

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Tanya Pouls <tanyapouls@sbcglobal.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:14 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Capitola City Council Meeting members.

I am a resident of Capitola who does a lot of walking. I am grateful that both of the options you are considering for the trail between Capitola Village and New Brighton State Beach protect the monarch butterfly habitat, provide users with ocean views, and provide easy access between the neighborhoods and the trail. I'm also excited that both options will be fully funded and are ready to build.

I would like to see the trail built sooner than later so please choose either option A or B.

Thank you for considering my opinion on this issue.

Sincerely,

Tanya Pouls  
2235 Albert Lane  
Capitola, CA

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Harrison, Alexis@Wildlife <Alexis.Harrison@Wildlife.ca.gov>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:28 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Robert Tidmore; Mozumder, Kailash; gblakeslee@sccrtc.org  
**Subject:** Support for Option B - Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 & 11

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Capitola City Council,

My name is Alexis Harrison, and I am an Environmental Scientist for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) conducting environmental review and permitting in Santa Cruz County. CDFW owns and manages the Escalona Gulch monarch butterfly habitat, which is adjacent to the proposed Coastal Rail Trail Segments 10 and 11 project. As the land managing agency, our goal is to preserve and enhance the functionality of the monarch habitat.

The County of Santa Cruz, RTC, and City of Capitola staff have been coordinating the alignment of the Coastal Rail Trail in this area with myself and other CDFW staff in order to reduce potential impacts to monarch habitat. I am writing to you to express my support for the Park Avenue alignment, and specifically for Option B, which eliminates the inland bike lane along Park Ave and therefore reduces the removal of windbreak eucalyptus trees along Park Avenue that are essential for the overwintering monarch population.

Thank you,  
Alexis

**Alexis Harrison** (she/her)  
Environmental Scientist  
Bay Delta Region – R3 | California Department of Fish & Wildlife  
[alexis.harrison@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:alexis.harrison@wildlife.ca.gov)



**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Lola Ross <lolabones@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:34 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I am so happy to see the Rail Trail moving forward. The new plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are great. I visit New Brighton regularly, and I'm excited for a safe walking path in the neighborhood that protects Monarch habitat, that is realistic, and that can be built with the existing funding. I can't wait to get on the trail!

Please support Option A or Option B when it is time to vote!

Sincerely,  
Lola Ross  
126 Auburn Ave  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Martha Macambridge <mmacambridge@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:34 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I am so happy to see the Rail Trail moving forward.

I want a trail sooner than later (or never) so please choose option A or B.

**We have the grant money to build this.**

I cycle from Santa Cruz to Aptos on a regular basis. I have experienced MANY close calls with vehicular traffic, far to many close calls. I urge you to proceed without delay with this section of the Rail and Trail.

Reminder, close to 80% of voters want the Rail and Trail. Please follow the wishes of the voters.

Thank you,  
-Martha

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Joan Speckert <jspeckert@hotmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:36 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Alternative A/ B options

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear Council Members,

Please follow the professional advice of The Santa Cruz RTC.

Either alternative option is superior as the trail is free of the fence and level with Park Avenue. Offering pedestrians, cyclists and wheelchairs ocean views.

Alternative A or B are safer and the trail can be constructed quicker and more cost effective.

Thank you Joan Speckert

Sent from my iPhone

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** David Schonbrunn <David@Schonbrunn.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:40 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

Dear City Council and Mayor,

The Train Riders Association of California is pleased to see the Rail Trail moving forward. We are concerned by efforts by opponents of rail, who were voted down by an overwhelming majority of county voters, to raise issues, concerns and opposition to the new options.

Please proceed to work with those options. Do not be deterred by the opponents. Even if they get loud, they are still a tiny minority.

--David

David Schonbrunn, Vice President  
Train Riders Association of California (TRAC)  
P.O. Box 151439  
San Rafael, CA 94915-1439

415-370-7250 cell & office  
[President@calrailnews.org](mailto:President@calrailnews.org)  
[www.calrailnews.org](http://www.calrailnews.org)

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** grace Voss <1452grace@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:42 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** rail trail letter

Subject: Item # Park Ave Traffic calming and multi-use path – support Option B

Dear Mayor and City Council members:

I ride this area frequently, and I support Option B provided that the trail is separated from traffic and protected, a Class 1 bike path. It makes sense to divert the trail from the rail right of way in this area (0.7 miles) to achieve a more cost effective, that will preserve trees and will be more scenic. There is no point having a trail on the inland side (Option A).

The trail only people are misleading everyone, you cannot take the funds awarded for one project (Coastal Rail Trail) & use them for another (trail only). For trail only, the approved coastal trail project under construction would halt, awarded grants returned (black mark on county), and attempt to get a legal right to rail ROW. It would be ten plus years before any trail would be constructed. There are funds for multi-modal transportation, few funds for a recreational trail only. The fastest way to get a trail is to build the trail, keep the rail. Preserve the rail for public transit for the future of our county.

