

## Wyatt, Rosie

---

**From:** Russell, Elisabeth (ebertrandrussell@hotmail.com)  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 11:10 AM  
**To:** alexander.dean.pedersen@gmail.com; Gerry Jensen; Clarke, Joe; Margaux Morgan; Goldstein, Jamie (jgoldstein@ci.capitola.ca.us); City Council  
**Cc:** info@sccrtc.org  
**Subject:** Will the California Transportation Commission's ATP Grant Funding Award Support Breaking Local Law 8.72 in Capitola?

Dear Capitola City Council Members, and City Manager,

Please include this letter as a submission to the record of comments for the Special Meeting tonight, April 17, 2025. These are comments on the Enforcement of Municipal Code 8.72, (in the voting stages it was referenced as Measure L).

Attached is a letter I, as a Capitola citizen, sent to the Sacramento Bee asking them to investigate. It is also copied to senior officers at the CTC.

Please read this letter as you consider the decisions you will make this evening at the Special City Council meeting.

Thank you for your support of the citizens of Capitola who you represent,

Elisabeth Bertrand

---

**From:** Elisabeth Bertrand Russell <ebertrandrussell@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 17, 2025 10:41 AM  
**To:** alange@sacbee.com <alange@sacbee.com>  
**Cc:** Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov <Tanisha.Taylor@catc.ca.gov>; Anja.Aulenbacher@catc.ca.gov <Anja.Aulenbacher@catc.ca.gov>; kara@santacruzlocal.org <kara@santacruzlocal.org>; twright@santacruzsentinel.com <twright@santacruzsentinel.com>; Kimberly.DeSerpa@santacruzcountyca.gov <Kimberly.DeSerpa@santacruzcountyca.gov>  
**Subject:** Will the California Transportation Commission's ATP Grant Funding Award Support Breaking Local Law 8.72 in Capitola?

Dear Ariane,

I am reaching out to you as a Sacramento Bee reporter to hopefully investigate and cover a critical story in transportation funding. In summary:

1.) The County of Santa Cruz working closely with the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) submitted an ATP grant request to the California Transportation Commission (CTC) and was awarded the largest grant ever, in excess of \$67 million. The centerpiece of this grant was to fund a segment of a combined pedestrian/bike trail to be built **in the rail corridor owned by the SCCRTC**. This corridor would also host the train - THAT IS WHAT MADE THIS PROJECT SO VISIONARY - A SHARED CORRIDOR!

2.) Behind closed doors for the last seven months, KEEPING IT A SECRET FROM THE CAPITOLA CITIZENS, it turns out that the SCCRTC, the County of Santa Cruz, and Capitola City management, CAME UP WITH A SECRET PLAN to move the bike trail out onto Capitola city streets out of the SCCRTC owned rail corridor.

3.) It is important to note that they also HID THIS FROM THE CTC, (to our knowledge via requests for public records).

4.) There is a law in Capitola, Municipal Code 8.72 that specifically makes it illegal for Capitola to provide Capitola resources, be it property, rights to streets, staff resources, etc. to support any SCCRTC bike trail on the already congested streets of our little village. (This law was put in place by a voter initiative of Capitola citizens years ago. It was important enough to the citizens to pass this law.) At the same time, we actively encourage 100% the SCCRTC using their corridor to support ATP projects and rail. that is why we supported the original ATP grant that was awarded the over \$67 million BECAUSE IT WAS IN THE RAIL CORRIDOR.

5.) *They are planning to break this law! They are planning to SUBSTITUTE A NON-VISIONARY BIKE PATH ON THE STREET FOR THE VISIONARY PROJECT THAT WAS AWARDED THE OVER \$67 MILLION DOLLARS. (THE SC COUNTY AND THE SCCRTC WANT TO SHORE UP THEIR BUDGET DEFICITS USING THE \$67 MILLION FROM THE ATP GRANT FUNDING. THEY DO NOT PLAN ON DELIVERING THE PROJECT THE \$67 MILLION GRANT FUNDED.*

6.) Not only is this a breaking of a local law, it is also a back-door way of cheating all of the other very worthy ATP projects in the state out of these limited ATP dollars. These other worthy projects supposedly lost out on this funding because of the unique vision of this original project as described in the rail corridor. They NEVER would have lost out for the funding to bike paths on the street. **It the County of Santa Cruz and the SCCRTC cannot complete the project that they got the funding for, then the funding should go back into the CTC ATP funding pool to be awarded to a worthy project elsewhere in the state.**

IT DEFINITELY SHOULD NOT BE AWARDED TO A PROJECT THAT BREAKS THE LAW, (MUNICIAPL CODE 8.72 IN CAPITOLA). TO DATE THE CTC HAS ONLY FUNDED LEGAL PROJECTS.

Thank you for covering this story. This is wrong on so many levels, and it is only with solid investigative reporting bringing this to daylight that we will ever have the opportunity to hopefully correct the course. I can be reached at 831-588-1694 to speak with you about this and to provide contact information with other potential folks you would want to speak to interview.

Best wishes,

Elisabeth Blythe Bertrand

ebertrandrussell@hotmail.com

Capitola Citizen, and former staff at the Director level at Association of Monterey Bay Regional Governments (AMBAG)