



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
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www.scccod.net

Notice of Public Meeting and Agenda

DATE: Thursday, March 13, 2025
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor Redwood Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

****As a courtesy to those who are affected, kindly attend the meeting *scent-free* and *smoke-free*.****

AGENDA

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve *February 13, 2025 Minutes*
5. Public Comment: *Any person may address the Commission for a period not to exceed three minutes on any issue within the jurisdiction of the Commission.*
6. New/Continuing Business/Action Items:
 - 6.1. Consider Tabling at the Transition Resource Fair for Youth with Disabilities
 - 6.2. Consider RTC E&D TAC Priorities
7. Commission Reports
 - 7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report – Gutierrez Baeza
 - 7.2. Ad Hoc Collaborative Event Subcommittee Report
 - 7.3. Ad Hoc Kudos Planning Subcommittee Report
 - 7.4. Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee Report
8. Commission Priority Reports
 - 8.1. Accessibility Awareness Report
 - 8.2. Accessible Recreation Report
 - 8.3. Affordable Accessible Housing Report
 - 8.4. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report
9. Correspondence
10. Announcements/Emerging Matters
11. Adjournment

Next Regular Meeting: Thursday, April 10, 2025, from 12:30 – 2:00 PM

The County of Santa Cruz does not discriminate on the basis of disability, and no person shall, by reason of a disability, be denied the benefits of its services, programs, or activities. If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact 454-2772 or TDD/711 at least 72 hours in advance to make arrangements.



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Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, February 13, 2025
TIME: 12:30 PM to 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Redwood Conference Room
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060
PRESENT: John Daugherty (*Co-Chair - 1st District*), Camille Summers (*1st District*), Fay Levinson (*2nd District*), Becky Taylor (*Co-Chair - 3rd District*), Brenda Gutierrez Baeza (*4th District*), David Molina (*5th District*)
EXCUSED: Jonathan Zinnanti (*2nd District*), Richard Gubash (*3rd District*)
ABSENT: None
STAFF: Kaite McGrew (*Commissions Manager*)
GUESTS: Elizabeth Lynch-Byrd (*Disabilities, Access, and Functional Needs Coordinator*) was present.
No members of the public were present.

1. Call to Order
Meeting convened at 12:45 PM.
2. Roll Call
3. Agenda Review
4. Approve November 14, 2024 Minutes
Motion to approve minutes as written
Motion/Second: Molina/Taylor
Motion passed unanimously.
5. Public Comment: None
6. New/Continuing Business:
 - 6.1. County Disaster Preparedness and Relief Efforts for Individuals with Disabilities
Lynch-Byrd updated the Commission on the *Disabilities Access and Functional Needs Coordinator's* efforts to ensure ADA compliant and inclusive disaster services. Regional needs vary, but the disaster response office works with PG&E medical lists, SARC provider lists, Cruz-Aware alerts, and the Sheriff's CAREalert registry to ensure effective communication. Gaps remain in accessible transportation and notifications. The Commission stressed the need for community partners notifications, and highlighted the Watch Duty real-time emergency responder app.
 - 6.2. Consider Draft 2023-2024 Commission on Disabilities Biennial Report
Commission amended the draft report as follows: add emergency response and adaptive recreation to goals; remove Commission history; revised Kudos language; and remove ADA housing quota recommendation.
Motion to Approve and Adopt the 2023-2024 Commission on Disabilities Biennial Report as amended
Motion/Second: Levinson/Molina
Motion passed unanimously.

6.3. Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Kudos Planning Subcommittee

Commission discussed Kudos Awards options with current membership deficiencies. Ideas included postponing the event, holding the event virtually, and only considering Commissioner nominations.

Motion to Establish an Ad Hoc Kudos Planning Subcommittee authorized to proceed with planning the next Kudos event.

Motion/Second: Levinson/Summers

Motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Daugherty appointed Daugherty, Gutierrez-Baeza and Taylor to the subcommittee.