Sincerely,

Grace Voss

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Valerie Mishkin <vmishkin@baileyproperties.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:44 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I **appreciate** the Rail Trail moving forward **sooner than later**. The plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are ideal. I'm glad that the staff has developed options for the trail that protect Monarch habitat, that are realistic, and can be built with the existing funding. **Either option A or B is a welcome solution.** The future of how we live in urban communities is shifting toward a more traditional lifestyle of walking neighborhoods and using mass transportation. As a senior with less walking in my future, the public transportation option will become more important as well. For my children and their families the trail is a fundamental piece to my grandchildren gaining independence.



**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Board Chair Friends of the Rail Trail <executive@railandtrail.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:55 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** [PDF] Comment Letter on Item 9c  
**Attachments:** FORT Park Avenue Alignment Letter 02122025 Final.pdf

Please accept our comment letter on Item 9c

Matt Farrell  
Friends of the Rail and Trail



February 12, 2025

**To:** Mayor Clarke and Capitola City Councilmembers

**From:** Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail & Trail

**Re:** Support for Staff's Recommendation on Item 9c. Park Avenue Traffic Calming and Coastal Rail Trail Options

Mayor Clarke and Councilmembers,

Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail Trail (FORT) thanks you for the opportunity to offer comments on the proposed Traffic Calming and Coastal Rail Trail Options. Along with the support expressed by the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) Bicycle Advisory Committee (BAC), which includes representatives from all cities and the five supervisorial districts, we believe that staff's recommendation of the Park Avenue alignment balances the city's goals of calming traffic on Park Avenue and supporting both local access to and active use of the rail corridor.

While our board has not taken a position regarding Option A or Option B, we do support a protected trail design which includes a fence, barricades, vegetation or other protection between the trail and the roadway. This protection was also supported by the BAC.

We agree with the project team's analysis that either of the Park Avenue alignments provides significant cost savings over the proposed coastal alignment and has less environmental impact on the existing monarch habitat. We also believe that the Park Avenue alignment is more feasible than pursuing a trail alternative which would remove the existing rail line, require railbanking, face significant resistance and delay, and which was decisively rejected by voters in the city of Capitola and countywide with a countywide 73% voter majority rejection of the June 2022 Measure D election.

We want to thank city staff, county staff and RTC staff for the time and effort they have spent in public and stakeholder outreach. The proposed Park Avenue alignment, and its options, is a considered response to the city's interest in meeting traffic calming and active transportation goals.

Sincerely,

*Matt Farrell*

Matt Farrell, Board Chair  
Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail Trail



**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Iwalani Faulkner <equitytransitsantacruz@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 4:59 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** [PDF] Attached: Public Comments of Capitola City Council Agenda for Feb 13, 2025  
**Attachments:** 2025-02-12\_Capitola City Safe Streets Trail Alignmentdocx.pdf

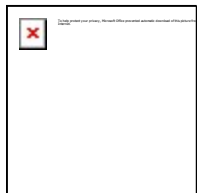
Dear City Council Members,

Please find attached comment from Equity Transit in regards to the Capitola City Council Agenda for Feb 13, 2025 in support of proposed staff recommendations for Bay Avenue and Park Avenue safe streets and rail-trail alignments.

--

Best regards,

Lani Faulkner, Director  
Equity Transit - Tránsito de Equidad  
[www.EquityTransit.org](http://www.EquityTransit.org)  
831-278-1007





1840 41<sup>st</sup> Ave, Ste 102, #227  
Capitola, CA 95010  
831-278-1007

Capitola City Council Members  
420 Capitola Ave  
Capitola, CA 95010  
February 12, 2025

RE: Proposed Safe Street alignments along Bay Avenue and Park Avenue

Dear Honorable Capitola Council Members:

Thank you for your work on behalf of our Capitola community members and businesses.

As a past youth mountain biking coach, we've spent over 7 years taking groups of kids out onto our City Streets several times a week. We ride on the city streets regularly and can attest to the fact that our roads are designed for the SPEED of cars, not for the SAFETY of everyone. Our business address is less than 2 miles from Capitola Village and we frequently bicycle the route along East Cliff down into Capitola Village and along Park Avenue to make our way to Seacliff Beach in Aptos. We are grateful to the Capitola Staff for proposing infrastructure on our roads that will slow traffic and provide protected bike and pedestrian lanes. Both are necessary.

**Santa Cruz County has some of the deadliest surface streets in the State of California!** There are 3 main ways in which we can address our traffic violence issue; education, enforcement, and **infrastructure**. We know that physical infrastructure is often the most effective at calming dangerously fast speeding traffic and we also know that a high percentage of speeding oversized vehicles also contribute to a higher rate of death and serious injuries in a crash, especially to our pedestrians and cyclists.

Every 2-3 days someone is killed or seriously injured in a crash on our streets! This problem has worsened over the past 5 years. The rate of traffic violence has increased 30% during Covid years after a stunning 65% increase in traffic violence in the 10 years leading up to 2019! **Speed kills!** Typical surface road infrastructure in the United States and in Santa Cruz County allows for cars to travel at speeds far beyond what is posted or safe, and **our most vulnerable**, our children biking to school, our elderly crossing the streets, and people with disabilities, wheelchair users and people who are blind, **are at greatest risk**. Our pedestrians and people riding bikes face a serious threat every time they cross the street or bike along the road. This has resulted in our community being a place where people who might want to walk and bike do not do so because they **do not feel safe**. The more we can make our roads safer for **ALL** community members, the more people will feel safe getting out and biking and walking for leisure, to work and school in our community.

