

## Gautho, Julia

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**From:** Vicki Guinn <vickiguinn01@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, March 26, 2025 3:53 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Agenda Item; 8B, Strong Opposition to the Replacement of Stockton Avenue Bridge

Dear Mayor Clarke and Council Members,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to amending and increasing the PSA and ask that the City Council support halting the proposed replacement of the Stockton Avenue Bridge in Capitola. This project is not only unnecessary but also threatens to disrupt the character, functionality, and historical integrity of our community.

The Stockton Avenue Bridge has served Capitola well for decades, and there is no compelling evidence that a full replacement is needed. While maintenance and reinforcement may be warranted, a complete reconstruction is an excessive and wasteful use of public funds. The financial burden of this project could be better allocated to pressing infrastructure needs, such as road repairs, flood mitigation, and public safety improvements.

Furthermore, replacing the bridge would create prolonged and severe disruptions to local businesses, residents, and visitors. Stockton Avenue is a vital artery for traffic, emergency response, and commerce. Shutting it down for an extended period will severely impact small businesses, limit access for residents, and create gridlock throughout the village. The economic repercussions of this unnecessary project could be devastating.

Additionally, the aesthetic and historical significance of the Stockton Avenue Bridge must not be overlooked. Capitola thrives on its unique charm, and a modernized, oversized bridge would be a jarring and unwelcome addition to our historic village. The city should be focused on preserving the character of our town, not dismantling it in the name of Modernization.

I urge you to forgo further expenditure and reconsider this ill-advised project and explore alternative solutions that prioritize preservation, practical maintenance, and fiscal responsibility. Capitola residents deserve a say in how our community is shaped, and this project is being pushed forward without adequate consideration of its consequences.

It's understood that from a lifecycle cost perspective, it's better to preserve what we have and invest in proactive maintenance than replacement.

Sincerely,  
Vicki Guinn