6.4. Consider Establishing an Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee

Commission discussed establishing an Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee to advocate with the Board of Supervisors for support of upcoming legislation impacting individuals with disabilities.

Motion to Establish an Ad Hoc Legislative Priorities Subcommittee authorized to review pending legislation and bring back recommendations to the Commission

Motion/Second: Levinson/Molina

Motion passed unanimously.

Co-Chair Daugherty appointed Taylor and Molina to the subcommittee.

7. Commission Reports

7.1. Cabrillo College Accessibility Center Advisory Committee Report: No Report

7.2. Ad Hoc Collaborative Event Subcommittee Update: No Report

8. Commission Priority Reports:

8.1. Accessibility Awareness Priority Report: No Report

8.2. Accessible Recreation Priority Report: No Report

8.3. Commission History Project Report: No Report.

8.4. Community Partner Collaboration Report: No Report.

8.5. Legislative Priorities Report: No Report

8.6. Affordable Accessible Housing Report: No Report

8.7. Affordable Accessible Transportation Report: No Report

9. Announcements/Emerging Matters:

Molina shared information about an international organization that shares accessible travel information and reported that he is being asked to reapply for his seat on the Commission. Staff will send out a link to the new stipend payment processing system.

10. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM.

Respectfully submitted by:

Kaite McGrew, *Commissions Manager*

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY TRANSITION & RESOURCE FAIR

Providing Resources and Support for Youth with Disabilities

THURSDAY, 4/24/25 | 4:30 - 7:30 pm

COME LEARN ABOUT...

- Education
- Employment
- Community Living
- Health, Wellness & Supportive Decision Making
- Financial & Legal Support
- Transportation & Mobility
- Peer & Social Engagement
- Self Advocacy & more...

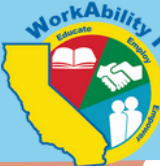
LIGHT SNACKS AND DRINKS PROVIDED BY SARC! THANK YOU TO OUR VALUED PARTNERS!

Free backpacks from SARC while supplies last!

**HARBOR HIGH SCHOOL
300 LA FONDA AVE.
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060**

MEET REPRESENTATIVES FROM...

WASC Adult Education, Santa Cruz County Office of Education, San Andreas Regional Center, Santa Cruz METRO, Cabrillo College Accessibility Support Center, Shared Adventures, and more!



FERIA DE TRANSICION Y RECURSOS

PARA EL CONDADO DE SANTA CRUZ

Una feria de recursos para jóvenes con discapacidades y sus familias

JUEVES, 24 de ABRIL del 2025 | 4:30 - 7:30 pm

VENGA Y APRENDA SOBRE...

- Educación
- Empleo
- Vida comunitaria
- Salud, bienestar y apoyo con tomar decisiones
- Apoyo financiero y legal
- Transporte y movilidad
- Intercambios sociales
- Autorepresentación y más...

**¡COMIDA LIGERA Y BEBIDAS
PROPORCIONADAS POR SARC! ¡GRACIAS
A NUESTROS ESTIMADOS SOCIOS!**

¡Mochilas gratis de SARC hasta agotar existencias!

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CONOZCA A REPRESENTANTES DE.....

WASC Adult Education, Oficina de Educación del Condado de Santa Cruz, Centro Regional de San Andreas, METRO de Santa Cruz, Centro de Apoyo de Accesibilidad de Cabrillo College (ASC), Shared Adventures y más.



2025 Draft Unmet Paratransit Needs List - 20250305

Need and Opportunity	Score	Priority Rank	Potential Strategies	Agency Status Update (2024-2025)
1.0 GENERAL				
NEED: Safe Travel Paths and Accessibility Improvements				
Improve Accessibility for Seniors, People with Disabilities, and Low Income Individuals	4.90	High	Safe travel paths between senior/disabled living areas, medical facilities, employment locations, retail centers, entertainment venues, bus stops, and potential future transit stations. Improve accessibility at and to bus stops (e.g., sidewalk and crosswalk improvements connecting frequently visited destinations). Secure funding for Safe Paths of Travel improvements (e.g., RTC Safe Paths of Travel Final Report). Expand publicity regarding sidewalk maintenance	SCCRTC: - Complete Streets Enhancements (Felton/SLV) - Countywide predestrian signal updateades - Safe routes to school programs - Rail Trail - Transit oriented development grant program METRO: - Rapid Corridors project studied and recommended accessibility improvements at over 100 bus stops; funding secured for a portion of the project
NEED: Transportation Services for Seniors, Disabled, and Low-Income Individuals				

