

Gautho, Julia

From: Mary Kay Martin <kaymartin2012@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, March 22, 2025 9:35 AM
To: City Council
Subject: The historic Stockton Bridge

Dear Council members,

I live very close to Capitola (Merrill Rd.), though technically an Aptos resident, and have since 1978. I go there all the time—to shop, to walk, to restaurants, to meet friends and take family. For many years I rode my bike down there most mornings.

The historic bridge in Capitola is an absolutely essential feature of the area's appeal, its charm, its beauty. It's part of a whole constellation of style and appearance—with the creek, the curves of the seawall/ businesses along the water, the features of the hillside and the walkway along the creek, the overlooking Shadowbrook. Indeed it is the most pleasant area of the town, along with the park beyond the Esplanade.

It would be a serious, terrible mistake to replace the old bridge with something bigger and more modern. The traffic problem has *nothing* to do with the size of the bridge: it's a situation so much bigger than that—and will be bad no matter what, we all know this, as long as no one has the courage or vision to plan for and implement mass transit countywide. The bikes can go through there fine without their own dedicated path. Are bikers to control our municipal and aesthetic decisions? That's just wrong!

Please, please don't destroy this beautiful, charming—and functional!—asset of our collective communities.

Thank you for your time.

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