

## COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

ITEM 2

**From:** Brian Peoples [mailto:brian@trailnow.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 28, 2019 4:34 AM  
**To:** info@sccrtc.org  
**Subject:** Public displeasure with traffic and no trail

RTC,

Please include the following in the public comments for upcoming RTC meeting.

We want to highlight the increased public displeasure with traffic congestion, unsafe roads for cyclist and the continued delay in using the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor for alternatives to traffic. Below are two recent letters to the Sentinel concerning leaving the corridor closed for decades. Scott Roseman is the founder of New Leaf stores who agreed years ago to allow the use of their Westside parking lot to accommodate the trail with rail plan.

The public is becoming more and more frustrated that the corridor has remained closed for going on a decade and will remain closed for decades more because of the high cost of building a trail adjacent to the tracks. Segment 7 is a great example of how the cost will never allow the trail to be built. The cost of both Segments 7a and 7b far exceed the original estimates by RTC - primarily due to the fact that the trail is being built next to the tracks.

Meanwhile, the tracks are becoming overgrown with trees and bushes because there is no maintenance being performed to keep the property in good condition. Since the entire branchline (Watsonville to Davenport) needs to be upgraded to Class I Freight requirements, it is very unlikely that Progressive Rail will ever be required to maintain the tracks. Add to the requirement to upgrade the trestles to accommodate 60 trains a day travelling 45 MPH, the corridor will remain closed for decades and Santa Cruz taxpayers will continue to be burdened with cost of maintaining the corridor.

Another factor that shows the current plan of passenger rail is not likely to ever exist, the County, Progressive Rail and Waste Management are looking at freight rail services as a solution to Buena Vista Landfill. This will surely end any plans for passenger rail from Watsonville and the RTC should be more open about these current discussions.

Our community is in a transportation crisis with the increased traffic conditions and unsafe roads to bicyclist. The current expensive plan has proven not to be affordable to our community and will result in the trail never being built. We ask RTC to shift-gears and find a solution TODAY to use the corridor.

Best regards,

Brian Peoples

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**ITEM 8**

From: RBA [mailto:rba-dac@sbcglobal.net]  
Sent: Friday, August 30, 2019 1:56 PM  
To: info@sccrtc.org  
Subject: Hwy 1 SC to Aptos

Hi

As a regular Commuter on HWY 1, I find the counties blindness to this commute route Negligent thinking.

Failure to add third traffic lane will result in complete and total gridlock for 8 or more hours per day before you even begin the useless upgrades sited on Website.

This corridor s obviously the worst source of vehicle pollution you have. The corridor is effecting county visitors comfortably with their trips.

Thanks  
Bruce

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Executive Director  
TrailNow.org

Scott Roseman of Santa Cruz...

Street Smarts? We're going to spend taxpayer money to educate people to drive slower? What a waste. If we're concerned about safety for bicyclists in this so-called "progressive" community, where the bike mortality and injury rate is among the highest in the nation, let's make the infrastructure safe for bikes. Stop allowing cars to park in bike lanes. Widen bike lanes. Create protected lanes, not by painting lanes green, but by putting in some form of barrier (curb, plastic barrier, bumps in the road, buffer) giving the cyclist some form of protection. Abandon the idea that sometime in the future (somewhere over the rainbow) we're going to have a train solving our commuter problems. This pie-in-the-sky plan is not going to happen. Instead, cover or remove the tracks on the corridor providing bicyclists with a truly safe path to transport within the county. That would truly be smart!

<https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2019/08/27/letter-lets-make-streets-smart-and-safe-for-cyclists/?fbclid=IwAR2f1uzUFRWLPVowFdxfoAOCEJuvJ6WOTCE5xgOtZUJ3u2fU36bTh1gic>

Frank Rimicci of Corralitos

Just how lame is it that we have a rail right-of-way deteriorating while people cycle the roadways, risking their lives? The new signage recently installed for cyclists is just an unsightly waste at best. It almost seems as though the county doesn't want us on that route at all. We have a newly refurbished bridge at La Selva for what? Trees are starting to grow into the rail corridor and it is becoming impassable. It's hard to comprehend that such a resource exists and that it is being neglected. Can't that line be improved for walking/cycling temporarily until funding allows permanent improvements? With the bikes available today, it wouldn't take a whole lot to have a rideable link from north to south. What a shame.

