



Coastal Rail Trail

Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network

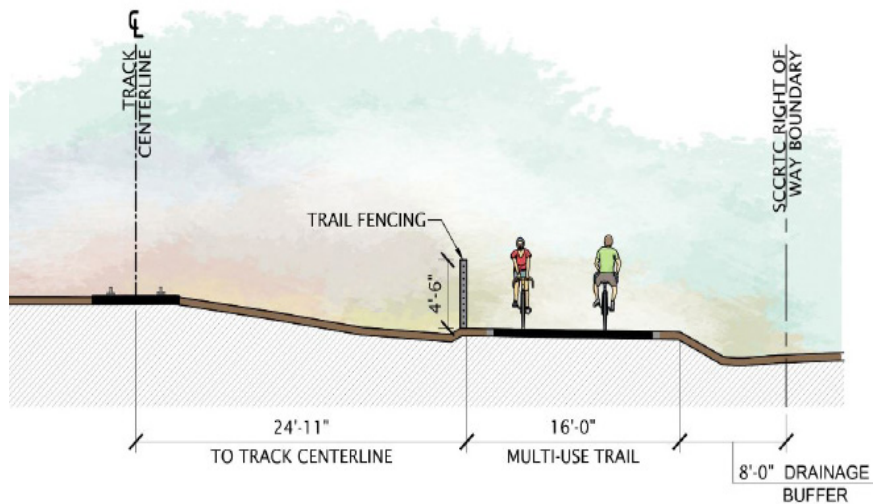
Project Description

The Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network (MBSST) is a Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) proposed 50-mile bicycle and pedestrian trail project. The spine of the trail network will be the 32-mile Coastal Rail Trail from Davenport to Watsonville, to be built within or adjacent to the RTC-owned rail right-of-way. The remaining miles will be connecting paths, sidewalks, bike lanes, other roadway improvements or unpaved coastal spur trails.

The Coastal Rail Trail promises to be a highly valuable asset to the Santa Cruz County community for transportation, recreation, education, health, eco-tourism, coastal access, economic vitality, and other visitor-serving purposes. It will connect to neighborhoods, schools, parks, transit hubs, commercial and other activity centers. Thirteen miles of projects are in various stages of development and have been funded in full or in part. Project delivery includes completing design, engineering and environmental permitting, as well as receiving public input.

Approximately \$24M has been secured from state/federal grants and private donations. Additionally, Measure D, the voter-approved transportation sales tax, will allocate approximately \$120M for the trail over 30 years.

Following extensive public outreach, the RTC prepared and adopted an award-winning Master Plan which provides initial cost estimates and concept designs. All local jurisdictions through which the trail will traverse have also adopted the Master Plan as a guide for implementation.



Project Highlights

- ▶ Half the county population, 92 parks and 44 schools are located within 1 mile of the rail line.
- ▶ Thirteen (13) miles of projects are under development.
- ▶ Approximately \$24M has been secured from state/federal grants and private donations.
- ▶ Measure D will allocate approximately \$125M for the trail over 30 years.
- ▶ Construction of the first project began in 2019.



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Status of Funded Rail Trail Projects

North Coast: Davenport to Wilder Ranch

- **Benefits:** Provides a car-free alternative to Highway 1; connects to Wilder Ranch trails, numerous beaches, soon to be opened Coast Dairies and San Vicente Redwoods trails and Davenport; includes parking lots and restrooms at Panther/Yellowbank beach and in Davenport; links to City of Santa Cruz providing approximately 11 miles of continuous bike/ped paths.
- **Distance:** 5.4 miles (fully funded); 2.1 miles + 3 parking lot improvements and a crossing in Davenport (partially funded)
Width: 16-20 feet **Construction:** Preconstruction activities will be complete in Spring 2021 and the project is scheduled to go to construction in 2021 pending funding availability.

City of Santa Cruz: Natural Bridges Drive to Pacific Avenue/Santa Cruz Wharf

- **Benefits:** Connects over 30,000 residents who live within one mile of the trail, to schools, work, beaches, shopping and other activity centers; provides safer car-free alternative to Mission Street and connects to the Beach Street bike-way; 9 schools and 28 parks are located within a mile of this section of trail.
- **Distance:** 2.1 miles **Width:** 12 -16 feet **Construction:** Phase I is under construction and expected to be completed in late summer 2020. Phase II is environmentally cleared and design is complete. Once funding and a minor section of right-of-way is acquired, Phase II can go to construction.

City of Santa Cruz/County of Santa Cruz: Boardwalk to 17th Avenue

- **Benefits:** Close to 48,000 residents live within one mile of the corridor where 15 schools and 37 parks are also located.
- **Distance:** 2.2 miles **Width:** 12 feet **Construction:** Estimated 2022-23
- **San Lorenzo River walkway:** Widening of the San Lorenzo River walkway at the Boardwalk was funded and advanced ahead of trail **Width:** 10 feet **Construction:** Completed May 2019.

City of Watsonville: Lee Road to Walker Street

- **Benefits:** Close to 20,000 residents live within one mile of the corridor where 12 schools and 12 parks are also located. The new trail will link 850 homes along Ohlone Parkway with the City's 7-mile slough trail system and the downtown area.
- **Distance:** 1.2 miles **Width:** 12 feet **Construction:** Construction on Phase I is expected to be completed in fall 2020; Phase II is expected to be completed in 2021.