

Gautho, Julia

From: Ellen Martinez <ellen@ellenmartinez.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:47 PM
To: City Council
Subject: The Coastal Rail Trail Needs to be located on the Rail Corridor!

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Capitola City Council,

The Coastal Rail Trail must be located on the rail corridor. Moving it onto Park Avenue is both dangerous and costly--and contradicts what the Capitola City Council has stated for years. Instead of a safe route on the railbed, cyclists will be forced onto a busy street.

The cost to operate a train on the rail corridor is now in the billions of dollars. There is no real path to funding. It's time to get real.

Capitola voters, residents and visitors all support the coastal rail trail being located on the rail corridor. Listen to them. Please get this done NOW.

Thank you.

Ellen Martinez
25 year full-time resident of Aptos CA
ellen@ellenmartinez.com

Gautho, Julia

From: Susan Westman <susan@bestwestman.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:41 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Park Avenue Traffic Calming Improvements with Coastal Rail Trail Options

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I find the timing of the Park Avenue improvements in relation to the Coastal Rail Trail option rather peculiar.

The RTC has announced that they will be discussing the new rail/trail study at their March 20th meeting. This study, which residents have been informed will determine the feasibility of a passenger train along the 32-mile rail corridor, is a critical decision point. If passenger rail proves to be a viable option, it could provide an excellent new transportation alternative for Santa Cruz County. However, if it is deemed unfeasible, then it would be prudent to explore whether developing a pedestrian and bike trail along the corridor would be a more beneficial use of the space.

With March 20th just 35 days away, it seems illogical to decide on a \$3–\$5 million for a trail on Park Avenue this Thursday night, even if it is RTC money, when the long-awaited study results will be available in just over a month. At the very least, the citizens of Capitola deserve the impression that their best interests are being considered—waiting to review the findings of the \$9.2 million study before making a decision would demonstrate a more thoughtful and responsible approach.

Thanks for considering this.

Susan Westman

Gautho, Julia

From: Daniel Brune <danbrune@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:21 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Coastal Rail Trail Options

Dear Capitola City Council,

It's difficult to understand why the RTC continues to push for a train idea, when multiple expensive studies ignore several examples showing that trains are not feasible for smaller populations, especially Santa Cruz county, with no space for a railroad siding to allow the operation of two or more trains.

Building a new Capitola Trestle for a passenger train will effectively shut down tourism and commerce in the village for a long period of time. Routing bicyclists through the village, especially during peak tourism times, is extremely dangerous.

Has the Coastal Commission even been consulted on this idea? Destroying beautiful old-growth trees along Park Avenue, and installing retaining walls costing millions in other areas, makes no sense. And tracks just above the beach at La Selva appear to be on very questionable ground already.

This will be another extra taxation boondoggle where fares will need to be subsidized for the few who will ride a train for a few miles. Very few even ride our current Metro bus system, which is better at getting riders to their destination than a train that only stops at stations.

I hesitate to ask for another study, but where will riders park their cars to ride the train? They will certainly have to walk many blocks to do that in Aptos and Capitola, not the best idea for senior citizens. Will they need to spend even more to hire Uber and Lyft to get them to the stations?

Best,
Dan Brune

Gautho, Julia

From: jeff anderson <andersonjeff1957@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 4:15 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Coastal Rail Trail Options

I live in the Live Oak area, and am a bike rider. I have completed many multi day rides. I have enjoyed rides in the US on converted Rails to Trails paths, enjoying the safety and beauty these routes provide. The idea of building a light rail system in Santa Cruz County is a waste of taxpayers money. A realistic cost and time frame for such a system should be published for the taxpayers to understand, then put it out for a vote and see who is interested.

I am strongly against the light rail and all funds and effort should be put towards building a safe pedestrian and bike path on the rail corridor.

Jeff Anderson

Gautho, Julia

From: Stef's Gmail <stephanie.tetter@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:51 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Trail

I've always heard lots of confusion about this issue: it feels like pretty much everyone WANTS a trail for biking, walking, and running through Capitola and pretty much no one wants the trail diverted to either the Village or Park Avenue. (And most people think passenger rail isn't a reasonable option).

