

RTP 2040

Chapter 1: Introducing On the Move



Chapter 1 introduces the backdrop and context for the chapters to follow. The Regional Transportation Plan was developed with the understanding of the regional setting, recent economic events, long term trends, and constraints and opportunities.

Chapter 1 Introducing *On the Move*

SAN BENITO COUNTY SETTING

San Benito County is located in the Coast Range Mountains, south of San Jose and west of the Central Valley. The county is surrounded by Santa Cruz and Monterey Counties to the west, Santa Clara County to the north, and Merced and Fresno Counties to the east and south. The county encompasses over 890,000 acres (about 1,391 square miles). San Benito County is largely rural, with over 90 percent of land use for farming, ranching, forestry or other public uses. San Benito County is in close proximity to major highways and freeways: 152, 156, 25, 101, 129 and 146.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING AGENCY

Established in 1973, the Council of San Benito County Governments (Council of Governments) is the regional transportation planning agency representing the County of San Benito, and the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista. The Council of Governments provides a forum for addressing transportation matters of area wide interest and builds consensus on transportation issues facing the region.



Members are represented on the Council of Governments Board of Directors by two City Council representatives from the City of Hollister, one representative from the San Juan Bautista City Council, and two of the County Board of Supervisors. In addition to serving as the Regional Transportation Planning Agency for San Benito County, the Council of Governments serves in a variety of capacities, including:

- o Local Transportation Authority (LTA): The LTA was formed by a Joint Powers Agreement between the Cities of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and the County of San Benito to administer the regional transit program.
- o Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC): The purpose of ALUC to protect public health, safety, and welfare by ensuring the orderly expansion of airports and the adoption of land use measures that minimize the public's exposure to excessive noise and safety hazards within areas around public airports to the extent that these areas are not already devoted to incompatible uses.

- Service Authority for Freeways and Expressways (SAFE): SAFE was established in September 1998 by the City Councils of Hollister and San Juan Bautista and the San Benito County Board of Supervisors. This agency is responsible for the area's emergency motorist aid program, which consists of emergency call boxes. There are currently 40 call boxes in San Benito County along highways 25, 101, 129, 146, 156 and Panoche Road.
- Measure A Authority: Measure A is a ballot measure that was passed by the voters of San Benito County in 1988. It consists of a one-half (1/2) of one percent (1%) sales tax over a period of ten years to be used for a number of local transportation improvement projects. The Measure A Authority has since expired.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

As a core function, the Council of San Benito County Governments develops a 22-year transportation plan, which is presented in this document. The Plan is updated every four years and includes both long and short-range program of strategies and actions that lead to the development of an integrated intermodal transportation system that facilitates the efficient movement of people and goods. The Plan was developed based on the unique needs and characteristics of the San Benito region and helps shape the economy, environment and social future, and communicates regional and vision to the State of California and federal government.

As the region's comprehensive transportation planning document, the Plan also serves as a guide for achieving public policy decisions that will result in balanced investments for a wide range of multimodal transportation improvements. A Regional Transportation Plan communicates the vision of a community. In particular, the Plan looks into the future and considers the potential impact of projected housing, population, and employment growth on the transportation network and identifies solutions to meet the increased demand on all modes, including highways, local roads, bicycle, pedestrian, public transit among others.



REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN STRUCTURE

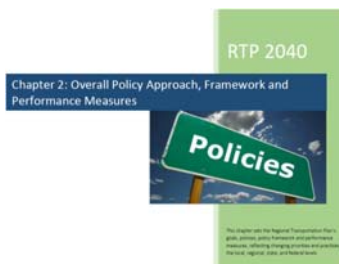
The San Benito Regional Transportation Plan is organized into seven chapters and an Executive Summary, each of which carries out the Plan’s overall vision through all-encompassing investments, services and programs. A summary of each chapter is encapsulated in the following section.

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCING *ON THE MOVE*



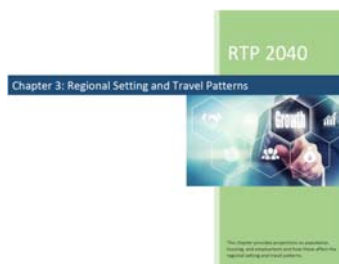
Chapter 1 provides an overview of the role and mission of the Council of San Benito County Governments. This chapter also presents an introductory overview of the chapters that make up the 2040 San Benito Regional Transportation Plan.

CHAPTER 2: OVERALL POLICY APPROACH AND FRAMEWORK



This chapter provides a summary of the six goals which established the building blocks for the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan. The goals are part of the framework in the development and refinement of the Plan’s policies. This is an opportunity to use the Plan goals as a foundational element in future decisions on transportation project priorities. A comprehensive approach is needed to implement short and long term solutions for the San Benito region’s transportation challenges. The 2040’s vision and themes for the Regional Transportation Plan are also introduced in Chapter 2.

CHAPTER 3: REGIONAL SETTING AND TRAVEL PATTERNS



This chapter provides the current setting within which this document was developed and examines the influences of growth and emerging new trends in commute and travel patterns. This section also highlights the critical link between land use and transportation planning.

CHAPTER 4: SNAPSHOT OF THE EXISTING TRANSPORTATION NETWORK AND SYSTEM NEEDS



This chapter provides a synopsis of the existing transportation system needs and its components, as well as the challenges and opportunities the region will face moving forward to the year 2040. The needs are discussed by travel mode, including: local streets and roads, regional highways, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure and programs, among others.

CHAPTER 5: FINANCING OUR TRANSPORTATION INVESTMENTS



Chapter 5 describes the fiscal setting underlying the development of the Regional Transportation Plan, the fund sources and flow of federal, state, regional, local and “other” revenues projected for the San Benito region over the next 22 years. The financial assumptions also take into consideration future inflation rates.

CHAPTER 6: INVESTMENTS IN OUR TRANSPORTATION FUTURE



This chapter provides a comprehensive look at the proposed transportation investments planned for the San Benito region over the next 22-years. The identified projects will be executed given the available funding identified in Chapter 5. The Council of Governments, Caltrans, City of San Juan Bautista, City of Hollister and the County of San Benito are responsible for implementing transportation projects in the San Benito region, respectively. Projects consist of investments to local roadways, regional highways, public transit, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, and other programs.

CHAPTER 7: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND COORDINATION

2040 RTP

Chapter 7: Public Participation and Consultation



The chapter describes the public involvement process and how the regional transportation plan was developed with public participation and input from the transportation decision-making of the Plan.

This section of the Regional Transportation Plan outlines the public outreach strategy and approach for comprehensive engagement that was conducted throughout the development of the Plan. The goal of the public outreach effort is to ensure that stakeholders, elected officials and interested members of the community have ample opportunity to understand and provide meaningful input into the region’s transportation planning process.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING IN SAN BENITO COUNTY

The regional transportation planning process for this document is led by the Council of Governments and is a collaborative effort that is widely participated by various key stakeholders and the general public. The process is designed to foster involvement by all interested parties. Particularly, planning on the development of the 2040 San Benito County Regional Transportation Plan involved the collaboration of various regional partners, including: the City of San Juan Bautista, City of Hollister, County of San Benito, Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), Department of Transportation (Caltrans), community organizations, stakeholders and the general public.

The 2040 San Benito Regional Transportation Plan was prepared in accordance to the California Transportation Commission’s Regional Transportation Plan Guidelines.