Transportation to Areas with High Concentrations of Seniors, Disabled, and Low-Income Individuals	4.95	High	<p>Support alternative transportation programs (e.g., vanpool programs for housing areas outside of the transit service area). Explore pilot projects (e.g., regularly scheduled paratransit trips, 2-3 times per week). Increase bus service near senior living facilities. Evaluate on-demand transit services. Incentivize affordable housing for seniors and low-income individuals within the transit service areas. Offer incentives for senior, social services, and medical providers to be located in transit service areas. Senior grocery delivery services within a mile of a bus stop (the senior orders at local grocery & on-demand picks up & delivery).</p>	<p>SCCRTC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TNC Access for All - On demand wheelchair accessible vehicle program - Senior employment ride reimbursement - Transit oriented development grant program - Vanpool incentive program <p>METRO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - METRO is pursuing a goal to develop over 175 affordable housing units at METRO transit centers across the county in conjunction with local not-for-profit housing partners. - Reimagine METRO service improvements have resulted in a 30% increase in service, including increased frequency near senior living facilities (e.g. Garfield Park, La Posada, Aegis Living Aptos, Paloma Del Mar). <p>Volunteer Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Free door to door service - Grocery Shopper program shops and delivers groceries to the homes of vulnerable seniors. - Offer carpool options to our program participants and can offer rides to those with some mobility devices such as canes, walkers and crutches.
Transportation for Caregivers of Seniors and Disabled Clients	3.60	Medium	Support programs providing transportation for caregivers to clients. Reinstating ride-to-work programs for caregivers.	<p>Volunteer Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Regularly provide rides to caregivers who support disabled clients with shopping and medical appointments.
Taxi Voucher Programs	3.20	Medium	<p>Secure funding for taxi vouchers for seniors, low-income individuals, and caregivers. Provide taxi vouchers to low-income families.</p>	<p>Community Bridges Lift Line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Taxi Scrip Coupons
NEED: Transportation Services for Low-Income Families and Vulnerable Individuals				
Transportation Services for Low-Income Families with Children	4.60	High	<p>Support welfare-to-work programs and training initiatives. Provide transportation services to government facilities, critical services, and youth-serving destinations.</p>	

Need and Opportunity	Score	Priority Rank	Potential Strategies	Agency Status Update (2024-2025)
Affordable or Free Transit Programs	4.60	High	<p>Support programs providing free or reduced transit fares for seniors, disabled, unhoused, youth, and low-income individuals.</p> <p>Offer free transit rides for jurors, veterans, and on election days. Seek volunteer drivers to provide transportation services.</p>	<p>Community Bridges Lift Line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Veterans Medical Transportation - Extended Services <p>METRO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Youth Cruz Free - Free Fare Program for Legally Blind Riders - Discount Photo ID - Older adults and people with disabilities are eligible for discount fares and passes. - Partnered with County to pilot new route (78) to new County of Santa Cruz Human Services Department in Watsonville <p>Volunteer Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ongoing campaigns to recruit volunteer drivers
Transportation for Justice-Impacted Individuals and Families	3.95	Medium	<p>Provide transportation for individuals and families to juvenile halls, detention centers, courts, and diversion programs.</p> <p>Explore volunteer driver programs, TNC (Transportation Network Companies), and taxi vouchers for family visits to detention facilities.</p>	
2.0 Paratransit/Specialized Transportation Services				
NEED: Coordinated Transportation Systems and Centralized Mobility Information				
Implement a Mobility Management Center	4.05	High	<p>Develop a coordinated, seamless-to-the-public system for specialized transportation with a centralized Mobility Management Center.</p> <p>Assess feasibility and seek funding for center development and assess existing information/referral services</p> <p>Utilize information technology to provide accessible transit information for all users.</p>	<p>Volunteer Center:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - refer callers whose requests cannot be accommodated to other programs such as Liftline and Metro.