Regarding Items 9a and 9b, Equity Transit approves of the research done on these high-risk intersections and we look forward to the implementation of traffic calming as well as raised pedestrian cross walks and additional staff recommendations proposed in this report. Well-designed traffic circles are a gold standard for creating safe intersections and therefore whenever possible, we recommend their use.

Regarding Item 9c, Equity Transit approves of the staff recommendation for Park Avenue **Alternative 3** with median features in the roadway and either staff recommended **Options A or B** which moves the fully separated coastal rail-trail from the cliffs on the ocean side of the railroad tracks onto Park Avenue, providing a fully separated two-way 12-foot bike and pedestrian access with a 3-foot raised buffer. **Alternative 3** includes more physical and visual incentives for drivers to slow down along Park Avenue. Simply using lateral shifts in roads, as



1840 41<sup>st</sup> Ave, Ste 102, #227  
Capitola, CA 95010  
831-278-1007

shown in Alternative 2, results in speeding being more likely and thus more dangerous for pedestrians and cyclists. **Alternative 1** would not provide physical structures which would enhance traffic calming and would rely on driver behavior which could lead to dangerous speeding and passing.

Equity Transit approves of the two newly proposed alignments along Park Avenue for the Rail-Trail, both Choice A or B, as either option will offer a number of benefits; **1**-The newly proposed alignments, either A or B, will result in a 12-foot wide trail, fully separated from traffic by a 3-foot wide physical buffer via a curb as a barrier, **2**-the newly proposed alignments, both A and B, would allow for a faster more affordable implementation of the Rail-Trail making possible for people to have a safe mode of travel along this route months to years sooner than the prior oceanside rail-trail option, **3**- the newly proposed alignments would move the Rail-Trail away from the cliffside which dramatically reduces the costs needed to shore up the cliffside and reduces the risk of losing the Rail-Trail to erosion over time thus reducing costs over time while still providing a superior quality pedestrian and bike trail, and **4**- the newly proposed alignments, both A and B, would reduce destruction of monarch habitat and also offer improved access to neighborhoods. Both options A and B offer a safe high quality fully separated trail with vista views along the route.

Thank you for your consideration. On behalf of local community members who have guided numerous youth groups throughout our county streets and advocate for safe equitable alternatives to driving, we are excited about the proposed staff recommendations.

Sincerely,

Lani Faulkner, Director

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Matt Miller <millerneary@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:01 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Park Avenue Rail Trail Alignments

Dear Capitola City Council,

I am writing in support of the Park Avenue Traffic Calming Improvements with Coastal Rail Trail Options. Option A or B both offered a grade separated, high quality, multi use path with improved/added road crossings to neighborhood streets. Elevating the trail also affords you views of the ocean which are impeded in the rail bed. The car travel lanes will also be narrowed which has a traffic calming effect.

While at the whole project level I support the trail alongside the rail in the corridor, in this particular instance I support the value engineering that was done to work with the grant funding allocation and getting this into construction as soon as possible.

Thank you,

Matt Miller

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Taylor Seamount <taylorseamount@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:20 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor,

Thank you so much for the new plans for increased safety and elevated buffer between Park Ave and the railroad tracks. I have wanted to bike to my job in Santa Cruz from Aptos but the current options for navigation are just too dangerous for me. I'm anxious for the rail/trail to be done so that this dream can finally be realized. Also as someone who has watched the monarch populations decrease throughout my life I'm so stoked that you've developed options that will protect their habitat. **Please choose option A or B.** Please don't delay.

Thank you for your excellent work,

Taylor



## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Linda Felicio <zenergy@bellsouth.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:33 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Rail trail New Brighton

Hello City Council members, I am a resident living in Capitola for the last 8 years. I do walk to New Brighton Beach through that corridor of beautiful trees and birds! The way the trees have formed a canopy as the docents at Henry Cowell refer to the redwoods it is a “spiritual cathedral” of peace, and form of sanctuary for a few miles.

There are so few places to experience with beauty and the oneness with nature and this trail is one of them. Please keep it in it’s place! You know the e-bikes will ruin that peacefulness and there is a ruggedness about that trail they makes you think you are out in the wilderness.

I agree with Jack Brown who has written to you and pointed out all the reasons why the trail should not be built or disturb the natural beauty that is along the tracks. People can actually meditate along that part of the trial it has a remarkable energy!

Thank you for your consideration and please make the right decision.

With gratitude for all of your hard work,

Linda Felicio RN, MSW

Situ Linda Felicio RN MSW  
Certified Tai chi Master Practitioner  
[zenergy@bellsouth.net](mailto:zenergy@bellsouth.net)  
Tai chi Spirit  
831-239-0000

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** beth braun <bethbraun22@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 5:54 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Rail on Park Ave

What are you crazy! This has to stop immediately!

No rail just trail. \$\$\$\$\$\$ why over budget & getting higher by the day. Just ridiculous stop the madness!!!!

Sent from my iPhone

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Eva <evacyclessf@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 6:15 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Coastal Rail Trail Options

Hello Council,

I am a resident of Capitola and home owner , voter , and an avid cyclist. Please do not move the rail trail to Park Ave, keep it on the railroad trestle. Cycling on the trestle is safer for cyclists than Park Ave.

