Dear Commissioners and Staff,

Hiring a new Executive Director for the RTC is an opportunity to shape the future course of transportation in our county. This is the first of several critical and impactful decisions your commission will make over the next few months. As the old saying goes “it all starts at the top.”

Please consider these essential attributes as you interview finalists for the RTC Executive Director position this Thursday:

1. First and foremost, an open mind. The polarizing nature of the rail corridor conversation is due mainly to the current director's blind pursuit and promotion of one solution.

2. We ask you to look for someone who can build consensus and help our community to move forward in an effective way.

3. Our new director needs to be agile and forward-thinking. Transportation solutions are evolving rapidly.

4. She or he will need to work within budget constraints and come up with cost-effective yet impactful solutions. Traffic is bad and costs are rising.

Since he or she will be steering the conversation as we move forward, we also hope that the new director will have a significant opportunity to weigh in on the Unified Corridor Investment Study (UCIS) decision-making process. As you prepare to assess the draft findings of the UCIS, please ensure that your commission, the public, and the new director are given adequate time to fully understand how choices made now will affect our community for many generations to come.

As Jarrett Walker pointed out, "transportation equals freedom and opportunity. We ask you to move slowly and conscientiously to ensure we build more equitable transportation options for our county and fulfill Measure D’s promise to "Get Santa Cruz County Moving".

Sincerely,

Santa Cruz County Greenway Board of Directors
and
Gail McNulty
Executive Director
Santa Cruz County Greenway

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