Improve Publicity and Outreach	4.20	High	Streamline communication with a central point of contact within health providers for specialized transportation services. Support funding for continuous communication and outreach. Publicize existing specialized transportation options (e.g., ADA paratransit, non- ADA paratransit, taxi services, TNC Access for All, Medi-Cal rides, mobility training). Conduct targeted outreach to seniors, people living with disabilities, and transportation providers. Provide annual updates to transportation service providers about paratransit options.	Community Bridges Lift Line: - Advertise with Lift Line
UCSC On-Campus Paratransit Service	3.85	Medium	Provide increased UCSC on-campus paratransit services between campus destinations to accommodate demand.	Community Bridges Lift Line: - On-demand WAV service to UCSC and Cabrillo through the TNC Lift Line program
NEED: Accessibility and Specialized Vehicle Services				
Need and Opportunity	Score	Priority Rank	Potential Strategies	Agency Status Update (2024-2025)
Accessible Vehicles for Taxi Service and Rideshare	4.50	High	Provide wheelchair-accessible vehicles for taxis and rideshare services. Ensure accessible on-demand ride services for those using mobility devices. Support multi-person ride access for on-demand TNC services to reduce costs and carbon footprint. Maintain continuous funding for the TNC Access for All Program. Expand and support funding for taxi voucher programs to cover various demographics, especially for low-income individuals. Secure funding for vouchers for special care trips and medically necessary trips.	SCCRTC: - TNC Access for All - On demand wheelchair accessible vehicle program Community Bridges Lift Line: - Advertise with Lift Line - Measure D - TDA Funding - Taxi Scrip Coupons - Group rides

Specialized Care Trips and Gurney Transportation	4.15	High	Provide affordable specialized care trips for medically fragile individuals needing "bed-to-bed" transport. Identify a service provider for gurney trips and assist in vehicle procurement. Partner with assisted living and hospice care to provide specialized care services. Publicize availability of services for medically fragile individuals. Provide free or low cost 24/7 on-demand rides for medical emergencies	
NEED: Paratransit and ADA-Compliant Services				
ADA Paratransit Service Expansion and Access	4.05	High	Support policies to expand the ADA-mandated paratransit service area. Provide paratransit services on holidays. Expand programs providing specialized transportation to areas outside the ADA service area for a fee or free. Continue ADA Paratransit certification services at group facilities to reach more individuals.	SCCRTC: - TNC Access for All - On demand wheelchair accessible vehicle program METRO: - Planned increase in ParaCruz service hours Community Bridges Lift Line: - Extended Services - Access for All Program Volunteer Center: - Provide transportation services from areas not served by transit or ADA paratransit service. - Provide services majority of holidays
Inter-County and Regional Paratransit Connections	4.05	High	Establish direct, accessible transit routes connecting neighboring counties (Monterey, San Benito, Santa Clara). Develop a coordination plan between regional specialized transportation agencies. Support inter-regional specialized transportation programs, either free or fee- based. Establish feeder services to connect with inter-regional transit.	SCCRTC: - Zero Emission Passenger Rail & Trail Project (ZEPRT) - Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Community Bridges Lift Line: - Out of County Medical Transportation
NEED: Voucher Programs and Subsidized Transportation				
Free or Low-Cost Paratransit Options	4.45	High	Provide funding for discounted and free paratransit rides. Support programs offering low-cost ADA-accessible on-demand rides. Increase free/low-cost transportation options to educational/work opportunities for low-income and disabled individuals.	SCCRTC: - TNC Access for All Community Bridges Lift Line: - Extended Services - Access for All program