I hope this rail trail is completed in my life time.

Mary Sherman  
Capitola, CA

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Andrew Hurchalla <ahurchalla45@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 7:40 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I am so happy to see the Rail Trail moving forward. The new plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are great. I'm glad that the staff has developed options for the trail that protect Monarch habitat, that are realistic, and can be built with the existing funding. I can't wait to get on the trail!

Legitimately. It is something that will transform this County for the better. Doing this will help alleviate congestion on Hwy 1, likely reducing the demand to continue widening it (which will assuredly cause far worse environmental impact than continuing with the Rail Trail). It's a no brainer with the majority of the

Thank you,

-Andrew Hurchalla

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Savarna Wiley <savarna.wiley@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:44 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** please no rail

Dear council members

When I first heard of the rail trail idea, I thought it would be wonderful, but as I learned more about the traffic back ups the need for parking along any rail routes and the destruction of trees and encroaching upon peoples property , etc., etc. . It seems like a very bad idea. Also, I have been making a point of looking at how many people are riding the buses throughout the county. They're mostly empty. If our bus system -public transportation was full to the brim and we really had a need for more I could see more reason to create another mode of public transportation, but as it is, I don't think it'd be very practical. On the other hand, a trail where the bikes and walkers could enjoy ,the route seems like a real boon for the county

I've lived here since 1975 and would love to see the trail plan to come into effect.

Thank you

Savarna Wiley

Savarna Wiley MA CCHT

[HealingJourneysHypnotherapy.com](http://HealingJourneysHypnotherapy.com)

6233 Soquel Dr. Suite B

Aptos CA 95003

831.345.3849



"Then it is only kindness that makes sense anymore...."

Naomi Shihab Nye

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Maureen O'Connell <mloc@earthlink.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 8:47 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor, I am thrilled you are having a meeting with the community about the Rail-Trail. I am so happy to see the Rail Trail moving forward. The new plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are great. I'm glad that the staff has developed options for the trail that protect Monarch habitat, that are realistic, and can be built with the existing funding. There is a lot of very intentional misinformation being spread right now by those with a greed-driven Greenway agenda, so a public meeting is really necessary.

I can't wait to get on the trail! And at some point in time, I hope, I really look forward to boarding a resurrected Santa Cruz County train!

Maureen O'Connell  
Davenport, CA 95017



Email from M.L.O'C.  
Sent from my iPhone

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** nitroxbaby@gmail.com  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 9:20 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I am an avid bicycle rider so I'm thrilled to see the Rail Trail moving forward. The new plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are great. I'm glad that the staff has developed options for the trail that protect Monarch habitat, that are realistic, and can be built with the existing funding. I can't wait to get on the trail! Please do everything you can to keep this project moving forward. Thank you!

Sincerely,

Colleen Young

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Concerned Citizens Of Capitola <concernedcitizensofcapitola@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 9:29 PM  
**To:** Gautho, Julia; City Council  
**Cc:** Welch, Troy (TJ) (noworries4TJ@mac.com)  
**Subject:** 2.13.2025 Council Meeting Item 9C-Park Ave

Mayor, City Council Members,

The Park Ave. calming issue before you is simple. Don't let the City Attorney, City Manager or City staff report complicate it for you with misinformation about the Coastal Rail Trail, what a detour is, or if it is a trail at all. Oddly enough, It's called the TRAIL REALIGNMENT in the staff report. This is about supporting a "RTC Project" OR Capitola City Law.

1. There is no Measure D, it did not pass. There is only a project known as the RTC Coastal Rail/trail. Which the County stated would reside on RTC property.
2. To say voters on Measure D, trumped Measure L is completely false. It's apples and oranges. Measure D, which failed, was a ballot measure about a project. While Measure L, which passed, was codified into Capitola law and you took an oath to uphold.
3. But, for those of you who want to compare votes, Measure D lost in Capitola by 2,044 votes. Compare that to Measure L, which won with 2,526 votes. Measure L still wins.
4. Simply put, Capitola residents chose the safety for our children and others, by telling you to keep the Rail Trail on the RTC corridor.
5. But there is good news! Both Measure L, now Municipal code 8.72 and the Coastal Rail Trail can live harmoniously.
6. The Answer is to vote against the Park Ave trail realignment and have the RTC keep the Coastal Trail on RTC corridor. Just like they said they were going to do when this project started.
7. Don't forget that our Community Development Director recommended to support the Ultimate Trail on behalf of our City. That is, keeping the trail next to the tracks on the RTC corridor.
8. Now we are asking you to do your part!
9. Park Ave already has sidewalks and a bike path.



10. Your vote tonight is not about the County's problems with the Coastal Rail Trail. It is about upholding the laws of Capitola.

You received many comments on this topic,. Many based on a FORT Alert that do not live in Capitola. Put aside their politics!

Support the Capitola residents you serve! Do not approve Option A or B. Vote NO on all options and the Park Ave Rail Trail realignment.

