

Wyatt, Rosie

From: Forest, Karl (karlforest1@gmail.com)
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 8:12 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Extra Thoughts: Please Vote Yes on Rail Trail Option

Esteemed Council Members,

After reading Gayle Ortiz's well-written article in the LookOut, a few more thoughts occurred to me.

I was motivated to read that actual code (8.72). I know you have legal opinions on what you can and cannot do from city lawyers. What I would like to point out is if land contiguous to the current Corridor is made available and/or is transferred to the County to create a trail between Park Avenue and the existing rail line, then it would become part of the Corridor, and thus would not violate municipal code 8.72.

This would also remove what I believe will happen if you vote no: The RTC will continue with the original plan which will need to address adjacent land owners who have encroached on the Corridor, which will most likely land in lawsuits that are not needed and may involve the city.

Let's get this built! Please do what is what I think is best for the community to improve that section of Park Avenue at what looks like no cost to Capitola. Please vote yes!

Thank you for once again indulging my thoughts. I hope you take them into consideration.

Karl Forest

On Mon, Apr 14, 2025 at 9:29 PM Karl Forest <karlforest1@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello,

My name is Karl Forest and I live at 516 Oak Dr in Capitola. I would like to advocate for the City Council to approve the RTC's recommendation to move the trail portion of the trail from the Village along Park Avenue so it is between Park Ave and the existing line. This means changing the original plan to add the trail alongside the tracks on the ocean side.

This would cost less, better connect the Village and Cliffwood Heights, and would impact the butterfly habitat less. The trail will be separated from the road, and of the two options, it seems removing bikes from the road entirely and having them ride the trail seems the safer option.

As I understand it, this option would also lessen encroachment impacts with properties along the right of way.

As I understand Measure L, it was designed to stop Capitola from participating in relocating the trail from the rail on the trestle. This was designed to try to stop the rail at a key point in the path and to force bike traffic onto Village streets. That intent has nothing to do with this portion of the rail/trail.

If the city needs to donate a small bit of land to accomplish this, it seems like a win for our community. We also need to show leadership for the county; time and time again county residents, including Capitola residents, have supported the rail/trail concept. Capitola should do its part to contribute.

Please vote yes on one of the options presented to you on Thursday night. To vote no seems to me to be shirking our community's responsibility to the rest of Santa Cruz County, and to be playing into the hands of a minority of wealthy residents who have one goal in mind: to tear out the rails now.

Thank you for your consideration.

Karl Forest