

Gautho, Julia

From: Mozumder, Kailash
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 12:42 PM
To: Gautho, Julia
Subject: FW: Stockton Bridge Replacement Project

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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From: Daniel Castagnola <castagnola76@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, March 26, 2025 12:09 PM
To: CapitolaDPW <capitoladpw@ci.capitola.ca.us>
Subject: Stockton Bridge Replacement Project

Dear Mayor and Members of the Capitola City Council,

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the proposed budget extension for the design phase of the Stockton Avenue Bridge Replacement Project, which is set to be discussed and voted on March 27th council meeting. Given the significant implications of this project on Capitola Village, I respectfully urge the Council to consider postponing or tabling this decision until further clarification is provided on several critical issues.

Key Concerns:

1. **Measure L & Capitola Village Preservation:**
 - Measure L, passed by voters, emphasizes the protection of Capitola's small-town character, particularly in the Village area.
 - Any project that alters the aesthetics or character of the Village should be carefully considered, with full transparency and public input.
2. **Historical Significance of Stockton Avenue Bridge:**
 - The bridge has been recognized for its historical value and qualifies for consideration under the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).
 - Caltrans has identified the bridge in its evaluations, yet there is no clear indication of how Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) is being addressed in the replacement planning process.
3. **Traffic Congestion & Community Impact:**
 - The bridge serves as a crucial access point to Capitola Village, and changes to its structure could significantly impact traffic flow, emergency response times, and local businesses.
 - A comprehensive traffic impact study should be conducted and shared with the public before any design modifications are approved.
4. **Budget Concerns & Cost Transparency:**
 - The cost of the new design and potential unforeseen expenses must be fully understood before additional taxpayer dollars are allocated.

- Given the scope of this project, there needs to be more clarity on how much funding is required in total and whether alternative, cost-effective solutions have been explored.

5. Lack of Public Awareness & Input:

- Residents and business owners in Capitola Village deserve a greater voice in this process, as the outcome will directly affect them.
- The rapid progression of this project, without clear information on potential design changes and their long-term impacts, raises concerns about whether public concerns are being adequately addressed.

Given these factors, I strongly urge the Council to delay any funding approval until the following steps are taken:

- A clear public presentation of the design changes and their impact on the Village.
- A thorough review of Section 106 compliance and its implications for the project.
- A transparent discussion on cost breakdowns and alternative options.
- A comprehensive traffic study to assess the impact of potential bridge modifications.

I appreciate your time and consideration and look forward to an open dialogue on ensuring that any changes to our Village align with the values and priorities of Capitola residents.

Sincerely,
Daniel Castagnola

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