Respectfully,

TJ Welch  
Capitola Resident

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Richard Spencer <rspencercapitola@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:12 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Trail Diversion

My wife and I have lived on Coronado overlooking New Brighton for twenty-three years. We watch people by the hundreds, at all hours, daily, walk across the tracks to the beach. People will be very much put off by the development of a train that would inevitably block this passage to the beach. The loss in tourism could be a great. We have been waiting a long time for the trail to be built, while assuming the train idea is simply to get government funding. My wife and I ride bikes regularly. We have never really believed that a train corridor by Park is a viable option. Frankly, there are so many trees that will need to be dealt with and Capitola has not demonstrated any interest in keeping Park Ave. trees trimmed safe and tidy. The street is strewn with 20 foot long panels of eucalyptus bark both on the ground and hanging from the limbs of the trees. Branches fall regularly. Honestly even if a trail can be built we have little confidence in it being properly maintained. If it is built we will be loving it and using it regularly.

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** DJ Timpany <timpanydj@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025 11:20 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Rail trail

To members of Capitola City Council,

Thank you for proposing wide, safe trail options for our community. Since I and many members of the community want a trail sooner, not later and we have the grant money now, please choose option A or B.

Thank you,  
Joan Timpany  
Santa Cruz County resident

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** H Bryce <helen.s.bryce@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:13 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Item 9C

Dear City Council Members and the RTC,

Regarding the RTC proposal to "shift" the trail onto Capitola streets. This is a really bad idea for so many reasons, not the least of which is safety.

If it's not obvious to you, it's certainly clear to the rest of us that the RAIL/TRAIL project is a mess. It simply cannot happen as originally envisioned. There is never going to be enough money to finish the project. You know that money that you told us would be coming, just isn't going to arrive. In the meantime, the cost of things keeps going up (and what do we now hear about steel and aluminum?)

Stop thinking that we're stuck with the Rail / Trail! Even if by some miracle it was finished, there would not be the ridership to support it. In the meantime, you're talking about cutting down hundreds of trees, building a huge ugly retaining wall, displacing people from their homes, destroying the beauty of our precious neighborhoods, and ruining people's views -- all for an expensive pipedream.

I pray that our city council will say NO to ALL this nonsense. Forget the Rail! Put the trail where the tracks are (as Monterey County has done). Build a world class scenic trail and will be enjoyed by people of all walks of life.

Say no to the retaining wall, say no to removing trees.

Say YES to the trail. Build the trail now!

Thank you!!

Helen Bryce

--

(If anyone needs to reach me quickly, please call instead of relying on an email response. Thank you for your patience.)

831-428-8530

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Mary Ripma <maryaustinripma@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 6:16 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I am so happy to see the Rail Trail moving forward. The new plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are great. I'm glad that the staff has developed options for the trail that protect Monarch habitat, that are realistic, and can be built with the existing funding. I can't wait to get on the trail!

I am discouraged by the pushback the Rail Trail is receiving after our community has voted for it. Please remember that the majority of us want it and ignore the continuing pushback from a minority.

Sincerely

Mary Ripma  
131 Santa Cruz Street  
Santa Cruz CA 95060  
831-334-2223

Sent from my iPhone12 Mini

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** publisher@rim-of-the-world.com  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 7:05 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Fwd: Rail Corridor

>  
>  
> City Council,  
>  
> I'm surprised that the council would consider diverting the rail trail through the Capitola Village and along Park Avenue. In effect, the city would be obstructing active transportation in the Mid County area. A segmented trail would be a detriment to pedestrians, bicyclists and e-bike commuters and cause significant safety concerns within the city. Would you like your children to be confronted with more congestion in the village and along a dangerous Park Ave? The solution is to pressure the RTC to rail bank the corridor and build an affordable, wide trail down the center of the corridor, utilizing the Capitola Trestle. This would insure a trail that could be constructed soon and still allow for a future train if voted on by the residents. Rail banking has been in effect in hundreds of communities across the country with outstanding results. We should be able to enact it in our community. Don't let the train lobby dictate a flawed scenario for Capitola.

>  
> Sincerely,  
> Jennifer Harris-Anderson  
> 831-566-3367

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Jeff Comcast <jmw1025@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:45 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor, as a 60 year property owner in Aptos (plus 130 years in San Jose) I and my family are so happy to see the Rail Trail moving forward.

The new plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are great. I'm glad that the staff has developed options for the trail that protect Monarch habitat, that are realistic, and can be built with the existing funding. I can't wait to get on the trail!

We voted for it, let's move it forward (with light rail) and NOT make the same mistakes San Jose has with its lack of rail infrastructure.

Highway 1 is a MESS!

Thank you, Jeff Whalen, Aptos and Los Gatos.

Sent from my iPad

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** chris amsden <amsdenfinance@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 8:47 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Rail Trail on Park Ave?

Dear City Council Members,

When discussing and (hopefully) debating the detour of the "rail trail" onto Park Ave., please ask yourselves: *Who are the true stakeholders?*

While outside voices may have opinions on this project, it is the **residents of Capitola** who will live with the consequences every single day. Outside organizations, consultants, or developers will not have to navigate increased traffic, safety concerns, or changes in neighborhood livability—**we will**.

