

# Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

## State Route (SR) 17 in Santa Cruz County

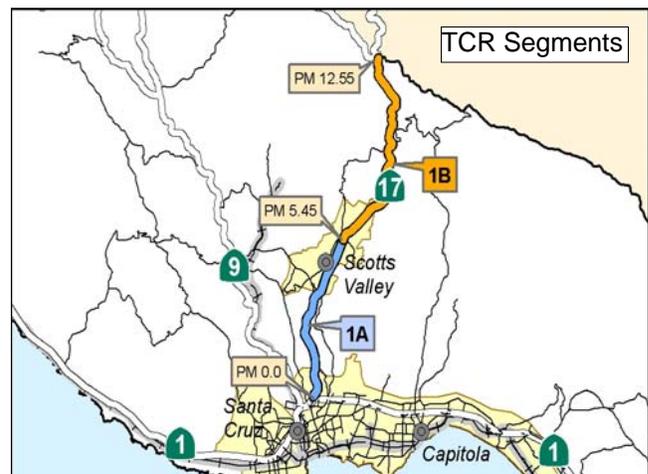


### **Purpose of this Transportation Planning Fact Sheet:**

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 17 originates in District 5 at SR 1 in the City of Santa Cruz and continues north 12.55 miles, through the [City of Scotts Valley](#), until it reaches the Santa Cruz/Santa Clara County line.
- SR 17 is one of the only access corridors to the Silicon Valley (San Jose) for commuters coming from Highway 1 and the Santa Cruz and Monterey Bay regions.
- The [SR 17 Transportation Concept Report](#) (TCR) divides SR 17 in Santa Cruz County into one segment and two sub-segments (1A and 1B) – see segment map below
- Type of facility: 4-lane freeway/expressway/conventional, principal arterial
- Terrain: Rolling to Mountainous
- Truck Traffic: 5% (2005)
- See the **SR 17 Corridor Data Summary Sheet** for more route details
  - ❖ *Note: Corridor Data Summary Sheet segments are **not always** consistent with TCR segments – check post miles*



- **Future Concept:** four-lane freeway (TCR segment 1A), four-lane expressway (TCR seg. 1B), operational improvements to optimize capacity, transit and traffic demand management measures to accommodate demand, maintenance practices to improve reliability.

### **Route Designations:**

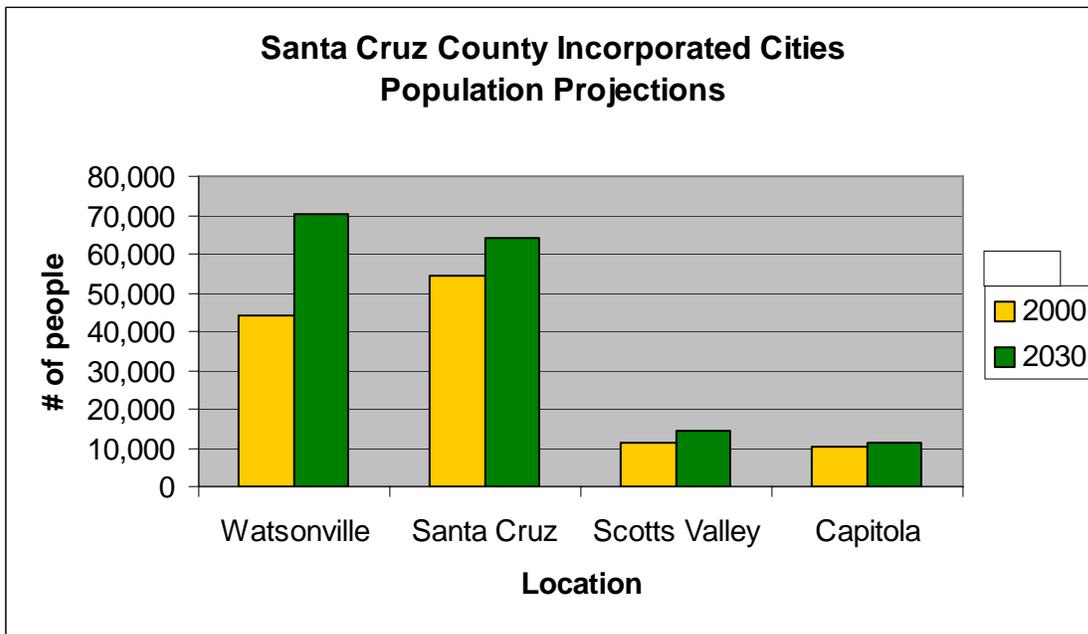
- ❖ [Scenic Highway System](#) Eligible
- ❖ [Interregional Road System](#) (between the north urban limits of the City of Santa Cruz and the Santa Cruz/Santa Clara Co. line)
- ❖ [High Emphasis Route](#)
- ❖ [Terminal Access Route](#) to the National Truck Network
- ❖ [Freeway and Expressway System](#) (from SR 1 to PM 5.45)
- ❖ [Bike Accessible](#) (TCR segment 1B, PM 5.45/12.55)

