

Transportation Planning Fact Sheet

State Route (SR) 129 in San Benito County

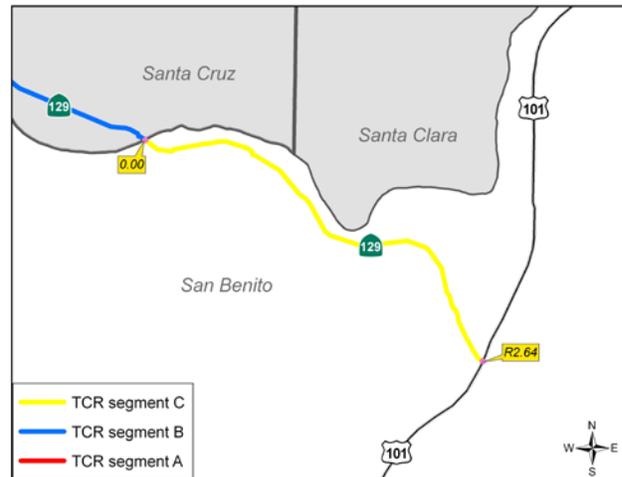
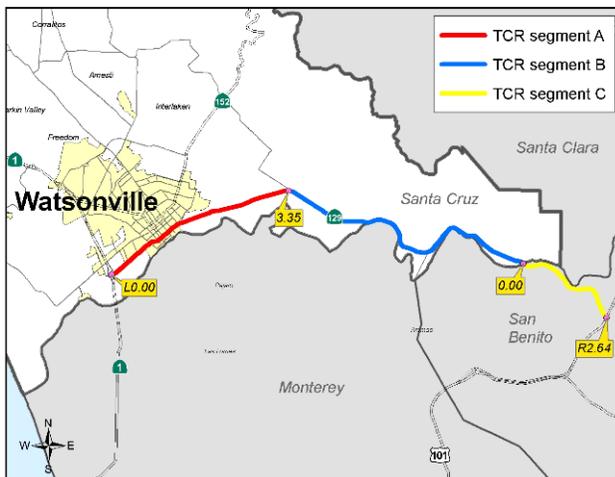


Purpose of this Transportation Planning Fact Sheet:

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 129 starts at SR 1 in the Watsonville (Santa Cruz County) and continues east until it reaches the San Benito/Santa Cruz County line. It then continues in San Benito County until it ends at SR 129/101 junction.
 - SR 129 is a commercial and recreational route. A high percentage of trucks utilize this route as a means to get to US Route 101 from the Watsonville area.
- SR 129 length in San Benito County: 2.64 miles
- The SR 129 Transportation Concept Report (TCR) divides SR 129 into one segment in San Benito County (C) and two segments in Santa Cruz County (A, B). – see segment map below
- Type of facility: 2-lane undivided conventional highway
- Functional Classification: Rural Minor Arterial
- Terrain: Rolling
- Truck Traffic: 28% (2005)



- **Future concept:** Construct two-lane facility with passing lanes where required from Lakeview Road (SCr Co.) to U.S. Route 101 (SBt Co.).
 - ❖ Concept taken from the 1985 SR 129 TCR, but is still valid because no major improvement projects have been completed since then.

Traffic Volumes:

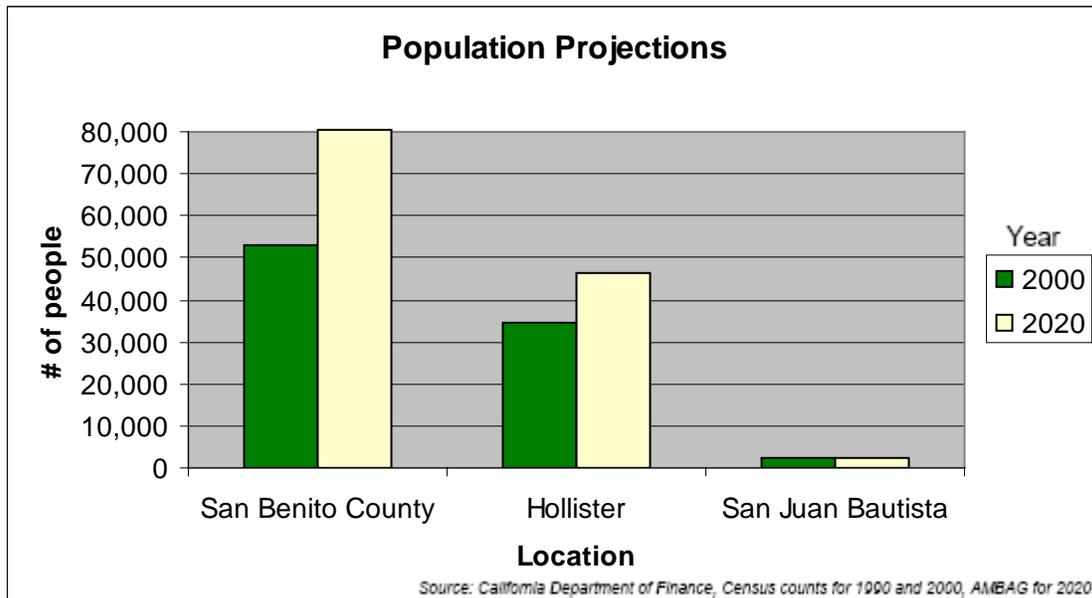
- ADT 11,000 (Highway Segment Inventory - yr. 2006)
- Forecast ADT 11,439 (yr. 2010)
- 12,535 (yr. 2020)
- 13,632 (yr. 2030)