Council members should weigh public opinion accordingly:

- Primary Stakeholders: Capitola residents, homeowners, and local businesses affected by the trail detour.
- Secondary Stakeholders: Regional visitors and organizations who may use the trail but do not live here.

If outside voices outweigh local concerns, then the council is failing in its duty to **serve those who elected you**. We - the residents of Capitola - will be the ones that will have to live with these decisions, and will be the ones that vote in the next City Council election. We urge you to please say NO to detouring the "rail trail" onto our city streets.

**Sincerely,**

**Chris Amsden**  
**Phone: (408) 386-7484**



## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Dunn Silvey <dunns50@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:28 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Coastal Rail Trail Options

Morning Capitola City Council

We are writing to all of you regarding

changing the already voted on issue of the trail to be on the trestle. This is the will of the voters keep the trail on the trestle. Enough already.

There are numerous other reasons the trail to be on the trestle safety more congestion on already impacted streets etc etc. Please keep the trail where it should be and not put more of a burden on the neighborhood.

Thank You

Dunn and Renate Silvey

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Dave Montgomery <bykerscott@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:54 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Coastal Rail Trail Options

Good Morning,

Please scrap the crazy idea of a train! It seems every neighborhood is trying to eliminate the trail portion on the existing track location. There are hundreds of examples of rail to trail conversions that are far less costly and have almost immediate benefits for the communities they serve. There are only a few new train systems attempted that have been hugely expensive and not widely used. Common sense tells us a train from "downtown" Pajaro to "downtown" Davenport will not ever be viable. One track, not enough space, slow speed and road crossings are just a few of the problems. The "Train to Nowhere" will never happen. Too expensive, too much fighting from NIMBA's, and no demand. Throw the train under the bus!

Most Sincerely,  
David J Montgomery DDS

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** James Quist <jmquist850@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 9:56 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Coastal Rail Trail Options

City Council Members -

As voting residents of Capitola residing on Park Avenue, we are adamantly opposed to bringing the rail trail off of the rail corridor and on to Park Avenue. The citizens of Capitola clearly articulated their desires concerning the location of the rail trail with the passage of Measure L. Do not ignore the will of the people. Keep the rail trail off of Park Avenue and on the rail corridor trestle as your constituency has demanded. To do otherwise is dangerous and wrong.

Thank you,

James and Cynthia Quist  
850 Park Avenue - Unit 14B  
Capitola, CA 95010

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** crescent.f.s. <crescentsmith@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:48 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Rail trail

Please keep the rail trail on the rail corridor as proposed!

Thank you,  
Crescent Smith

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Diana Chase <ddchase@cruzio.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 10:56 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Coastal Rail Trail Options

Please keep the trail off of Park Avenue! I expected the trail alongside the tracks in that area to be one of the few stretches without street crossings.

Seems that your current plan for the trail through Capitola is no improvement at all.

Respectfully,  
Diana Chase  
Member of Santa Cruz County Cycling Club

Sent from my iPhone

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Suzanne B Cochran <smb.cochran@me.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 11:50 AM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Suzanne Cochran  
**Subject:** Do Not Support Proposed Trail Plans for Capitola

Dear Capitola Council Members,

I am a Capitola homeowner and full time resident of Capitola. Please do NOT use Park Avenue or Capitol Village for the trail. It is a very unsafe alternative when there is existing trail in place. It is completely unsafe to have 800-1500 people gong through the village or Park Avenue on any given day with cars on busy streets..

Recommendation - Use the existing trail corridor and place trail over rail, including the trestle.

Regards,

Suzanne Cochran  
4530 Garnet Street

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Dean Cutter <deandelanycutter@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 12:45 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Cc:** Lauren Jo Cutter  
**Subject:** Keep trail on the trestle

Dear Council,

We need to keep the trail on the rail right-of-way including the Trestle. It is the safest, most sensible, and most economical option.

Measure D promoters promised us a trail on the rail right-of-way and a train. However, RTC studies now tell us 48% of the rail corridor cannot include a trail. And, Capitola gets virtually no trail at all! Capitolans are getting taxed for a trail we were promised but we will never receive.

One part of the current proposal is to route the trail from 41st Ave into dense neighborhoods down the length of Nova Drive. Parking on Nova and nearby streets is already a challenge. Nova will become a parking nightmare as much of the parking must be eliminated to accommodate a trail for cyclists and pedestrians in both directions. At the end of Nova, the trail will somehow discharge its users onto the high speed junction of Portola by Jade Street Park, cross two busy intersections, then side along the edge of Cliff Drive alongside car commuters into the town.

I have walked to work on Cliff Drive 5 days a week for 10 years. I have observed collisions of cars, bicycles, motorcycles, skateboards and many near misses. It is a wonder only 1 pedestrian has been killed on this section. There is simply not enough room for cars, pedestrians, bicycles, and ebikes coming downhill to pass uphill users. I have seen families walking downhill step aside for uphill users into the road and bike lane without looking behind and nearly get killed by an overtaking car or ebike. Adding more users by diverting the rail trail onto this section will be deadly.

Lastly, Measure L was passed by voters to use and protect our Iconic Trestle. You might hear opponents say Measure L somehow doesn't count; that the community of Capitola should have no say in what happens the this Iconic structure in the heart of their town because it is technically owned by the RTC, not Capitola. In response I say Capitola matters. We voted to keep our beloved Iconic Trestle and to provide it for the larger community to use. It makes economic sense. It keeps us safe. And it is practical.