### **Traffic Volumes:**

- AADT ranging 60,000 to 62,088 (TCR figures – yr. 2003)
- Future AADT ranging 70,164 to 76,900 (TCR figures – yr. 2023)

### **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: 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 Scotts Valley](#): located six miles north of the City of Santa Cruz along SR 17 in the upland slope of the Santa Cruz Mountains. This heavily forested community is the only incorporated city located along SR 17 in Santa Cruz County.
- For most Santa Cruz County residents, SR 1 to SR 17 is the most direct route to inland job sites and other business opportunities.
- Historically, proposals to add capacity to SR 17 have not received appreciable support, with environmental issues, costs related to the difficult terrain, and lack of adequate alternative facilities during a prolonged construction project cited as obstacles.



#### **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:**

- Improve non-standard freeway interchanges where possible
- Lengthen turn lanes where possible to minimize deceleration in through lanes (Sub-seg. 1B)
- Construct grade-separated crossings to minimize conflicting traffic movements (Sub-seg. 1B)
- Construct additional turnouts
- Minimize and consolidate access points (Sub-segment 1B)
- Install/maintain/upgrade Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) elements to maintain operations during incidents, support goods movement, and improve overall safety and operations.
- Continue to focus on transit, Transportation Demand Management (TDM), and intermodal facilities to reduce demand.
- Support regional ride matching services and dissemination of information on alternatives to solo driving.
- Continue to support *Safe on 17 Task Force* efforts to monitor conditions and to identify, develop, and deploy interagency responses.
- Coordinate all highway projects to minimize lane blockage and traffic delay.
- Consider additional freeway interchange between existing interchanges at Mt. Hermon Road and Granite Creek Road in Scotts Valley
- Convert remaining expressway to freeway on TCR Sub-segment 1A
- Convert conventional highway sections to expressway where possible in TCR Sub-segment 1B
- Widen non-standard width travel lanes, shoulders, and bridges (Sub-segment 1B)

### **State Highway Projects**

For an updated list of State Highway projects (including State Transportation Improvement Plan/State Highway Operation and Protection Program) along SR 1 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)

### **Planning Efforts:**

- **Safe on 17 Task Force:** comprised of stakeholder groups including California Highway Patrol (CHP), local emergency services providers, Caltrans, state and local elected officials, the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC), and business groups. Meets regularly to review projects and programs being planned or implemented for SR 17, which has also been designated a **Safety Corridor** by the CHP.
- **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. 17 – Proposed Highway 17 Safety Project within Scotts Valley
- Rte. 17 PostMile (PM) 3.44 – Blue Bonnet project
  - PM 3.44 – Valley Terrace project
  - PM 3.44 – Cabrillo College North County Campus
  - PM 3.44 – Green Hills Road Industrial Buildings project
  - PM 3.44 – Oak Creek Development
  - PM 4.30 – Erba Lane
  - PM 5.45 – Bethany University Residence Hall project
  - PM 5.50 – Stonegate project
  - PM 5.87 – Polo Ranch

### **❖ Caltrans Contact:**

- [Jennifer Calate](#) (805) 549-3099  
Santa Cruz County - Regional Planning and Development Review