Route Designations:

- ❖ [Interregional Road System](#)
- ❖ [Bicycle Accessible](#)
- ❖ [Terminal Access Route](#) to the National Truck Network

County Profile:

- [San Benito County](#) consists of two incorporated cities: [Hollister](#) and [San Juan Bautista](#) (web links connect to City/County General Plan)
- SBT County: 45% growth between 1990 to 2000, from 36,697 to 53,234 (3.8% per year)
 - 51.5% projected growth between 2000 to 2020, from 53,234 to 80,653



- **35.3%** of San Benito County residents speak Spanish as their first language.
- San Benito is a unique rural county surrounded by the more urban counties of Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, and Monterey. 1990's growth in Santa Clara County created tremendous pressure for residential growth in San Benito County, where housing costs are significantly lower. This has dramatically increased demands on the regional transportation system.
- Although there are limited facilities for bicyclists in San Benito County, in 2001 the Council of San Benito County Governments adopted a [Bikeway and Master Plan](#).

Public Transportation:

[San Benito County Express](#) provides fixed route service in the city of Hollister, and intercity service in the northern portion of the county. Service operates as far north as [Gilroy](#), in [Santa Clara County](#).

Commuter Rail Service:

Commuter rail service to Santa Clara County and points north is available in Gilroy (Santa Clara Co.). A feasibility analysis of commuter rail in San Benito County was completed in 2000 and included cost estimates that were far outside of available and projected funding and low ridership projections. As of 2005, the Council of San Benito County Governments was not actively pursuing a rail project but included the project in its long-term project list.

Airport:

[Hollister Municipal Airport](#), a general aviation airport, is located just north of Hollister.

Transportation Agencies:

- [Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments](#) (AMBAG) – Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
- [Council of San Benito County Governments](#) (SBtCOG) – Regional Transportation Planning Agency (RTPA)
 - [San Benito County Rideshare](#)
 - [San Benito County Local Transportation Authority \(LTA\)](#)
 - [San Benito County Express](#)
 - [Measure A Authority \(MEA\)](#)
 - [Service Authority of Freeways and Expressways \(SAFE\)](#)
 - [Airport Land Use Commission \(ALUC\)](#)

TCR General Recommendations:

- Construct two-lane facility with passing lanes where required from Lakeview Road (SCr. Co.) to U.S. Route 101 (SBt Co.).
- Construct a four-lane divided facility (in Santa Cruz County) from Walker Street in Watsonville to Carlton Road.

State Highway Projects:

For an updated list of State Highway projects (including State Transportation Improvement Plan/State Highway Operation and Protection Program) along SR 129 in San Benito 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 San Benito County highway projects, visit: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/projects/-sbt>
- Transportation Projects Identified in the SBtCOG Regional Transportation Plan: <http://www.sanbenitocog.org/EIR4RTP/2Projectdescription.pdf>
- Local Agency STIP Projects - Caltrans Local Assistance Website: http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist05/local/stip_index.html

Regional 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 129 has to sustain a greater amount of the traffic traveling between Watsonville and the Santa Clara Valley area (through San Benito County) because both SR 17 and 152 are at or near capacity. As this regional growth trend continues, SR 129 will continue to experience significant increased travel demand.
 - Increasing level of commuter traffic between the three counties (San Benito, Monterey, and Santa Clara)
 - Region is mostly rural, with communities like San Juan Bautista aiming for minimal growth in the future

Trucking:

San Benito County experiences a higher than average amount of truck traffic. This activity, while largely confined to state highways, impacts local streets and rural roads not designed to handle large, heavy trucks. Trucking activity around and through San Juan Bautista is a particular problem, with Hollister experiencing the same problem to a lesser degree. Commodity exports from San Benito County are primarily agricultural products and quarry materials. Transport of these products generates a significant amount of truck traffic in and out of the County. Stores import nearly all items that are sold in San Benito County.

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. 129, PM R2.51 – San Juan Vista Estates – Residential Subdivision

❖ Caltrans Contact:

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