Need and Opportunity	Score	Priority Rank	Potential Strategies	Agency Status Update (2024-2025)
Same-Day Medical and Non-Medical Trips	4.45	High	Support funding for same-day transportation to medical and essential services. Expand same-day low-cost transportation services for non-medical trips. Increase capacity of transportation services for dialysis and other medical appointments.	Community Bridges Lift Line: - Regional Medical Transportation - Elderday Transportation - Extended Services
NEED: Volunteer Driver Programs and Community Partnerships				
Volunteer Driver Recruitment and Support	4.50	High	Expand recruitment and promote services in underserved areas (south-county and San Lorenzo Valley). Support the Volunteer Center Transportation Program. Seek volunteer drivers for transportation from areas not served by transit or ADA paratransit. Support “on-call” volunteer driver programs for specialized transportation needs.	SCCRTC: - Volunteer Center Transportation Program - TNC Access for All Community Bridges Lift Line: - Provides paratransit service to rural areas in Santa Cruz County. Volunteer Center: - Transportation Program provides free door to door rides for low income and seniors who are unable to access METRO Routes, ParaCruz, or Lift Line Paratransit Services routes due to location, schedule, or comfort levels
NEED: Housing, Health, and Social Services Accessibility				
Transportation for Senior Health and Independence Programs	3.95	Medium	Fund transportation services to meal sites, senior activity centers, stroke centers, and medical facilities. Provide transportation services to support seniors' health, safety, and independence	Volunteer Center: - Transportation Program currently offers rides to these services.
NEED: Specialized Services for Mental Health and Cognitive Needs				
Transportation for Cognitive and Mental Health Needs	3.90	Medium	Provide on-demand services for individuals with mental health conditions. Offer services to help those with mental illnesses navigate transit and paratransit eligibility requirements.	Community Bridges Lift Line: - Extended Services
NEED: Projected Needs and Funding for Future Transportation Demand				
Long-Term Paratransit and Specialized Service Planning	3.70	Medium	Project funding needs for fixed-route, ADA, and non-ADA paratransit services over a 15-30 year horizon. Establish designated funding sources to support future paratransit demands due to the growing senior population.	SCCRTC: - TDA Administration

3.0			
NEED: Paratransit Operating and Maintenance Facilities			
ParaCruz Operating Facilities	3.00	Medium	Acquire and develop a permanent operations and maintenance facility for ParaCruz to reduce operating costs. Increase funding opportunities for paratransit capital projects, specifically supporting ParaCruz facilities.
Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA) Facilities	3.00	Medium	Increase funding opportunities for capital projects related to CTSA paratransit operating facilities.
NEED: Paratransit Vehicle Replacement and Electric Vehicles			
Need and Opportunity	Priority Rank	Potential Strategies	Agency Status Update (2024-2025)
Weight	Score		
Paratransit Vehicle Replacement Funding	3.75	Medium	Increase funding opportunities for paratransit capital projects, including electric vehicle and zero-emission vehicle replacements. Take measures to include electric vehicles as a purchase option in the Section 5310 grant program, supporting environmentally friendly paratransit upgrades.
			<p>SCCRTC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Transportation System Electrification <p>Community Bridges Lift Line:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continues to replace fossil fuel burning vehicles with electric vehicles. Currently Lift Line operates 5 EV vehicles and plans to add 2 more EV vehicles to their fleet. <p>METRO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - METRO has developed a comprehensive fleet electrification plan that outlines the steps that they will take to reach their goal of 100% electrification by 2025.
NEED: Electric Vehicle Charging and Emergency Preparedness			
Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure	3.75	Medium	Support funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging stations and infrastructure to accommodate paratransit electric and zero-emission vehicles.
Electric Vehicle Emergency Preparedness 2:44	3.75	Medium	Develop an EV emergency preparedness plan that includes battery storage solutions, emergency-use vehicles, and facility support.
4.0 Transit Services			

