

Wyatt, Rosie

From: Westman, Nels (nels@bestwestman.com)
Sent: Tuesday, April 15, 2025 6:25 PM
To: City Council
Subject: April 17th Agenda Item 3 B.

Dear City Council,

In my 40+ years in Capitola I have never seen Capitola citizens so angry. Angry at the RTC, angry at the city staff and most particularly at the City Council, a majority block of whom clearly march to instructions from the RTC, FORT and other outside politicians. They fear for Capitola's identity: the loss of their iconic Trestle, the demolition of its similarly iconic Stockton Street Bridge, the degradation of the "Vibe", safety and flow of the Village as hundreds, possibly even thousands of pedestrians, bicyclers and e-bikers descend into the Village. They feel betrayed to learn that both the spirit of Measure L and letter of that law have been blatantly and repeatedly ignored and violated by both Council and city staff for a year or more. Then finally at the April 2nd Capitola Town Hall its citizens were essentially threatened by RTC staff that if Capitola didn't bend the knee to FORT and the RTC on the Park Ave realignment project that the whole Ultimate Trail project would implode and that it would all be Capitola's fault. There was the clear implication that there would be consequences for Capitola.

It is time for Capitola to say , "enough already." We are not going to be stamped into an illegal vote to divert the so-called Ultimate Trail off the rail corridor and onto city streets for most of the corridor that runs through Capitola. All to help the RTC to reduce the cost of the error in their own design and engineering plans. The RTC's bad job of designing and spectacularly underestimating cost projections should not be Capitola's to cure. In desperation the RTC is now proposing to borrow money secured by future revenues from Measure D. So now taxpayers countywide are also being asked to take on the financial consequences of the RTC's sloppy work by mortgaging the County's future transportation revenues while spending much of the proceeds on interest and bonding fees. This is a very dangerous bail-out strategy. But what do you expect considering the RTC's decades long performance on the Rail Corridor? Millions of dollars of expenses and very little to show for it.

Nels Westman
Riverview Terrace, Capitola