

Wyatt, Rosie

From: iredbiker santacruz <iredbiker@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, April 12, 2025 3:05 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Rail Trail

Dear Capitola City Council,

Some people have claimed that if the Rail Trail goes through Capitola the city will be adversely impacted. I am an avid bike rider. When I ride through Capitola I feel very safe, mostly because the auto traffic is moving VERY slowly. Also, I will often stop and buy a snack for a break. Do you really want all those potential customers to avoid your city?

Some of the opponents to preserving the tracks have stated that the best possible use for the corridor is trail only. These people also believe that trail only is the environmentally superior choice. They don't provide any evidence to support these claims! Of course those beliefs ignore the proven environmental benefits of rail transit. Let's face it, Santa Cruz County is only going to grow, so we will need all possible transportation options to avoid total gridlock.

Comparing Santa Cruz to other areas neglects to take into account the geographical constraints in Santa Cruz, the bay on one side and the mountains on the other. All transportation projects cost money. Looks at the \$4.8 M for just one off ramp on Highway 1.

The Rail Trail will be able to include walkers, runners, bikers and rail commuters, so contrary to what the trail only people say, many more people will be able to take advantage of this scenic corridor. The corridor is no less scenic because the trail has been moved 20 or so feet.

Another argument used against keeping the rail is encroachment issues. These issues need to be addressed on an individual basis, whether Rail Trail or just trail.

The decision to approve the Bike Lane redesign on Park Avenue will not unravel the future planning of the Rail Trail. Rather it shows that the people working on getting the Rail Trail built are willing to adjust the planning and design to save money and construct a better trail.

Please do not let the No Rail folks throw another delay tactic at this project that will drive costs up even more. For a group that is always complaining about high costs, their tactics are part of the problem!

Sincerely,

John Cocha
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