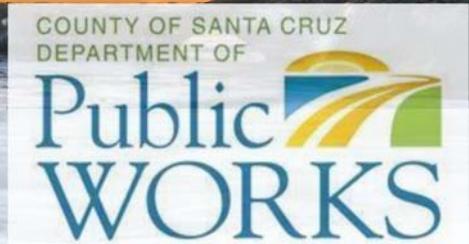


DPW QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

*Building communities from the ground up.
Striving to protect the health, safety and welfare of the public by providing essential services for daily life.*



Second Harvest Executive Fundraiser

Amy Miyakusu, Senior Administrative Analyst

Doug became the requested honorary "Executive" for the Public Works Vote for Your Favorite Executive fundraiser campaign for Second Harvest Food-bank. This campaign and others held by Public Works staff raised \$3,652.39 during our 2019 drive. This money translates into 14,610 meals that the Second Harvest Food Bank was able to provide to our community. He was assigned to work at the Buena Vista Landfill for an hour to experience some of the work that is done by Public Works employees and partnering agencies out in the field. The landfill crew is always working to reconfigure sorting areas to ensure the best location and most efficient workflows possible. Doug was able to see this firsthand with tour guide Mike Torrecillas, Buena Vista Superintendent. This tour ended at the level two recovery and diversion sorting area that is now located on the last module that was opened in April of 2016. The purpose for this recovery and diversion area is to extend the life of our County Landfill. This area was designed with convenience in mind for the public and County staff to maximize efforts in recycling, diversion recovery, saving resources and saving landfill space. Doug was assigned by Albert Eslit, Assistant Superintendent, to work with the members of the Hope Services crew to sort through and separate materials from a pile of debris. Hope Services has been working in partnership with the landfill to provide



employment for those with developmental disabilities. This organization provides training and employment, community living, and mental health services to children, adults, and seniors. To learn more about this fantastic organization visit <https://www.hopeservices.org/>. Unfortunately sorting operations have since been temporarily suspended in light of COVID-19. Public Works looks forward to working with this agency again in the future.



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January-May 2020 Road Progress

- ⇒ **Mowing** - 255.53 Lane Miles
- ⇒ **Pothole Repairs** - 3820 (temporary & permanent repairs - crews instructed to avoid using Cold Mix Asphalt)
- ⇒ **Ditch Cleaning** - 9.22 Lane Miles (routine ditch cleaning scheduled to start in July)
- ⇒ **Roadbed Maintenance (Grind/Pave)** - Buena Vista Drive/Delaney Avenue/Empire Grade Road/Freedom Boulevard/Larkin Valley Road/San Andreas Road/Seascape Boulevard/Soquel Drive/Sumner Avenue
- ⇒ **Culvert Replacements** - 35th Avenue/Larkspur Street/Old Santa Cruz Highway
- ⇒ **Striping** - 55.97 Miles (yellow and white)
 - 51 - Bike Lane Miles
- ⇒ **Guardrail Repair/Replace** - Buena Vista Avenue/El Rancho Drive/La Madrona Drive/Manfre Road/Old Santa Cruz Highway/Soquel Drive/Vine



Beach Road High Water Detection System

Antonella Gentile, Flood Control Division Resource Planner

Flood Control staff, working with the contractor, High Sierra Electronics, completed the installation of a new stream gage and high-water detection system in the West Beach Road area near Pajaro Dunes, in April 2020. Many Public Works staff are familiar with the regular flooding that occurs on Beach Road where it crosses Watsonville Slough and at the intersection with Shell Road, and some may have even had the experience of driving through those floodwaters. The new system will alert motorists of the flooding hazard and hopefully prevent them from attempting to cross the floodwaters. Road warning signs with flashing beacons have been installed on Beach Road in both



directions approaching the problem area, and on Shell Road approaching Watsonville Slough from Pajaro Dunes Resort. The telemetered high-water detection system relies on a new stream level sensor for Watsonville Slough to determine when to turn on the flashing beacons that warn drivers. The stream gage was installed as part of the project and will allow staff to better understand the tidal fluctuations that affect Watsonville Slough, potentially informing the Pajaro River Mouth Breaching Program decision making process and the identification of alternatives to breaching. The data from the stream gage and the flashing beacons are transmitted through the existing ALERT2 system infrastructure and are available to staff and the public on the County's OneRain site (santacruz.onerain.com).

The project could not have happened without the partnership of Rosemary Anderson and Karen Adler in the County Office of Emergency Services. Thanks to their assistance, the Department will qualify for reimbursement of a significant portion of the funds expended through the Homeland Security Grant Program.



Active Transportation and Congestion Relief

Russell Chen, Senior Civil Engineer

Active Transportation

The DPW Traffic Section is involved in several initiatives Countywide that will bring enhanced access for all users on County maintained roadways. One of the Traffic Section's goals is to improve the safety and mobility for Active Transportation modes such as biking and walking. When public roadways provide for safe, convenient, pleasant and connected biking and walking facilities, people are more likely to use Active Transportation modes and will be encouraged to continue using these facilities as they reap the daily physical, mental health and money saving benefits. Here are some of the Active Transportation measures DPW is working on:

