

Gautho, Julia

From: Clark Cochran <clark.e.cochran@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 2:50 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Do Not Approve Spending \$715,000 Now

Dear Mayor and City Council,

What is the rush to approve final engineering plans before the replacement of the Stockton Avenue Bridge has been discussed with the public? This, like the RTC plans and the RM housing density changes, has a huge impact on our city. We need to know more. Residents need a public discussion. City staff has been working for well over a year on plans to replace the Stockton bridge. We the public are just now hearing about it.

State Senator Laird has allocated \$500,000 for a debris diverter. Why not use these funds for a reasonable, if not perfect solution for now? I read the engineering report and options along with the Capitola History Museum report. Diversers would work and no storm debris in recorded Capitola history would have fully blocked or caused the current Stockton bridge to fail.

Tearing down and replacing with new is always the ideal solution. Where is the practical solution being discussed and trade offs made? Why is this being pursued now? Where is the City coming up with \$14M-\$17M to replace it? How involved have village business owners been on a plan that would greatly reduce their revenues for at least a year? How will this issue be mitigated? How badly will traffic be impacted? Not just commuting but visitors and residents getting to the village? Where will pedestrians go? From our Jewel Box neighborhood we won't even be able to have a reasonable walk to town. What will happen when resident parking is added on top of current use? Have residents been fully made aware of all of these issues in advance of spending this money? Easy answer. NO!

Let's not spend \$715,000 now and then even more for engineering plans until there is community agreement. If the bridge MUST be replaced, and as a Civil Engineer I currently don't believe this to be true for multiple years, then the new bridge design MUST mimic the existing bridge with open concrete railing and ideally reusing the existing lamp post lighting even though it will cost more.

What is the rush? There are other critically important current decisions to be fully considered and approved. Hold another Town Hall Meeting on the bridge. Spend our money on more pressing needs. Once residents and business owners understand and are in agreement, then spend what is needed. Not before.

Sincerely,
Clark and Suzanne Cochran
Capitola Full Time Residents and Homeowners