

ZERO EMISSION PASSENGER RAIL AND TRAIL PROJECT

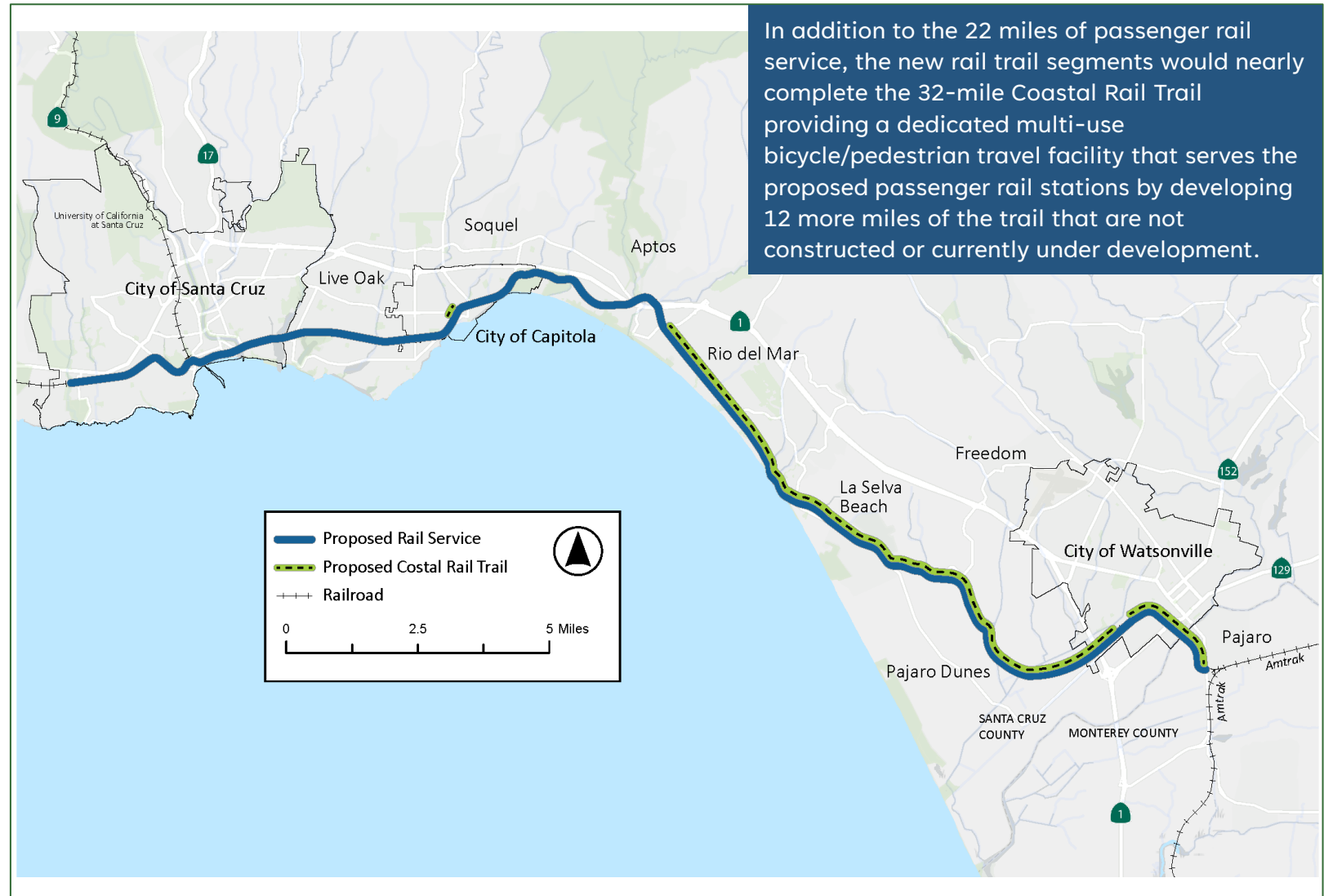
Project Update and
Purpose and Need Statement

February 27, 2024



Project Overview

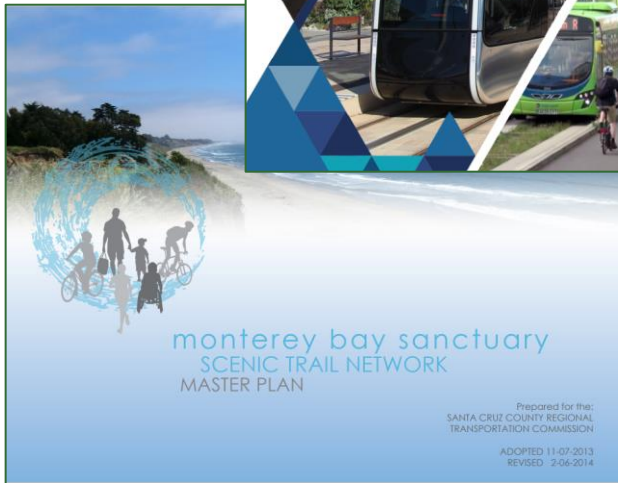
The ZEPRT project is developing a Concept Report to identify feasible project concepts and solutions to better support diverse transportation needs, safe access, and connection to the populated areas of Santa Cruz County and provide bicycle and pedestrian linkages.



Background



- **2012:** RTC acquired the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL)
- **2021:** Preferred scenario identified high-capacity zero emission passenger rail with a multi-use bicycle and pedestrian trail along the SCBRL
- **2022:** RTC solicited proposals to develop the project concept and environmental documentation
- **2023:** Contract awarded to HDR team and work began on the Project Concept Report



Connectivity to Regional Rail and Trail Networks

CALIFORNIA STATE RAIL PLAN

The proposed project would integrate into the statewide rail and transit network, providing connections to intercity passenger service at Pajaro Station and Amtrak Thruway service at Santa Cruz Station.