The taxpayers of Capitola deserve a trail just like the rest of the county. Keep the trail on the rail right-of-way and on the Trestle.

Sincerely,

Dean Cutter  
4165 Nova Dr  
Capitola, CA 95062  
831 346-6416





**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** PitchIn Santa Cruz <pitchinisc@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:00 PM  
**To:** City Clerk  
**Subject:** Requesting the Clerk send the attached letter to all Capitola City Council Members  
**Attachments:** 21325 cityclerk.docx

Dear City Clerk.

I respectfully request that you send the attached letter to all members of the Capitola City Council.

With Gratitude,

Sally-Christine Rodgers  
Trash Talkers Organizer

**Eliminate Litter and Illegal Dumping**



[pitchinsantacruz.org](http://pitchinsantacruz.org)

[cityclerk@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:cityclerk@ci.capitola.ca.us) Request that this letter be sent to all City Council members.

We would like to give you some background on the County-wide Pitch In Initiative on litter and illegal dumping. The increase in litter and illegal dumping in our region led to the creation of a coalition of agencies called the *Trash Talkers*. This coalition includes elected officials, the county, the cities, the Community Foundation, the Farm Bureau, the Land Trust, Santa Cruz METRO, the Department of Fish and Wildlife, CALTRANS, State Parks, law enforcement, nonprofits, rotaries chambers and others. We meet once a month and have for three years.

The Trash Talkers coalition created the Pitch In Initiative. Our Mission:

*Eliminate litter, abandoned encampments, dumping on roadways, waterways, and agricultural land.*

*Educate and engage community, nonprofits, schools, and local governments*

*To improve the health well-being economic value and beauty of our region.*

Our strategies include:

- Posting Pitch In signage in our City and County Parks, at trailheads, beaches, libraries, the harbor, on farmland and other locations to create a unifying, consistent message across all sectors to raise awareness and help change the behavior of littering. The QR code links to the county-hosted [pitchinsantacruz.org](http://pitchinsantacruz.org) website.
- In partnership with the County, we have deployed cameras to seek prosecution for illegal dumping.
- We work with nonprofits environmental education programs in schools to create a “Litter Literacy” curriculum, tying into the Pitch In Message which then provides continuity when youth see the signs in parks and other locations.
- We are working with chambers, rotaries, and business associations to support this effort by engaging their staff and educating their customers.

Last year the Board of Supervisors unanimously passed our resolution for an all-county cleanup day. Each city has passed similar resolutions so that the entire county could have a uniform message and engage community participation.

We are working now to engage as many residents and visitors as possible to participate in the second annual ***Pitch In All-Santa Cruz County Cleanup Day on May 10th***. We would appreciate your support in helping us amplify this message to your constituents. More information will be posted on the [pitchinsantacruz.org](http://pitchinsantacruz.org) website as we get closer to the date.

Respectfully,

Sally-Christine Rodgers  
Trash Talkers Organizer



**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Ringler <sring@cruzio.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:28 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor,

I am so happy to see the Rail Trail moving forward. The new plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are great. I'm glad that the staff has developed options for the trail that protect Monarch habitat, that are realistic, and can be built with the existing funding. I can't wait to get on the trail!

Please support RTC project Option A. Even though I live in Watsonville, the Rail & Trail means a lot to those of us who commute to Santa Cruz from Watsonville and back. Even getting a few of us off on Hwy. 1 would help with congestion. Please don't be the obstacle here.

Sarah Ringler  
814 Cynthia Dr. Watsonville, CA 95076

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** MARK WEGRICH <wegrich@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:42 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** bike trail

Your attention please,

Please support the Interim Trail at this Thursdays Council Meeting. The ultimate Trail is a County financial boondoggle. Reviewing the financial status of light rail systems across the country makes it clear Santa Cruz County is heading into a financial black hole to the financial benefit of consultants on the backs of taxpayers. It won't work and will destroy what should be a world class bike and pedestrian trail. Business in the Village will surge with the influx of visitors to experience the trail. Safety would be much improved over the current situation while the Ultimate Trail would worsen public safety. Every crossing poses a risk to pedestrians and cyclists. Does Capitola want to assume the risk of massive lawsuits that will inevitably follow?

Sincerely,

Mark Wegrich

524 Pine St.(Seacliff)

Aptos

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Bud Colligan <bud@colligans.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:46 PM  
**To:** Gautho, Julia  
**Cc:** gerry4capitola@gmail.com; melindaorbachforcitycouncil@gmail.com;  
margauxforcapitola@gmail.com  
**Subject:** voluminous input on Park Ave decision

Dear Capitola City Council members,

As you consider written input submitted from Capitola residents and listen to input this evening, please consider the source of the input you are receiving. The overwhelming written input from Capitola residents is to reject the staff proposal and RTC plan regarding a Park Ave bike path. It appears the same is true regarding routing the trail through Capitola Village. Many of the letters from actual Capitola residents are unique, heartfelt and carefully considered.

