

Gautho, Julia

From: Marie Martorella <marie.martorella@sprinklr.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 13, 2025 2:16 PM
To: City Council
Subject: Meeting on March 13, 2025
Attachments: Marie Martorella Letter 031325.docx

Please add my letter to your agenda packet for the meeting being held tonight. Thank you
Marie Martorella

Dear City Council

I, like so many others you've likely heard from in recent weeks, am strongly opposed to diverting any individuals through the City thus continuing to allow Measure L to be ignored.

It is my understanding that given this was voted on and codified, the Council cannot unilaterally decide to 'ignore' it. It feels very much ignored currently, and this has definitely touched a nerve in our small town.

The meeting the RTC held at New Brighton was not an actual public meeting; they were unable to answer hard questions regarding fixing the Trestle; in fact, they indicated that no one has asked them to do so since Measure L was passed. I find that hard to believe – I would hope that the necessary steps towards getting that trestle inspected, updated and safe for pedestrian use would be well underway at this point. If not, then who needs to request this? No one at the meeting could respond intelligently to this question.

As someone who lives near and views the Trestle on a daily basis since 1990, I can tell you that it is in dire need of upkeep and repair (something the RTC folks were NOT receptive to hearing at their get together). Kicking the can between the City and the RTC as to who is responsible for this is not productive. We need the Trestle to be safe for pedestrian passage; we voted for the trail to go over the Trestle SAFELY and we are years into this Measure being passed with zero movement towards making it a reality

We cannot support a rail in this county; it's a nice thought but we do not have any infrastructure to support this. Our town would not be akin to a CalTrain or a BART for usage; this would be a small-town quasi-commuter train, but we are not set up to house loading/unloading stations nor do we have a robust transit system to take those using it, to where they need once the disembark.

However, we have a strong need and desire to use the current rail corridor for pedestrian travel. Our roads are getting busier (and will continue to do so with the influx of High Density Housing we are also looking to add) and we need safer passage for those not in a vehicle. Folks using the streets now on foot, bike/ebike/other methods like scooter/skateboard etc., are a hazard to those on the road in vehicles and to themselves as they navigate poorly designed roadways, more cars than ever and distractions from all sides. It's hazardous for both the driver and the pedestrians.

Making the trail a reality sooner than later will alleviate a host of other issues but mainly keeping those not in vehicles, safe. It will also alleviate a lot of behind-the-wheel stress and anger for those trying to watch out for non-vehicle travelers.

Further, I would strongly encourage you to punt any decision making this evening, until the RTC provides their report due out now in August regarding any 'improvements' being requested of the City. The trail is one that should be happening regardless because we have a codified measure which was implemented but not yet being recognized; Park Avenue is another huge issue which has been brought to this Council to consider; This is absolutely not something the Council should be considering at all at this time, but certainly not until all the facts are available. If the City were to implement the trail as voted on, Park Avenue would remain off the table for the RTC to try and strong arm the City into considering their half-baked 'idea'.

Finally, having been at or watched the last few meetings, I would strongly encourage this Council to step back and remember that the citizens of this town voted you into a position to help make decisions for Capitola that have long-term benefits. One aspect of being in your position is to listen to feedback and suggestions from the citizens, regardless of any outside pressures that are being shared, and to do what is best for the community. When members of Council come to a meeting with already written responses which are read during their decision-making statements, your citizens are not uninformed, and they are not dumb. A pre-written statement indicates you have made up your mind before setting foot into that Chamber and gives the impression that you are clearly not interested in what your citizens have to say. This is not the way of public service.