

# Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

## State Route (SR) 9 in Santa Cruz County

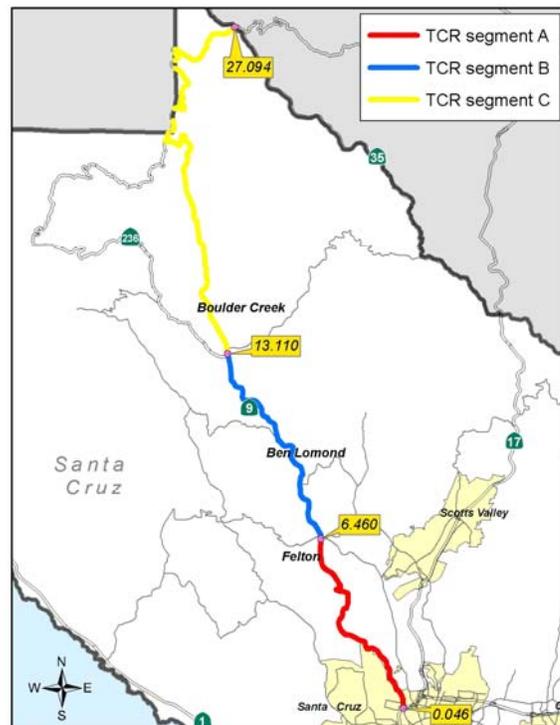


### ***Purpose of this Transportation Planning Fact Sheet:***

Transportation Planning Fact Sheets provide one comprehensive interactive summary document that captures physical, social, political, and development characteristics along State Routes and provides web links to various planning resources and documents. Fact sheets are to be used as supplemental planning documents to Caltrans Transportation Concept Reports (TCRs).

### ***Route Description:***

- Within Santa Cruz County, SR 9 is mainly a rural and mountainous route that originates at SR 1 in the City of Santa Cruz and travels north through Felton, Ben Lomond, Boulder Creek and several smaller towns until it reaches the Santa Cruz/Santa Clara County line.
  - SR 9 intersects with SR 236 in Boulder Creek and again near the San Mateo County line, and intersects with SR 35 at the Santa Cruz/Santa Clara County line.
- SR 9 serves not only as a recreational route through the Santa Cruz Mountains to five State or County parks in the area, but it also serves as a commuter connector route to the small communities located along the route.
- The SR 9 Transportation Concept Report (TCR) divides Route 9 in Santa Cruz County into three segments (A, B, C) – see segment map below
- Type of facility: 2 lane undivided conventional highway, classified as a major collector
- Terrain: Flat to Mountainous
- Truck Traffic: 2 to 5% (2005)



- ***Future concept:*** Widen to a **4-lane** conventional facility, from the SR 1/9 Jct. to approximately the Santa Cruz city limits (PM 0.05/0.63).

- ❖ Concept taken from the 1985 SR 9 RCR, but is still valid because no major improvement projects have been completed since then.

**Route Designations:**

- ❖ [Scenic Highway System](#) Eligible
- ❖ [Interregional Road System](#) (between the north urban limits of the City of Santa Cruz and Santa Clara County line.
- ❖ [Bike Accessible](#)

**Traffic Volumes:**

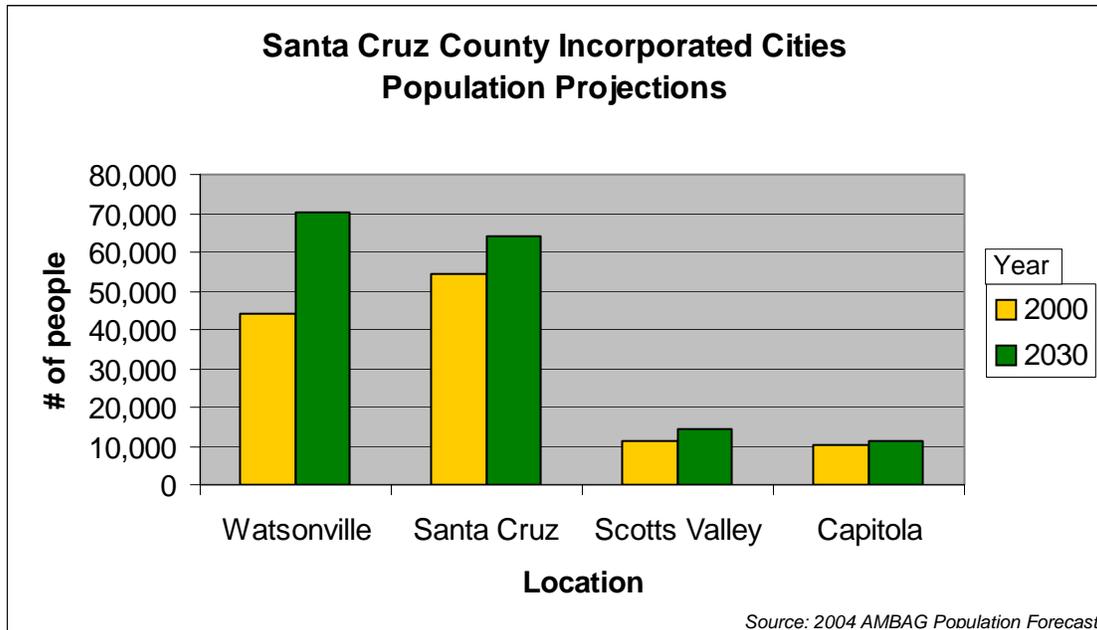
- AADT ranging 3,350 to 21,000 (Highway Segment Inventory, 2005)
- Future AADT ranging 6,124 to 23,670 (Forecasted yr. 2030)