Cliffwood Heights is already impacted to the point of being gridlocked with traffic. PLEASE do not vote for diverting traffic to either Village or Park Ave.

Thank You.
Stephanie Tetter

Gautho, Julia

From: Malia Horn <maliahorn@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:48 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Park Avenue improvements don't improve safety

Dear Council Members,

Thank you for your dedication to serve our community.

As a parent and home owner who live in the Cliftwood heights neighborhood I utilize Park Avenue daily. Our family walks the dog, bikes, and drives along Park Ave. and understand the dynamics of traveling around this area. Park Avenue is a busy road!

I am very concerned about rerouting cyclist off the trail to surface streets and adding a train to an already busy thoroughfare.

I have seen cyclist hit at the Park ave/ Monterey intersection. Cars rear ended at the lit up crosswalk at Cabrillo St. Cars that have flow over the hill by the 600 Park Ave apartments. Pushing the biking to surface streets will add more to an unsafe area and committing to a train will ruin the our small town.

A safer addition to the community, is adopting the Interim Trail (no train and trail where the tracks are) and would be an amazing asset to our community. Our Capitola Community voted for measure L in 2018, to use the tracks for a **TRAIL ONLY**, use the trestle for cyclist and pedestrians. Please reject this solution from the RTC and listen to the people of Capitola.

Thanks,

Malia Horn

Gautho, Julia

From: Mark Murphy <mmsurf1@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:42 PM
To: City Council
Subject: PLEASE!!!!!! REJECT RTC PROPOSAL TO DIVERT COASTAL TRAIL AROUND CAPITOLA!!!

Capitola City Council,

The Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) has proposed to divert the Coastal Trail around Capitola because both the ULTIMATE Trail Option and train cannot co-exist along the corridor, legal challenges by adjacent private-property owners will delay trail for years, California Coastal Commission restrictions may prevent construction of the elevated walls that block beach access and the results of the RTC Rail study show that a new passenger train will never be viable along the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor.

The Capitola City Council should reject the RTC's plan to reroute the trail onto surface streets, which would result in the Coastal Trail never existing within Capitola City limits. We ask the Capitola City Council to reject the RTC plan and recommend to the RTC that they move forward with the INTERIM Trail Option, which has been proposed as an alternative in the Environmental Impact Report for the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail.

The INTERIM Trail Option will build the trail on the existing railbed, can be constructed at a fraction of the cost, is more environmentally friendly as it avoids clear-cutting trees, allows for future transit options on the corridor, does not require eminent domain of private property, does not redirect the trail onto surface streets, converts the Capitola Trestle into a Trail, can be built without causing traffic disruptions and RTC has enough funding to complete the INTERIM Trail Option Segments 9-12.

Note that the INTERIM Trail Option was proposed by former RTC Executive Director Guy Preston as part of his recommendation to railbank the Santa Cruz Branch Line, which would preserve the railline as a publicly owned transportation asset. In addition, the Federal Railbanking process is a standard approach used by communities across the county to allow for reuse of abandoned railroad systems.

RTC Agenda Packet Recommended Plan: <https://sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/01/2022-02-03-RTC-agenda-packet.pdf>

News Article: <https://californialocal.com/localnews/santa-cruz/ca/article/show/3023-regional-transportation-commission-rail-banking/>

Also, current RTC Executive Director Sarah Christensen recommended the Capitola Trestle be converted into a trail in September 2021:

§ Reference:

o RTC Agenda Packet: <https://sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/2021-09-02-RTC-agenda-packet.pdf>

Please do not let the RTC stop the construction of the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail through Capitola and vote no to their proposed request to divert the Coastal Trail around Capitola City limits.

Respectfully,

Mark Murphy

426 Rosedale Ct

Capitola CA 95010

Sent from my iPhone

Gautho, Julia

From: Barry Scott <barry_scott@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 3:22 PM
To: alexander.dean.pedersen@gmail.com; Gerry Jensen; Melinda Orbach; City Council
Subject: RTC Presentation to City Council this week

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Council members,

I believe the RTC will make a presentation to you this Thursday about an alternative for the trail to bring it to available space adjacent to Park Avenue. I hope to attend and speak in support of this solution.

