

COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

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PRESS RELEASE

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COUNTY RELEASES DRAFT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

The County of Santa Cruz has released a draft Active Transportation Plan for public review, which will be used to identify needed investments and improvements in the County's walking and bicycling infrastructure.

Community members may review the plan at <u>https://ecoact.org/poweredbyme</u>, with comments due by March 25th.

The Active Transportation Plan updates previous work to improve bicycle infrastructure and will represent the first comprehensive plan for pedestrian facilities in unincorporated Santa Cruz County. It provides community-identified needs as well as recommendations to support and encourage walking and bicycling, including possible funding sources. The goal is to support a healthy community, improve affordable transportation options for low-income and vulnerable residents, and help the County achieve statewide goals to address climate change by reducing vehicle miles traveled.

The Active Transportation Plan does not include the cities of Capitola, Santa Cruz, Scotts Valley, and Watsonville, which are each covered under plans created by their jurisdictions. The plan focuses on the urbanized areas of unincorporated Santa Cruz County which have the highest density of residents and destinations, including Davenport, Boulder Creek, Ben Lomond, Felton, Live Oak, Soquel, Aptos, Rio Del Mar, La Selva Beach, Corralitos, and Amesti.

Public comments received by March 25th will be reviewed and may be incorporated into the final draft document, which will be presented to the Board of Supervisors.

The Active Transportation Plan is a partnership between the County of Santa Cruz Public Works Department, County Public Health, Ecology Action, and Bike Santa Cruz County. The project is funded through a Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning Grant as well as local matching funds.