

Wyatt, Rosie

From: Forest, Karl (karlforest1@gmail.com)
Sent: Monday, April 14, 2025 9:30 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Please Vote Yes on Rail Trail Option

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