NEED: Increased Frequency and Span of Transit Service				
High-Density and Mixed-Use Areas	4.95	High	<p>Increase frequency and extend service hours in densely populated areas and mixed-use zones, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Downtown Santa Cruz to Capitola Mall Transit Center via Live Oak corridor - Mission Street, Soquel, Old San Jose Road, Scotts Valley Drive, Aptos, Corralitos, and Santas Village Road - Pacific Ave, connecting the boardwalk to the Town Clock and Beach Flats in Santa Cruz - Creation of a “Beach Loop” in summer for low-income families from Watsonville <p>Enhance service specifically for major employment centers, especially areas with high concentrations of low-income jobs.</p> <p><i>Increase weekend service</i></p>	<p>METRO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reimagine METRO Phase 1: Simpler and more direct service between Santa Cruz and Watsonville. - Reimagine METRO Phase 2: Expansion to routes 1, 2, 3B, 16, 17, 18, 19, 35, 40, 41, 73, 78, 90x - Saturday and Sunday frequencies that match weekdays on most routes, including Routes 1, 2, 3, 17, 20, 35, 75. - All-day express service between Watsonville and Santa Cruz on Route 90X, every 30 minutes on weekdays and every 60 minutes on weekends.
Expand coverage and Evening Services	4.20	High	<p>Extend evening service coverage on Route 35 in San Lorenzo Valley, including Mt. Store and Country Club routes.</p> <p>Increase evening service for Watsonville, La Selva Beach, Capitola Esplanade (Route 55 weekend).</p> <p>Establish a county-wide “All Nighter” 24-hour circular bus network connecting downtown areas and all four transit stations.</p>	<p>METRO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reimagine METRO Phase 2: Increased weekend service on Route 35 that matches weekday service levels. More direct service between the San Lorenzo Valley and Santa Cruz. - Route 73: New routing and service increase in Capitola Village. - Route 55: New routing and service increase in Aptos/Seacliff/Rio Del Mar:
University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC) Transit Service	4.20	High	<p>Increase weekend and weekday service to UCSC and its employment center in Scotts Valley.</p> <p>Add service from UCSC to the east side of Santa Cruz.</p> <p>Increase frequency on priority routes to a 15-minute interval.</p>	<p>METRO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reimagine METRO Phase 1: Higher frequency at UCSC.

Interregional and Cross-County Services	4.20	High	Increase weekend service on Highway 17 and provide direct services to: Los Gatos, San Jose Airport, Monterey County, Salinas Intermodal Transportation Center, and Live Oak to San Jose Diridon Station. Support an integrated transit network with potential dedicated rail corridor services, consistent with the Unified Corridor Investment Study and Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis. Provide express bus service using bus-on-shoulder operations on Highway 1	METRO: - Final Reimagine METRO Phase 2 Improvements - Highway 17: Additional weekday and weekend service.
Need and Opportunity	Score	Priority Rank	Potential Strategies	Agency Status Update (2024-2025)
NEED: Enhanced Connectivity between Key Destinations				
Primary Destinations within Santa Cruz County	4.20	High	Increase service between Capitola Mall and Cabrillo College. Expand service to new residential and commercial areas in Watsonville. Improve north-south transit connections, such as Soquel Ave/Drive to coastal communities. Provide service to libraries, public venues, public agencies, and sheriff offices. Support integrated transit network, including rail right-of-way options per the Unified Corridor Investment Study and Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis. Develop express routes, such as from Watsonville to Scotts Valley	METRO: - Reimagine METRO Phase 2: New Route 78. New all-day service on West Beach Street, Ohlone Parkway, and to the new County Social Service offices at Westridge. This route will also serve Watsonville Community Hospital and Freedom Centre. - Route 55: New routing and service increase in Aptos/Seacliff/Rio Del Mar: Route 55 service now starts at Cabrillo College and runs to Aptos/Seacliff/Rio Del Mar - Route 73: New routing and service increase in Capitola Village.
Medical, Health, and Social Service Facilities	4.60	High	Provide transit services to medical and social service facilities within the existing transit area. Ensure access to transportation services on all holidays, including support for taxi vouchers and volunteer programs.	
Tourist Destinations and Special Events	4.00	High	Provide service to major tourist areas, including Waddell Creek, North Coast, and weekend service to the Boardwalk via Highway 17. Establish partnerships with the Santa Cruz Visitor Center to provide special event services.	SCCRTC: - Rail Trail