Most of the written input in support of the Park Ave bike lane comes from residents who do NOT live in Capitola and appear to have submitted a form letter from Friends of the Rail and Trail. We have discovered the same pattern of meddling from primarily District 3 residents in several electoral campaigns in Districts 1 & 2. It's imperative that Capitola makes its own decisions, free from organized meddling from District 3. You represent the residents of Capitola, not the city of Santa Cruz.

Sincerely,

Bud Colligan  
1840 41st Avenue  
Capitola, CA 95010

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Ann Bolger Peruzzi <ann@thetuscansun.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 1:51 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** New Brighton tree tunnel

I am writing to REJECT RTC's proposal for demolishing the new Brighton tree tunnel for the "rail/trail".  
Thanks  
Ann Peruzzi

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Kieran Horn <kieranehorn@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 2:09 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Coastal Trail: City Council Meeting Thur, Feb 14

Hi City Council Members,

As a Capitola resident, I am writing to oppose the latest proposed rerouting of the rail trail on to Park Avenue. I am unable to attend tonight's meeting, so I am providing my input in writing.

As someone that lives in Cliffwood Heights, I am concerned this new plan goes against the Measure L decision and the safety of pedestrians and cyclist. Additionally, the trail should avoid Capitola village, which is too congested and a very dangerous place to bicycle.

The idea of a train seems to be an illusion that keeps dragging on. If it was realistic, progress would have been made by now. Please support progress towards a safe bicycle trail and not a dream of a one-route train that will not carry passengers to their final destinations.

Best regards,  
Kieran Horn



## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Christi Dalke <cdalke23@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 2:14 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Support Rail!

Please do not listen to the big tech and real estate money.  
I live on 47th Ave, I would hear the train and I WANT TO HAVE A TRAIN!

All these emails you are getting that say the exact same thing are just copy/paste. ("It would be my dream...." like who really talks like that???)

I have lived here 14 years and it would be wonderful to reduce the tourist car traffic and have a rail option come through our village. Use the existing trusses in the village.

This email, including attached files, may contain confidential information and is intended only for the use of the individual and/or entity to which it is addressed. If you are not the intended recipient, disclosure, copying, use, or distribution of the information included in this email is prohibited

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Cary Seiden <carybenseiden@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 2:19 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** I support the staff recommendations for the Rail Trail

Dear City Council and Mayor, I am so happy to see the Rail Trail moving forward. The new plans for an elevated buffered and protected trail between Park Avenue and the railroad tracks are great. I'm glad that the staff has developed options for the trail that protect Monarch habitat, that are realistic, and can be built with the existing funding. I can't wait to get on the trail! Please make an informed decision aided by a close reading of Trail Option A and/or B...reiterating, EITHER OPTION IS FUNDED!

Great Thanks.

Cary Seiden

A resident of Santa Cruz County for 51 years and an avid cyclist.

Sent from my iPad

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Hernan Valencia <valencia.design@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 2:19 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Rail trail support

Dear City of Capitola council,

Thank you for proposing wide, safe trail options for our community. I want a trail sooner not later so please choose option A or B.

Thank you,

Hernán Valencia  
4255 Jade St, Capitola, CA 95010

## Gautho, Julia

---

**From:** Katharine Parker <katharinep3@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:27 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Proposed Trail Diversion

I would like to add my voice to the public comments regarding a proposed change to the trail along Park Avenue. I know that corridor well (walking, driving and bicycling) and the numerous comments regarding fast traffic are right on. Also, the comments from the Coastal Trails Conservancy representative are also right on. The rail trail is the last off road “nature trail” in Capitola (there is the Riverview Trail but it’s more suburban and short). Many city & county residents and tourists use this trail not just for convenience but because it’s calming and pretty. Walking along Park may be convenient but it’s definitely not calming.

In the City’s Draft Plan “ collaborative engagement”, responsible growth, and public safety are all listed as core mission and values. I believe that if these values are a part of the City mission, the City and City Council will respond to the public outcry for safety and environmental responsibility and leave the trail as it is.

Respectfully,

Katharine Parker

**Gautho, Julia**

---

**From:** Debby Molina <dmlolina\_2000@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 13, 2025 3:54 PM  
**To:** City Council  
**Subject:** Diverted trail????

Dear Capitola City Council-

If only someone had measured and determined that the railbed wasn't wide enough to accommodate a train and a trail. Why didn't someone mention the extra cost associated with trying to shore up eroding coastline so we could keep obsolete train tracks? Gee- I wish someone had thought about all the many trees that will need to be cut to keep this boondoggle train dream going forward. Perhaps the citizens of Capitola should vote on whether they want to use the trestle as a trail. And of course, sure would have been smart to realize that without the above, bike traffic would need to be diverted alongside busy roads and down through bustling Capitola.

If you're thinking- hey wait- all of those issues were stated again and again- and AGAIN! We have known that there isn't enough space or money to have both tracks and trail. The trestle vote was passed and the trestle bridge should be used to make sure people are safe and away from cars. And- The interim trail money is there. None of this is new information!

We want a continuous trail, across the trestle. No diversions onto streets that will surely lead to accidents and injuries. We want a funded, safe, gorgeous trail that our community can use for transportation and recreation. It just makes sense!

Thank you!  
Deb Molina

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)