I have always been an advocate of this alternative so that the trail is free of the fences and on street level, connecting to side streets yet separated from Park Avenue by a 3-foot wide buffer.

It can be built sooner and at a much lower cost. See attached pics.



The earlier design would have been fenced in and hard to build, and required significant excavation and tall retaining walls below the homes on Escalona. Please support the new easily built alternative adjacent to but no on Park Avenue.



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Barry Scott
Office: 831.612.6574
Mobile: 209.482.5663

Gautho, Julia

From: Tom Kellogg <tmakellogg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:25 PM
To: City Council
Cc: Brian Peoples; greenway@sccgreenway.org
Subject: Trail on Capitola Trestle

Bicycling has been my preferred mode of transportation for 65 years so I have an opinion based on thousands of miles of experience worldwide.

I am a retired Certified Safety Professional and Certified Industrial Hygienist (CSP, CIH) and I know from 30 years of professional experience that reducing risk is a way to reduce cost to all involved. Usually reducing risk means spending more up front but in this case of putting the bike/walking path on the Capitola trestle it would both reduce cost and reduce risk of injury.

- **Public safety must come first.** Building a bike path along Park Avenue instead of across the Capitola trestle is a very dangerous choice. I ride through Capitol Village regularly and would love to be able to ride over the trestle instead.
- **A pedestrian train is an illusion** - it would cost billions \$ and will take may decades to build.
- **Listen to the will of the people:** Measure L was clear; voters mandated the trail stay on the trestle.
- Do not allow the construction of a bike path along Park Avenue. The time building this would cause traffic congestion and increase risk of injury during the time of construction.
- **Support putting the path on the Capitola trestle**

Tom Kellogg

Gautho, Julia

From: ROBERT STEPHENS <awranch@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:26 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Rail Trail in Capitola

Capitola City Council
Capitola City Hall
420 Capitola Ave
Capitola, CA 95010

Subject: Upholding Measure L – Keep the Rail Trail on the Rail Corridor

Dear Mayor Clarke and Capitola City Council Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the RTC's plan to divert the Coastal Rail Trail onto Capitola city streets and to urge you to uphold the will of the voters by ensuring the trail remains on the rail corridor, as affirmed by Measure L.

It seems pretty obvious to me that a train is not coming to Santa Cruz anytime soon. It is time to use common sense and build the rail trail in the corridor. Why would anyone won't to build an inferior trail out of the corridor and then have the rail corridor sit forever.

The Capitola trestle is a classic example of something that can be used now for a trail that will divert bikes and pedestrians out of the village and not cost much to convert to a trail. How much will it cost to replace this trestle for a train? How will this affect Capitola? Where are the funds for this and the other 26 trestles that need to be replaced?

If you are not sure about this, delay your vote until the real price of a train comes out in the next train study net month.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephens

Gautho, Julia

From: Alex Vartan <alex.vartan@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:33 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Trail on Park

I think this is an absolutely braindead move, and the project is increasing costs asymptotically even as the public is getting a worse and worse trail.

Gautho, Julia

From: Jessica Hansen <jvhansen3@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:39 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Coastal Rail Trail Options

Council members,

As a long term resident of Capitola, I am writing to strongly oppose the proposition to add the rail/trail to the current stretch of Park Avenue. The idea of trying to fit a train and bike/hike trail on Park Ave is an unwise and dangerous proposition.

I cannot be at Thursday's Council Meeting, so I write today appealing to your better judgment, wisdom and care for our community that is cherished by not only those of us who live here, but also those who visit for whom Capitola provides healthy outdoor activities and social engagement. Our City is not a thoroughfare.

Sincerely,

Jessica Hansen
Capitola

Gautho, Julia

From: Jim Cavanagh <jim.cavanagh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 1:49 PM
To: City Council
Subject: RailTrail

PLEASE. Take the tracks off the trestle and run the tail over it. A detour through the village is so wrong on so many levels. The detour onto Park Avenue is unfortunate, but necessary with the requirement of retaining the rails. There will NEVER be a need for a train along the coast.

Do what you can to change this insanity!. PLEASE!

