



## San Lorenzo River Parkway Trestle Trail Santa Cruz, California

Civil and Structural Engineering



**Award  
Winner**

**CSAC / CEAC / League of CA Cities** 2020 Efficient and Sustainable Bridge  
**ACEC** 2020 Special Projects, Award of Merit  
**APWA** 2020 Project of the Year Transportation, Under \$5 M  
**ASCE** 2019 Project of the Year, Bikeways and Trails  
**California Trails & Greenways** 2020 Development Merit

The City of Santa Cruz contracted MME to design a replacement pathway on the San Lorenzo Trestle. The project replaces the 4-foot wide walkway with a new 10-foot wide multi-use path. The pathway includes bike-friendly railing, slip resistant surface and low-level lighting.

The Land Trust of Santa Cruz County helped fund a study proving the pathway could be widened without rebuilding the bridge in its entirety, a discovery that saved the City millions of dollars.

The new wider path is the first part of the 32 mile long Rail Trail described in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Master Plan to be constructed. This segment will provide the most direct pedestrian and bicycle access between the Seabright neighborhood, the Santa Cruz Beach Boardwalk area, the Riverwalk levee path and downtown Santa Cruz.

The general approach for construction was to remove the existing wooden walkway, and install a new, wider steel cantilever system, leaving the existing cantilever structure that supports the walkway in place. The replacement path is supported by a similar cantilever structure connected to the trestle. There is no new construction in the river and no modification to the existing pilings or abutments supporting the trestle bridge. Fiber Reinforced Polymer was selected as the building material instead of concrete for the replacement path in order to minimize load to the existing trestle which was built in 1905.

Cushman Contracting Corporation was awarded the construction contract and performed the work between Fall 2018 and Spring 2019. Construction was performed outside of the busy summer season to minimize impact on pedestrians and cyclists. Construction was completed ahead of schedule and the path opened up to the public on May 22, 2019.

**Client Reference:** Chris Schneider, P.E., Assistant Director / City Engineer, City of Santa Cruz, Public Works Department  
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**Project Cost:** \$2 Million **Project Completion:** 2019