NEED: Faster and Easier Transit System-Wide				
System-Wide Efficiency	4.20	High	Enhance connections by increasing frequency and service span to reduce transfer wait times. Investigate opportunities for transit priority lanes, signal priority, and direct service routes to minimize transfers.	METRO: - Reimagine METRO - All projects intend to increase service by over 40 percent through the Reimagine METRO service restoration and expansion plan
Commuter Service	4.20	High	Improve commuter transit, including options for Highway 17 service extensions to Watsonville and faster routes between San Lorenzo Valley and Santa Cruz.	
NEED: Intra-Community and Micro-Transit Options				
Intra-Community Services	3.80	Medium	Develop neighborhood-focused transit options, such as: Circulators in San Lorenzo Valley and Scotts Valley and micro-Transit programs in San Lorenzo Valley, Scotts Valley, Soquel, Aptos, and Watsonville. Explore partnerships with ride-hail and taxi services for first/last-mile connections.	
NEED: Bus Stops and Accessibility Improvements				
ADA and Accessibility Enhancements	4.30	High	Ensure all bus stops are ADA-compliant. Prioritize bus stop improvements, focusing on high usage by seniors and individuals with disabilities. Add braille, raised numbers, and technology-based wayfinding for bus routes at stops, with adjustable height for wheelchair access.	METRO: - Rapid Corridors project studied and recommended accessibility improvements at over 100 bus stops; funding secured for a portion of the project
Safety and Comfort Features	4.15	High	Install shelters, benches, and lighting at all bus stops, with solar LED lights, in- pavement lighting, and in-road warning lights. Add bus stop amenities, such as digital bus tracking, USB charging, and Wi-Fi.	METRO: - Purchased and installed 30 new bus shelters with solar lighting and big belly trash cans - Seeking funding through Rapid Corridors project for bus stop upgrades at 100+ stops on Route 1, 2, 73 and 90X.
Need and Opportunity	Score	Priority Rank	Potential Strategies	Agency Status Update (2024-2025)
Sidewalk and Connectivity Upgrades	4.15	High	Increase sidewalk connectivity and install overhead LED lighting at connecting crosswalks. Add a bus stop at Granite Creek Rd and Santa's Village Rd (SW corner after Hwy17 exit 5).	
Committee Oversight	3.00	Medium	Reinstate and fund a bus stop committee to assess and monitor accessibility and make recommendations.	

NEED: Transit Station and Facility Improvements				
Transit Station Upgrades	4.25	High	Investigate options for renovating or redeveloping Santa Cruz Metro Center. Coordinate improvements for Capitola Transit Center with Capitola Mall ownership. Improve Watsonville Transit Center, including enhanced parking.	METRO: - Pacific Station/METRO Center being redeveloped into 125 affordable housing units and new transit center - Planned Watsonville Transit Center redevelopment into 65 affordable housing units and new transit center.
Amenities and Accessibility	3.70	Medium	Install bike lockers at all transit stations Hire bilingual staff for customer support.	METRO: - Both Pacific Station and Watsonville Transit Center redevelopment projects include secure bike parking for hundreds of bikes.
NEED: Bus Replacement and Maintenance				
Replacement of Aging Buses	3.55	Medium	Replace buses that are beyond their useful life, including those serving rural areas. Prioritize funding for electric vehicle replacements and electric charging infrastructure.	METRO: - Has 9 battery electric buses (BEBs) and 53 fuel cell electric buses (FCEB) - 60% of total fleet - and has committed to only purchasing zero emission buses going forward.
Facility and Equipment Maintenance	3.45	Medium	Ensure funding for ongoing maintenance of bus stops, parking lots, transit centers, and related facilities.	METRO: - METRO's operating and capital reserves ensure ongoing maintenance of bus stops and transit centers
NEED: Enhancing Transit Travel Times and Efficiency				
Signal Priority and Corridor Efficiency	3.70	Medium	Install transponders for signal priority on major corridors to improve traffic flow, reduce travel time, and enhance on-time performance. Increase service frequency to 15-minute intervals on the East Side of Santa Cruz.	SCCRTC: - Countywide Pedestrian Signal Upgrades METRO: - Reimagine METRO implemented 15-minute service on three corridors, including Route 1 traveling from Santa Cruz to Watsonville via Soquel - Rapid Corridors project studied and recommended transit signal improvements at 60+ intersections on routes 1 and 2.
NEED: Dedicated Transit Facilities and Multimodal Connections				
Right-of-Way and Transit Corridor Development	4.65	High	Develop right-of-way improvements and multimodal transfer stations along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line for BRT or rail service (per Unified Corridor Investment Study and Transit Corridor Alternatives Analysis). Implement bus-on-shoulder operations along Hwy 1 to support express transit.	SCCRTC: - Bus on Shoulder and Auxillary lanes Hwy 1 (under construction)