Jim Cavanagh
408 Pilgrim Drive

Living the dream...
jim.cavanagh@yahoo.com

Gautho, Julia

From: Alex M <wa2til@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 2:05 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Coastal Rail Trail Options

The greatest hazard to bike commuters and bike tourists is having to interact with car and truck traffic. Please keep the greenway trail separate from the vehicles on Park Avenue and Capitola Village.
Alex Miller, Aptos

Gautho, Julia

From: Capitola Child Care <capchildcare@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 2:06 PM
To: City Council; felipe.hernandez@santacruzcountyca.gov; info@sccrtc.org; kimberly.deserpa@santacruzcountyca.gov; manu.koenig@santacruzcountyca.gov; fkeeley@santacruzca.gov; monica.martinez@santacruzcountyca.gov; eduardo.montesino@watsonville.gov; caldridge@scmetro.org; Fifth.District@santacruzcountyca.gov
Subject: Keep the Trail on the Tracks, and Reduce speed on Monterey ave as well!!

I run an in home child care, and Safety of the children and my children should be the City and our County's number one priority!

Look at the emails sent in 31 in favor of Trail on the tracks and NOT on park ave. Only about 2 that said to detour, shift, or as the City stated in the orange post card "Potential Adjustments"

We need a Class IV protected bike lane, we need the Trail build on the tracks, we need to limit not put more traffic in our village and streets. We deserve Trail on the Coastal side of the tracks and on the Trestle. Yes the city doesnt own the trestle or the tracks, the RTC does, and the RTC can give the green light to build a Trail on the Trestle.

Since we have City council members on the RTC, they should be advocating for that. Can we get an Audit of those records, can we get a debrief of what our representatives have been doing in those meetings?

Also concern is roundtable in front of nob hill, how will we be able to cross durning peak times? Will you install a flashing cross walk to stop traffic? There is a lot of traffic 730-9 am and 3pm - 6pm with that constant flow it will be impossible to cross especially for those mobility impaired.

The four lanes and stop signs worked well. The collision data that is reference most is over 5 years old, some as old as 10-12 years! That is not accurate data.

Lets hire more police to give out more tickets, or put in those automatic speed cameras. Lets put class IV bike lanes on Monterey ave to give kids Safe school route

I believe this council is trying to circumvent measure L, and use this traffic diet to move forward their agenda and not the people! Violation of Measure L. Again look at the people in Capitola and close by in Aptos and Soquel. 31 to 2 in favor of the Trail on the tracks not on Park Ave. that is over 90%

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*Thank you,
Teresa Maguire
Owner / Director
Capitola Child Care
831-247-8925*



Gautho, Julia

From: Ted Burke <TedBurke@shadowbrook-capitola.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 2:20 PM
To: City Council
Subject: FW: Upholding Measure L – Keep the Rail Trail on the Rail Corridor

Dear Mayor Clarke and Capitola City Council Members,

I regret that a scheduled family reunion event keeps me from attending Thursday's City Council meeting and personally voicing my strong objection to diverting the RTC trail through Capitola away from the existing rail line and onto city streets, including Park Ave.

I hope that the Capitola Council members need not be reminded that they work for and represent the interests of the Capitola Community and are expected to stand up to over-reaching **directives** by outside agencies when they occur. Capitola voters elected you in great part because they believed that you would protect and promote the very best, the safest, and the wisest transportation network through our city. It is time once more that you honor that faith and provide safe, effective, and commonsense transportation **solutions** for all Capitola citizens, young and old, walkers and bicyclists, able and challenged, no matter the desires or pressure of other governmental agencies and bodies.

Sincerely,

Ted

Ted Burke
Shadowbrook Restaurant, Co-Owner
P.O. Box 65, Capitola, CA 95010
831-475-1222 (Office)
408-663-5322 (Direct)
831-332-0010 (Mobile)
tedburke@shadowbrook-capitola.com



www.shadowbrook-capitola.com

Gautho, Julia

From: Mark Ban <markban@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 2:51 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Coastal Rail Trail Options

We were promised a rail trail not a bicycle lane. Hold the RTC to a trail. Get priorities straightened out. A trail north of Santa Cruz is great but how about using the money to build where the people are. For safety and convenience keep Park Avenue for cars and a trail for bicycles and pedestrians.

Mark Ban

I am a 45 year resident of Capitola and a bicycle enthusiast.

Sent from my iPhone