**County Profile:**

- [Santa Cruz County](#) consists of four incorporated cities: [Watsonville](#), [Santa Cruz](#), [Scotts Valley](#), [Capitola](#) (web links connect to City/County General Plan)
- The two most populated cities in the County are Santa Cruz and Watsonville
- Santa Cruz County: 19.3% projected growth between 2000 to 2030, from 255,602 to 304,847
  - Incorporated Cities: 32.9% projected growth between 2000 and 2030, from 120,276 to 159,816
  - Unincorporated Santa Cruz County (including those communities located along SR 9): 7.2% projected growth between 2000 and 2030, from 135,326 to 145,031
- Within the county, there is substantial variation in age and income, as well as travel patterns and employment:
  - Population of those 65 and older are expected to grow by 143 percent through 2030
  - Seniors currently make-up about ten percent of the population and will make up about 21 percent of the population by 2030.
  - Santa Cruz County has an extensive [network of bike lanes and paths](#) for commuters and recreational riders.
  - The area has an active bicycling community, which supports and promotes the provision of dedicated bicycle facilities on most arterials and collector routes.
- City of Watsonville, located on SR 1 near the south end of the County, is the fastest-growing city in the County:
- City of Santa Cruz – Very urbanized, County seat, home of the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC):
- State Routes 9 and 17 both originate at SR 1 in the City of Santa Cruz

**Transportation Agencies:**

- [Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission](#) (SCCRTC) – Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA)
- [Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments](#) – Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- [Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District](#) (METRO)
- [Santa Cruz Area Transportation Management Association](#)
- [Community Bridges](#) – Consolidated Transportation Services Agency (CTSA)
- [Santa Cruz Bicycle Industry Coalition](#)



**TCR General Recommendations:**

- The shoulders should be widened where environmentally feasible for safety reasons and to accommodate the large amount of bicycle traffic that this route receives
- Two-way left turn lanes should be provided where deemed necessary in the towns of Felton, Ben Lomond, and Boulder Creek
- Widen to a 4-lane conventional facility, from the SR 1/9 Jct. to approximately the Santa Cruz City limits (PM 0.05/0.63).
- Consider providing left turn pockets and/or two-way left turn lanes from Graham Hill Road to Glen Arbor Road (PM 6.46/8.11)

**State Highway Projects**

For an updated list of State Highway projects (including State Transportation Improvement Plan/State Highway Operation and Protection Program) along SR 9 in Santa Cruz County, click the Caltrans District 5 *Status of Projects* web link:

<http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/pdf/d5sop.pdf>

- For more information about Caltrans Santa Cruz County highway projects, visit: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/> - scr
- Highway Projects, Programs and Studies Identified by the SCCRTC: <http://www.sccrtc.org/highway.html>
- Local Agency STIP Projects - Caltrans Local Assistance Website: [http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/local/stip\\_index.html](http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/local/stip_index.html)

**Key Planning Issues:**

- There are short radius curves and narrow or no shoulders at many locations along the route. Because of this, bicyclists, pedestrians and motorists must share the mountainous, winding road.



[San Lorenzo Valley Trail Feasibility Study](#): Evaluates a 15-mile trail corridor, from Boulder Creek to Santa Cruz, to determine the most feasible and desirable alignments and configurations. The study included an evaluation of use of the SR 9 right-of-way, the Santa Cruz/Big Trees Railroad right-of-way, and numerous local road route alternatives.

**Regional Planning Efforts:**

- [Transportation Funding Task Force \(TFTF\)](#): Formed by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) - purpose is to engage the community in a discussion about transportation needs and funding, and ultimately, see if the county would like to pursue additional local funding for their transportation system.

**Caltrans IGR Involvement:**

- Rte. 9/1 PostMile (PM) various – Salz Tannery site
- Rte. 9, PM 7.482 – Quiroz property rezoning
  - PM 9.38 – Ben Lomond mixed-use development project

❖ **Caltrans Contact:**

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