[https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2019/08/23/letter-we-have-a-great-resource-right-in-front-of-us/?fbclid=IwAR34Ue24hyJicJWV\\_bZVDHZ5I-v-SMdvRJxgbuVij0R281QzgCJUjHA4ii4](https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2019/08/23/letter-we-have-a-great-resource-right-in-front-of-us/?fbclid=IwAR34Ue24hyJicJWV_bZVDHZ5I-v-SMdvRJxgbuVij0R281QzgCJUjHA4ii4)

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**Comments from the public**

**Item 16a**

From: Jim Cochran [mailto:jimcochran50@gmail.com]  
Sent: Sunday, September 1, 2019 10:14 AM  
To: info@sccrtc.org  
Subject: Safe crossing in davenport

I strongly support the expedited effort to create a safe pedestrian crossing in Davenport.

Jim Cochran  
Swanton Berry Farm

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**From:** Alison Edwards [mailto:alison.edwards02@gmail.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 5:48 PM  
**To:** info@sccrtc.org  
**Subject:** Letter of support of safe crossing in Davenport

To: Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
From: Alison Edwards, Resident at 101 San Vicente Road, Davenport CA  
To whom it may concern at RTC,

I am writing to express my complete and strongly felt support for a safe crossing on HW 1 in Davenport. As the Bay Area grows in both residents and tourists, HW 1 continues to become more and more used, busy, packed and dangerous. Please do everything possible to get HW 1 traffic to slow down and make it easier to get across HW 1 safely. I also STRONGLY suggest that the speed limit be reduced (further) to 35 mph as traffic moves through Davenport AND that the county post a traffic cop in Davenport to hand out speeding tickets on a very regular basis. If the county did this, almost all cars could be ticketed for speeding and the county could make quite a bit of income - and it would really help all of us who live here and are SO impacted by all the traffic moving up and down HW 1. I know that putting a stop light in there would be next to impossible - but what about speed bumps to get traffic to slow down as they come into town? If we had some sort of speed bumps or rumble strips on either side of town to slow incoming traffic that would also be really really helpful. Please consider this as well.

Thank you very much.  
Alison Edwards

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**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**ITEM 20**

**From:** Brian Peoples [mailto:brian@trailnow.org]

**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2019 8:04 AM

**To:** Rachel Moriconi <rmoriconi@sccrtc.org>; info@sccrtc.org

**Subject:** Include TrailNow.org "Train Trail" pilot as part of funding request

Hi Rachel,

For agenda item #20 (Programming Process for Regional Transportation Funds) for RTC meeting for Sept 5, 2019, we request opportunity to include our proposed "Train Trail" pilot. We can provide details of proposed "Train Trail", but the specific request related to Item #20 would be for a proposed pilot to have "Train Trail" from Aptos Creek Road to State Park Drive. Attached is single slide providing overview of opportunity and value proposition to the community.

Please let us know the specific actions and requirements to include our proposal for the funding opportunity.

Best regards,  
Brian Peoples  
Executive Director  
TrailNow.org



### “Train Trail” Proposal

- ❑ Custom Built Platforms on Tracks as Trail
- ❑ Key Sections: North Coast to Manresa
  - North Coast (Farmland)
  - Antonelli Pond Trestle
  - Boardwalk Trestle / Murray Bridge underpass
  - Seabright Ave (Harbor Bridge) / 7<sup>th</sup> Ave
  - Capitola Trestle
  - State Park Drive / Aptos North Trestle
  - Aptos South Trestle / Rio Del Mar underpass
  - La Selva Trestle
  - Manresa Beach

### Value Proposition

- ❑ Tracks remain in-place and usable
- ❑ Railroad Compliance (CPUC, STB, FRA, CTC)
- ❑ Support long-term transit plans
- ❑ Support long-term trail plans
- ❑ Use Coastal Corridor TODAY for trail
- ❑ Reduced tree & brush cutting
- ❑ Reduce local traffic congestion
- ❑ Generate “trail-use” data
- ❑ Permanent solution for North Coast trail

**COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC**

**ITEM 22**

**From:** Catherine Marino [mailto:predicat1536@gmail.com]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 3, 2019 6:14 PM

**To:** info@scrtc.org

**Subject:** Rail Service Demonstration yes!

Hi, Dear RTC commissioners,

I hear that you are considering allowing a light rail train/car/tram maybe to bring a train or tram here for a demonstration. I think that this is an excellent idea! Please let's do this, and sooner rather than later!

Thank you,  
Cathy Marino

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