COASTAL RAIL TRAIL

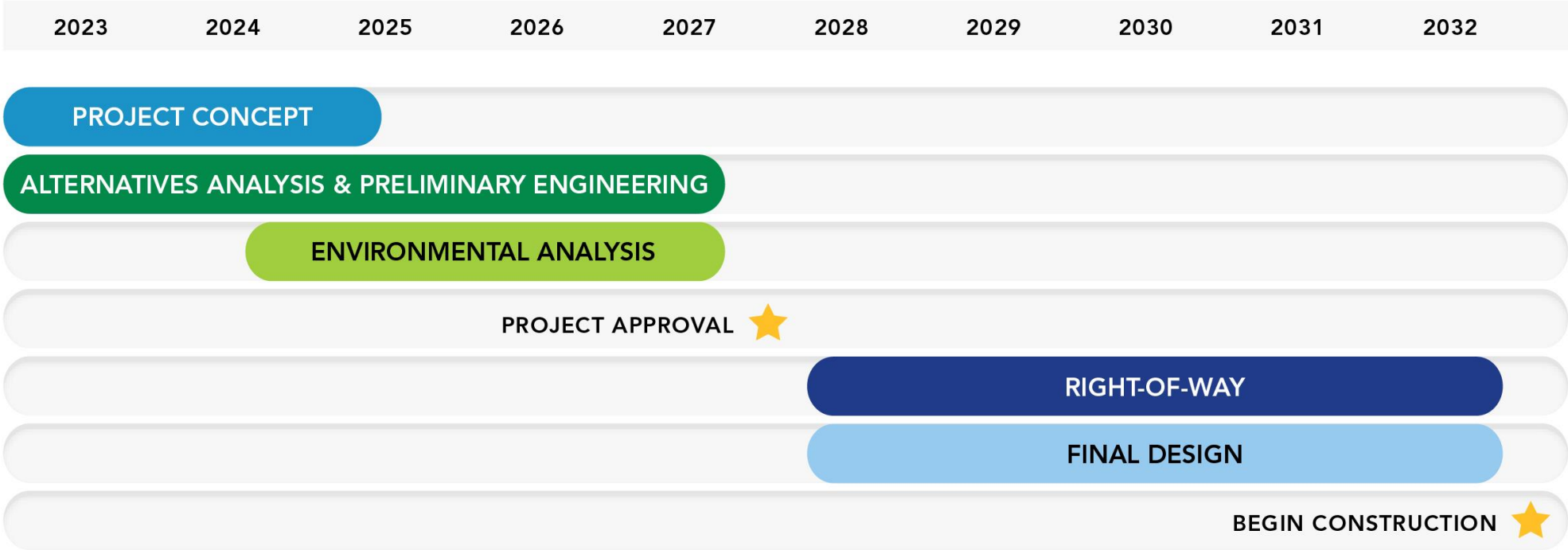
Included in this project are 12 miles of Coastal Rail Trail: Segments 13-20 from Rio del Mar Boulevard through the community of La Selva Beach and the city of Watsonville, as well as the Capitola Trestle reach (Segment 11, Phase 2).



Above map shows the status of Coastal Rail Trail projects, many of which are being implemented by others as separate projects along the SCBRL.



PROJECT SCHEDULE



More
Details
Next
Slide



Project Concept Report

Milestones and Engagement Opportunities

WINTER
2024

- PRELIMINARY PURPOSE AND NEED STATEMENT
- PROJECT LOOK AHEAD

 **We Are Here**

SUMMER
2024

- CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENTS
- ZERO EMISSION VEHICLE TYPES

FALL
2024

- REFINED CONCEPTUAL ALIGNMENT
- STATION/LAYOVER FACILITY AND MAINTENANCE LOCATIONS

WINTER
2025

- DRAFT PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT
- PRELIMINARY COST ESTIMATES
- NEXT STEPS FOR PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

The Project Concept Report is anticipated to be completed in Spring 2025 and will define, evaluate, and develop a project build alternative to be advanced into subsequent tasks.



Preliminary Purpose and Need Statement

Summarizes the needs and constraints that drive the development of the proposed project and the priorities in the development of project alternatives.



Preliminary Project Needs

Identifies mobility, accessibility and community concerns, including:

- Diverse transportation needs not fully met
- Slow transit travel times
- Insufficient alternative travel options
- VMT and GHG reduction mandates
- Bicycle and pedestrian linkages and safety

Preliminary Project Purpose

Identifies opportunities to address the needs and benefit the community, including:

- Provide increased access to accessible and reliable public travel options
- Improve transit connections
- Integrate with plans for future land use
- Reduce transit travel times and improve system reliability
- Enhance bicycle and pedestrian connectivity and safety
- Promote alternative transportation modes
- Reduce vehicle miles traveled and associated GHG emissions

Public Engagement

- Project Information at sccrtc.org/zeprt
- Stakeholder Briefings
- Virtual and In-Person Open House Meetings
- Presentations at Partner Agency Meetings in February/March

Feedback will be used to inform purpose and need and ongoing project development.



IN-PERSON

Monday, Feb. 12

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Ramsay Park Family Center
1301 Main St., Watsonville

Tuesday, Feb. 13

6 – 7:30 p.m.

Live Oak Grange
1900 17th Ave., Santa Cruz

VIRTUAL

Beginning **Feb. 5** at
sccrtc.org/zeprt

Next Steps

PROJECT CONCEPT REPORT Milestones and Engagement Opportunities

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Thank you!

