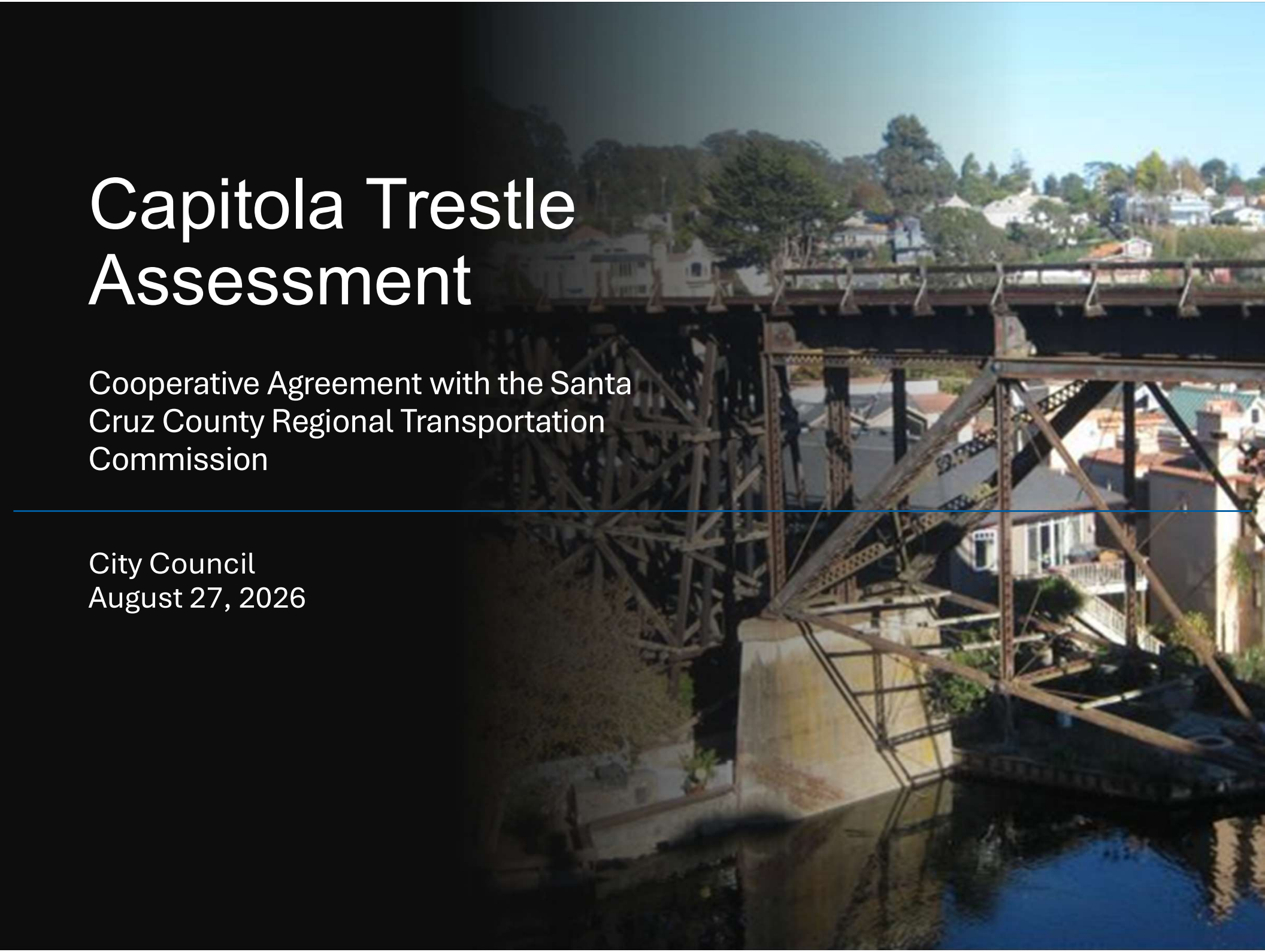
Capitola Trestle Assessment

Cooperative Agreement with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission

City Council
August 27, 2026



Capitola Trestle Assessment

Recommended action

- Authorize City Manager to execute the Cooperative Agreement with RTC for Capitola Trestle Assessment

