2028/29. The STIP funded projects will also be supported with state, federal, and 2016 RTC Measure D funds to make significant improvements to the Santa Cruz County regional transportation system. RTC is proposing the projects below for inclusion in the 2024 STIP. These projects ensure our local roads and multimodal transportation network remain reliable, invest in connected bike and pedestrian paths throughout the region to shift more people to active transportation, and prioritize safety improvements for all users.

New Projects

- Escalona Complete Streets – \$2,772,000
- Felton-SLV Schools Complete Streets Improvements – \$1,800,000
- Glen Arbor Sidewalk - \$2,100,000

- Soquel San Jose Rd/ Porter St - Road Resurfacing & Multimodal Improvements – \$1,500,000
- Project and planning, programming, and monitoring (PPM) – \$430,000

Existing Projects

- Safe Routes to Downtown Watsonville – \$896,000
- Soquel San Jose Rd/ Porter St- Road Resurfacing & Multimodal Improvements - \$1,455,000

Benefits

RTC's proposed STIP projects promise significant improvements for everyone: smoother roads with fewer potholes, safer crossings and lighting, and more opportunities for biking and walking. By prioritizing safety, accessibility, and active transportation, the proposed projects foster a healthier and more vibrant community.

Goals and Objectives

RTC's proposed STIP projects help support the goals and objectives of the 2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and 2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan/ Sustainable Communities Strategy (MTP/SCS). These projects maintain the existing infrastructure, promote investment effectiveness (e.g. address PCI), improve safety, security, and resilience, increase walking, biking, and transit mode share. RTC proposed STIP projects also align with the City of Santa Cruz and County of Santa Cruz Active Transportation Plans and SR9/SLV Complete Streets Corridor Plan.

Additionally, the new projects that are proposed in RTC's STIP align with State goals and priorities including the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI), Caltrans Race and Equity Plan (REAP), California Transportation Plan 2050 (CTP 2050). The Soquel-San Jose Rd, SLV and Escalona Complete Streets projects aligns with the state's climate, health, and social equity goals, while also maintaining the commitment made in Senate Bill (SB) 1 to a fix-it-first approach to transportation.

Public Engagement

The RTC selects projects through an open public process. Following a well-attended public hearing on December 7, 2023, the RTC carefully considered input from the community, including RTC advisory committees and the public at large. Public notices announcing the hearing were published in major newspapers and sent to local media outlets to ensure wide broad community support of RTCs funding decisions.