

Wyatt, Rosie

From: J Lighthill <jjmmlight@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 1:19 PM
To: City Council; Clarke, Joe; Pedersen, Alexander; Gerry Jensen; Margaux Morgan; Melinda Orbach
Subject: Path User Safety

Dear Capitola City Council Members,

Thank you for your commitment to keeping your community safe. RTC and County Staff have assured you that the proposed path diversion onto Park Ave would be safe but state and national active transportation planning guides suggest otherwise.

“Bike paths immediately adjacent to streets and highways are not recommended.”
They “are not a substitute for designing the road to meet bicyclist’s mobility needs....”
“[M]any bicyclists will perceive these paths as offering a lower level of mobility compared with traveling on the road, particularly for utility trips.”(1) Caltrans Highway Design Manual (HDM)

The width of this proposed shared-use path should be used “in very rare circumstances,” where “bicycle traffic is expected to be low....” and “pedestrian use of the facility is not expected to be more than occasional.” (2) American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO).

“...significant user conflict should be expected.”(3) Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

Removing existing active transportation infrastructure—one or both bike lanes and a sidewalk—and constructing one deficient shared-use path as a replacement cannot be considered a safety improvement.

Finally, please consider who is to assume responsibility for injuries sustained on a path that does not meet the design standards recommended by most state and national active transportation planning guides.

Thanks for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Johanna Lighthill

1) <https://dot.ca.gov/-/media/dot-media/programs/design/documents/chp1000-a11y.pdf>
1003.1-1a, 1003.1-1b, 1003.1-7

2) <https://njdotlocalaidrc.com/perch/resources/aashto-gbf-4-2012-bicycle.pdf>

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3) <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/publications/research/safety/pedbike/05138/05138.pdf>
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