What approval enables

- RTC to issue Mark Thomas engineering a task order and begin assessment

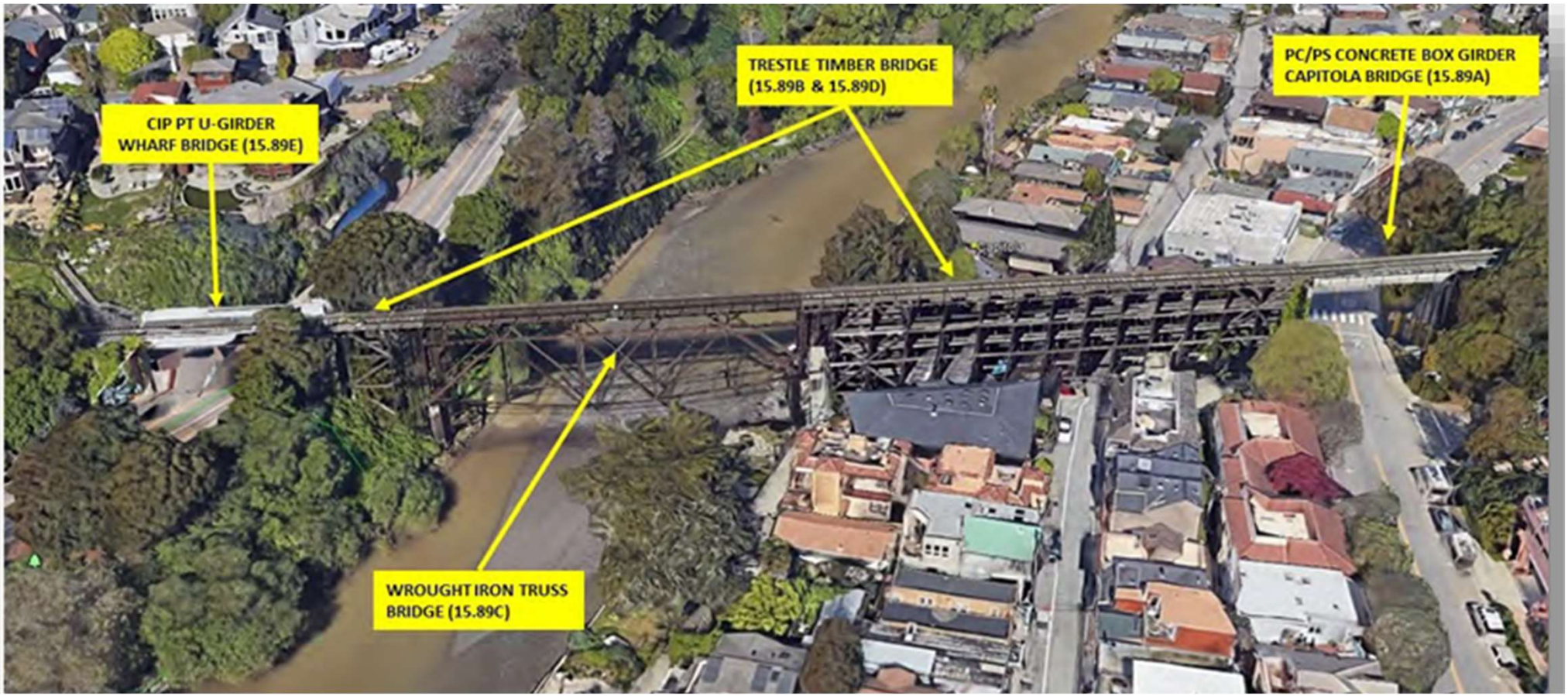
What approval does not do

- Does not approve trail conversion, environmental review, final design, construction, operations, maintenance, or future funding

Capitola Trestle Assessment

What is the trestle?

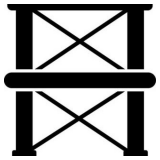
- Five connected bridges: two concrete, two timber, and one wrought-iron bridge.
- Crosses Soquel Creek, Wharf Road, Riverview Avenue, and Capitola Avenue.



Capitola Trestle Assessment

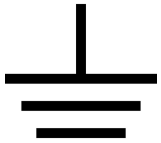
Why another study is needed

2021 Conceptual Study found repurposing may be feasible but identified significant information gaps



Condition

Update bridge condition and timber deterioration



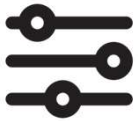
Ground

Assess soil conditions and liquefaction potential



Seismic

Identify planning level seismic vulnerabilities

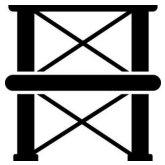


Options

Compare potential options and probable costs

Capitola Trestle Assessment

Study Scope



Updated bridge condition

Visual inspection, accessible soundings and measurements



Preliminary geotechnical work

Subsurface explorations for a preliminary liquefaction evaluation



Seismic vulnerability review

Planning-level review using Caltrans criteria



Alternatives, costs and next steps

Compare repair, retrofit, and replacement concepts

Capitola Trestle Assessment

Concepts to Be Evaluated



Wrought-Iron Main Truss

Retrofit

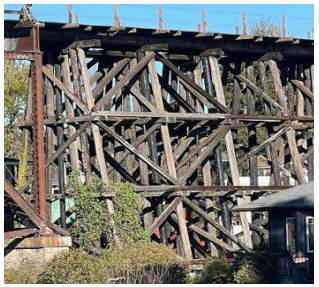
Strengthen/replace members and connections

Isolate

Use a steel girder over existing truss

Replace

Consider a prefabricated steel-truss bridge



Timber Trestle Segments

Repair

Repair and replace deteriorated members

Replace in kind

Construct new timber-trestle segments

Replace material

Use steel and compare life-cycle costs

Conceptual options—not selected or designed projects.

Capitola Trestle Assessment

Study Deliverables

Planning and Feasibility Memorandum

- Condition, seismic, and preliminary geotechnical findings
- Implications for potential trail reuse
- Costs, requirements, and next steps

Alternatives and Cost Summary Matrix

- Repair, retrofit, isolation, and replacement concepts
- Planning-level construction and life-cycle costs

Council Presentation

- Assessment findings and alternatives
- Presentation to the City Council

Capitola Trestle Assessment

What This Assessment Will Determine

Does reuse warrant continued study?

- Do the updated condition, seismic risks, and probable costs support continued study of trestle reuse?

Which concept merits further study?

- Which repair, retrofit, isolation, or replacement concepts warrant more detailed evaluation?

What would be required next?

- Identify additional structural, geotechnical, environmental, historical, and design work, along with planning-level costs, schedule, risks, and other major requirements.

The study refines the decision space; it does not make the policy decision

Capitola Trestle Assessment

Roles and Funding

City | Sponsor and Implementing Agency

Sets technical direction

Manages the assessment

Reviews and accepts deliverables

Confirms consultant invoices

RTC | Contract Administrator

Issues and administers the task order

Maintains contract records

Processes consultant invoices

Provides limited review and coordination

Funding

$200,000 programmed RSTPX funds

- $180,000 consultant
- RTC administration: actual costs up to 10%

Recommended Action

Authorize City Manager to execute a Cooperative Agreement with Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) for Capitola Trestle Assessment