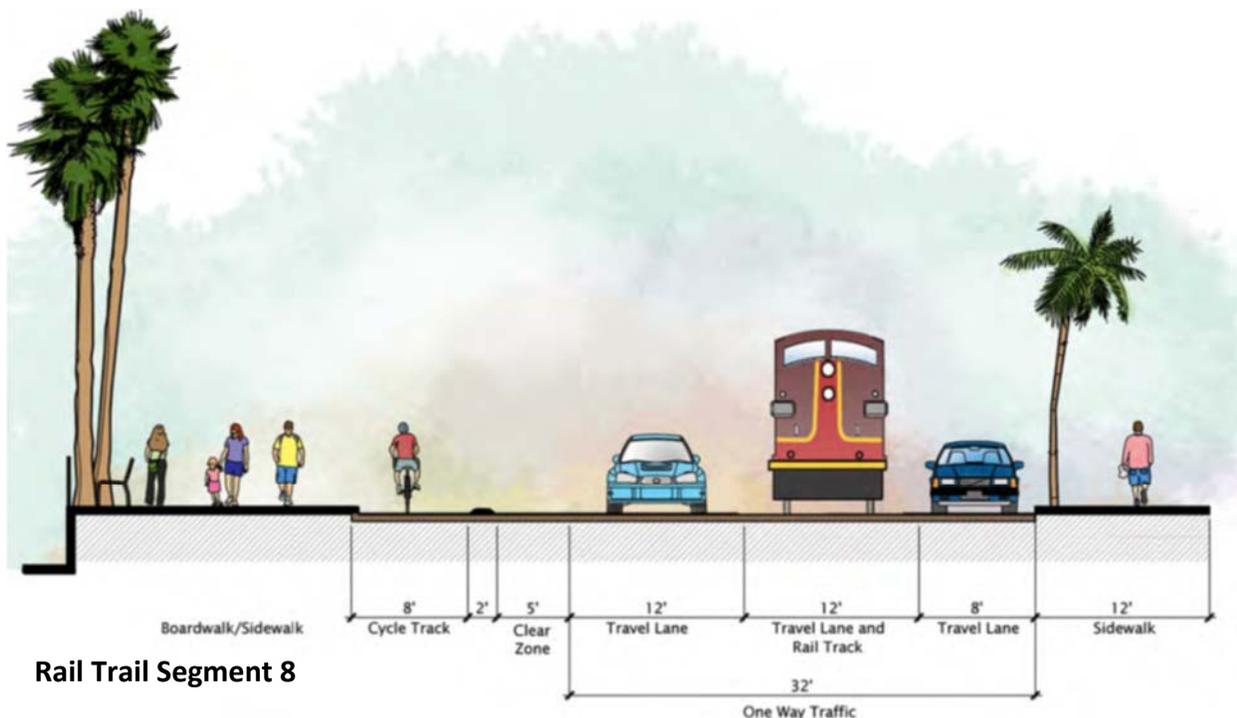
Safe Routes to Schools Plan – This Plan provides recommendations to improve safety at 18 schools in the unincorporated area of the County of Santa Cruz. The Plan includes a prioritized list of infrastructure improvements and recommendations for education and encouragement programs to improve the safety of families walking and biking to and from school. The Plan will be used to pursue grant funding and as a resource for the County and local school districts for implementation of projects. The Plan has been recently completed and adopted by the Board of Supervisors.

Active Transportation Plan – This Plan will lay the groundwork for increased bicycle and pedestrian safety county-wide. The Plan will inventory current bicycle and pedestrian facilities, identify gaps in networks/routes and prioritize projects that connect users to popular activity centers. The planning process will engage stakeholders and the public through robust and innovative outreach program. The plan will be used as a roadmap for pursuing implementation grants for bicycle and pedestrian improvements county-wide. The planning process is kicking off Summer 2020 and will continue through its completion in Spring 2022.

Congested Corridors Program Grant – The proposed Active Transportation component of this proposed project aims to improve bicycle and pedestrian facilities for 5.6 miles of Soquel Dr from La Fonda Ave to State Park Dr. The project proposes to install nearly a half mile of sidewalk infill and install buffered or separated bike lanes where road widths allow. The proposed improvements provide for increased safety to Active Transportation users and should encourage more people to walk and bike. An application for the grant will be submitted to the State in July 2020.

Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9 – The proposed Segments 8 & 9 multi-use trail is approximately 2.5-miles long and will connect Pacific Ave in the City of Santa Cruz adjacent to the Wharf roundabout to 17th Ave near Shoreline Middle School and the Simpkins Swim Center. Segments 8 & 9 of the Rail Trail is part of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST) which is a proposed 32-mile-long paved multi-use pathway for bicyclists and pedestrians that is divided into 20 segments. This project is being done in partnership with the City of Santa Cruz and Design Phase of the project is scheduled to kickoff Summer 2020.

Rail Trail Segments 10 & 11 – The proposed Segments 10 & 11 multi-use trail is approximately 4.7-miles long and will connect to 17th Ave and State Park Dr. Segments 10 & 11 of the Rail Trail is part of the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail (MBSST). The Project Approval and Environmental Document Phase is scheduled to kickoff Summer 2020 and is being managed by the Capital Projects Division in DPW.



Rail Trail Segment 8



DPW UPDATES

Matt Machado, Director of Public Works/Deputy CAO (right), presenting a proclamation to acknowledge 2020 National Public Works Week (May 17-23).



Yellow Industrial Loader (above) and Orange Road Patcher (below) recently purchased for the Road Department.



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do.”
-Steve Jobs

NEW EMPLOYEES

Robert Tidmore
Project Manager

James Swertel
Electrical Instrumentation Tech II

Jose Avila-Medrano
Parking Attendant

Hermenegildo Avalos
Solid Waste Inspector I

Gregory Nolen
Engineering Associate

Dan Valley
Sr. Engineering Associate

PROMOTIONS

Rafael Gallardo-Gaona
Public Works Maintenance
Worker III

Remi Rodriguez
Public Works Maintenance
Worker III

Tyler Sorenson Warden
Public Works Maintenance
Worker II

Forrest Revere
Engineering Associate

Bret Toohey
Supervising Heavy Equipment
Mechanic

RETIREES

Jed Horner

Robert Hambelton