

Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

State Route (SR) 152 in Santa Cruz County

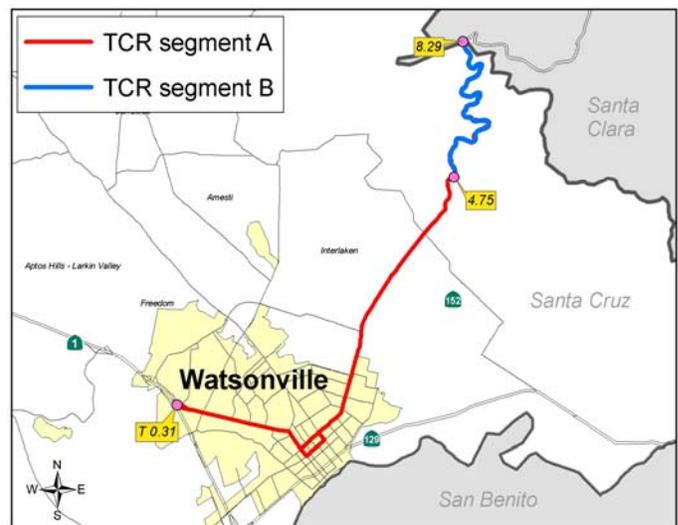


Purpose of this Transportation Planning Fact Sheet:

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 152 begins near SR 1 as a series of local streets that run through downtown Watsonville, after which it becomes a winding two-lane highway that crosses the Santa Cruz Mountains and ends at the Santa Clara/Santa Cruz County line.
 - It is an east-west corridor that passes urban land (Watsonville), farmland, and rural coastal foothills. Although the portions of the route in Watsonville have been greatly altered, the rural sections of the route east of the agricultural lands have few visual encroachments and are highly scenic.
 - SR 152 is the shortest, most direct link between Watsonville and Gilroy (Santa Clara Co.)
- The SR 152 Transportation Concept Report (TCR) divides SR 152 in Santa Cruz County into two segments (A, B) – see segment map below
- Facility Type: 2-4 lanes
- Terrain: Flat to Mountainous
- Truck Traffic: 4 to 5% (2005)



- ***Future Concept:*** Construct **4-lane divided highway** in Watsonville (PM T0.3/4.8), and between vicinity of Watsonville Road and Santa Cruz/Santa Clara County line
 - ❖ Concept taken from the 1984 SR 152 TCR, but is still valid because no major improvement projects have been completed since then.

Route Designations:

- ❖ [Scenic Highway System](#) Eligible
- ❖ [Bike Accessible](#)
- ❖ [Truck Restriction](#) - Trucks/combinations over 45 ft. prohibited, SR 1 to Carlton Rd. (near Watsonville). (PM 0.31/3.69)
 - ❖ Truck Advisory – Trucks over 30 feet, Carlton Rd. to SCR/SCL Co. Line (PM 3.69/8.29)

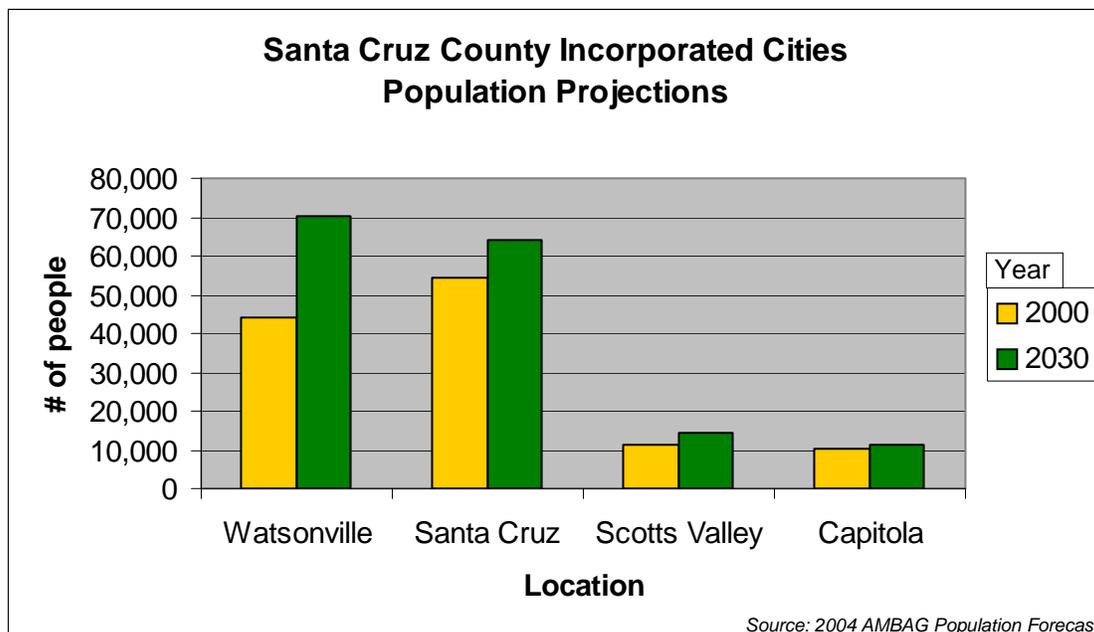
Traffic Volumes:

- AADT ranging 6,550 to 15,500 (Highway Segment Inventory, yr. 2005)
- Future AADT ranging 10,246 to 32,320 (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 152 and 1 near the south end of the County, is the fastest-growing city in the County:
 - State Routes 152, 1, and 129 converge in Watsonville, which lies in the heart of a fertile agricultural area
 - Very large bilingual (English/Spanish) or Spanish-speaking population
 - Hispanic or Latino of any race make up about 75% of the population (2000)

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:

- Construct 4-lane divided highway in Watsonville (PM T0.3/4.8)
- Slow vehicle lanes and curves realignment between Carlton Road and Watsonville Road (PM 4.8 to Santa Cruz/Santa Clara County line)
- Construct 4-lane divided highway between vicinity of Watsonville Road and the Santa Cruz/Santa Clara County line

State Highway Projects

For an updated list of State Highway projects (including State Transportation Improvement Plan/State Highway Operation and Protection Program) along SR 152 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:

- The Watsonville region, along with areas around the Cities of Watsonville and Gilroy (Santa Clara County), have experienced a large amount of growth over the past 20 years. Because of this, SR 152 has to sustain a greater amount of the traffic traveling between Watsonville and the Santa Clara Valley area and is at or near capacity. As this regional growth trend continues, SR 152 will continue to experience significant increased travel demand.

Caltrans District 5 - System Analysis Study of Routes 101, 156 and 152: Purpose of the study is to clarify the roles of the State Routes within the regional system, identify east-west capacity needs in the study area, enhance the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority's Southern Gateway Study, and help determine sampling and validation for the planned San Benito/Santa Clara Interregional Study.

Southern Gateway Transportation and Land Use Study: Purpose of the study is to identify roadway improvements that meet the transportation needs of the Southern Gateway study area (major corridors leading to and from Santa Clara County and the Silicon Valley) based on projected growth of population, housing and jobs for the area. The roadway improvements in the study area are presented while taking into consideration transportation funding constraints, land use policies and transportation funding priorities for the area.

Caltrans IGR Involvement:

- Rte. 152, PM 1.22 – Vista Mountain Well project (City of Watsonville)

❖ ***Caltrans Contact:***

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