Park-and-Ride and Multimodal Access	3.05	Medium	Construct park-and-ride lots along inter-city routes with limited feeder service. Add bike lockers and bike-sharing stations at key transit access points and micro-transit centers (i.e. Water and Ocean) to facilitate first/last mile of travel. Expand service at the Pasatiempo park-and-ride lot and create a park-and-ride near Hwy 1 in Watsonville for transit connection.	SCCRTC: - Park and ride lot development
NEED: Real-Time Operations, Safety, and Modernization				
Need and Opportunity	Score	Priority Rank	Potential Strategies	Agency Status Update (2024-2025)
Operational Monitoring and Passenger Data	3.85	Medium	Implement an Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) system for on-time performance tracking and data reporting. Deploy an Automatic Passenger Counting (APC) system to support efficient service planning and reporting.	METRO: - Completed implementation of AVL and APC systems in 2024
Security Enhancements	2.80	Low	Install audio and video surveillance on all buses to improve passenger and operator security.	METRO: - All METRO buses are equipped with audio and video surveillance safety systems
Fare and Service Planning Modernization	3.50	Medium	Introduce electronic fare payment options for faster boarding and convenience. Upgrade planning and scheduling software for optimized service planning and community outreach.	METRO: - Splash pass - Santa Cruz METRO Real-Time - METRO has received state funding to implement a contactless payment system
NEED: Wi-Fi Expansion				
Wi-Fi for Transit Users	3.65	Medium	Install Wi-Fi at all transit centers and on buses. Partner with private companies to enhance Wi-Fi availability.	METRO: - all METRO buses are now equipped with wifi



Santa Cruz County Commission on Disabilities

701 Ocean Street, Room 510, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

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www.scccod.net

Scheduled Meetings

Unless otherwise specified below, regularly scheduled Commission on Disability meetings are generally held as follows:

DAY: Second (2nd) Thursday*
MONTH: Every month except July and December
TIME: 12:30 PM – 2:00 PM
LOCATION: Santa Cruz County Building, Fifth Floor – Board Chambers or Redwood Room*
701 Ocean Street, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

***Meetings will be held in either of these rooms unless noted otherwise below**

Changes to the schedule, including special meetings, changes of location, or meeting cancellations, will be listed on the website at www.scccod.net as soon as information becomes available.

2025 MEETING DATES		
DATE	TIME	LOCATION
January 9, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
February 13, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
March 13, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
April 10, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
May 8, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
June 12, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
August 14, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
September 11, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
October 9, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room
November 13, 2025	12:30 – 2:00 PM	Redwood Room

Public Participation

- Please check the meeting agenda to learn details about how to participate in the commission meeting.
- If you need special accommodations, please call 454-2935 or TDD: 711 (California Relay Service) at least 48 hours before the meeting.