

Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

State Route (SR) 236 in Santa Cruz County

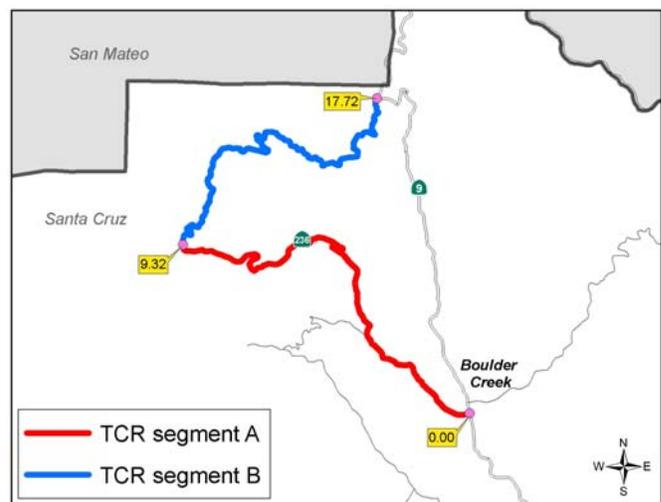


Purpose of this Transportation Planning Fact Sheet:

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:

- SR 236 is a short 18-mile (29 km) "C" shaped highway that links to SR 9 at both ends in the Santa Cruz Mountains. SR 236 links SR 9 with Governor's Camp in Big Basin State Park near the Waterman Gap.
 - SR 236 begins in the town of Boulder Creek. Several sections of the road are less than two lanes wide and large vehicles are discouraged from traveling this road. The reason for the narrow road is to not disturb the large redwood trees that the road passes by in the densely forested lowlands.
 - The section from the SR 236/9 junction to China Grade Road receives significant residential traffic.
 - SR 236 is primarily used as an access to Big Basin Redwoods State Park. This route is the only major road leading into the park.
- The [SR 236 Transportation Concept Report \(TCR\)](#) divides SR 236 in Santa Cruz County into two segments (A, B) – see segment map below
- Type of facility: 2-lane conventional highway
- Terrain: Rolling to Mountainous
- Truck Traffic: 4 to 5% (2005)
- See the **SR 236 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:** To maintain the present 2-lane facility throughout the entire segment with no improvements.
 - ❖ Concept taken from 1985 SR 236 TCR, but is still valid because no major improvement projects have been completed since then.

Route Designations:

- ❖ [Scenic Highway System](#) Eligible
- ❖ [Bike Accessible](#)

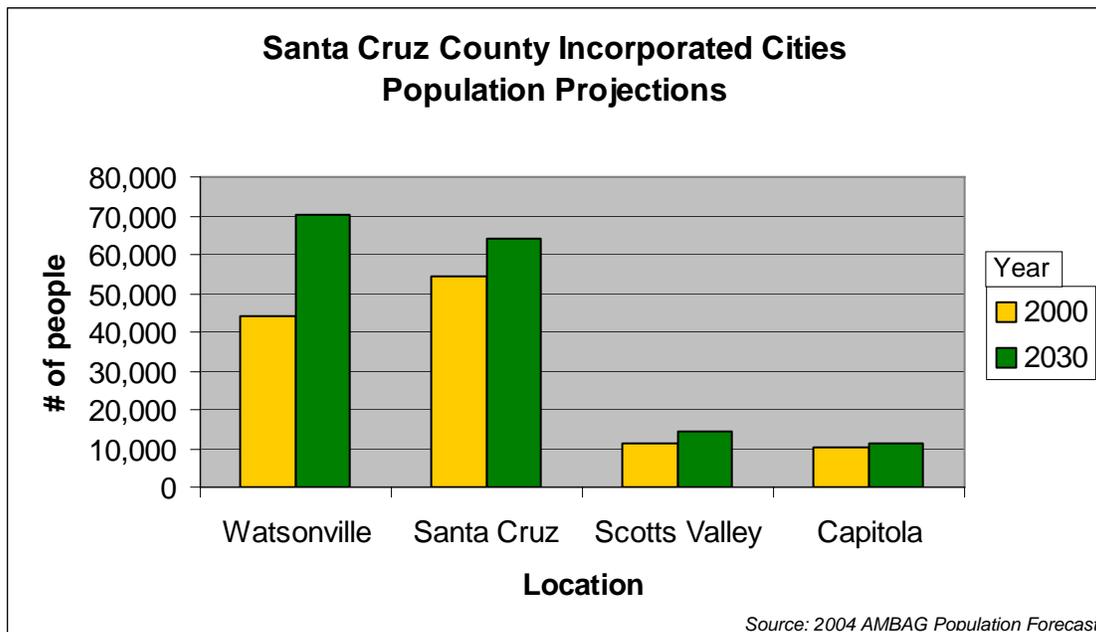
Traffic Volumes:

- AADT ranging 200 to 4,975 (Highway Segment Inventory – yr. 2005)
- Future AADT ranging 1,791 to 6,949 (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: 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.

Communities and Growth Trends:



- City of Watsonville, located on SR 1 near the south end of the County, is the fastest-growing city in the County:
 - Hispanic or Latino of any race make up about 75% of the population (2000)
- City of Santa Cruz – Very urbanized, County seat, home of the University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC):

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](#)

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

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.

Key Planning Issues:

- This 2-lane conventional road has short radius curves, steep embankments and no shoulders or pull out areas. During heavy winter storms, the route could easily receive damage from mud slides, flooding, and embankment erosion.

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