

Comments received:

From: Jeff Singer <jeffsingerphoto@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, November 30, 2019 9:34 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Train & Trail...

Train advocates want 60 trains a day travelling 45 mph through our neighborhoods even though all studies show a train would actually increase traffic congestion through our neighborhoods and speeding-trains will be extremely dangerous to our community. Due to the dangers associated with fast moving trains, federal guidelines require at least 25 feet separation between a trail and fast-moving passenger train. This is just one more reason a passenger train and trail is not physically possible along the central section of the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor where it is only 27 feet wide.

When you read that you should think to yourself "wow, only someone with a corrupt vested interest in having a train would support this."

Do what's right and don't be corrupt. Trail only is the clear option.

Jeff

From: Jack Brown <jack.b.brown@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 11:44 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>; Zach Friend <Zach.Friend@santacruzcounty.us>
Subject: Urging a NO vote on item 25 for demonstration track improvements

Dear Supervisor Friend and the RTC Board,

I am urging a NO vote on the item 25 agenda item to make track improvements and issuance of a license for a hydrogen trolley demonstration. This is nothing but a publicity stunt and grandstanding by rail enthusiasts at taxpayers expense. If the rail proponents who have no approval, no budget nor project plan want to play with a trolley, I would strongly recommend that they travel to a location that is currently using this technology, which is currently nowhere, we should not be a guinea pig for unproven technology especially with no local fuel source. This demonstration is being touted as a win by rail proponents while not providing any solution to Santa Cruz' massive transportation crisis. Let's stop with the demonstrations, the studies, the grandstanding and start working on already approved transportation solutions. Your NO vote will be greatly appreciated by your constituents.

Respectfully,

Jack Brown

Aptos, CA

From: Benny Drescher <bennydre@gmail.com>

Sent: Sunday, December 01, 2019 5:08 PM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@scrtc.org>

Subject: Please immediately approve and provide a license to TIG/m to operate on the rail corridor

Dear Commissioners,

Please immediately accept and approve the staff recommendation to commence track improvements and provide a license to operate the TIG/m, California manufacturers of the hydrogen fuel cell battery electric streetcar.

Item #25 on the December 5 RTC Agenda:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to:

1. Enter into a prevailing wage no bid contract with Industrial Railways Company (IRC) to upgrade the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line track between Capitola and Santa Cruz to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class I standards for a contract value not to exceed \$60,000 and a term ending on December 31, 2020; and
2. Enter into a temporary license agreement with TIG/m for demonstration of its passenger rail trolley vehicle between Capitola and Santa Cruz and in Watsonville. Both documents identified immediately above in substantially the same form as attached to this staff report but subject to approval by RTC's General Counsel.

<https://scrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-11-02%20RTC%20agenda-packet-final.pdf#page=239>

Please fix up the rail corridor line so that different companies can come to Santa Cruz County and test new clean technologies because it is a great way to use our Measure D funds.

Sincerely,

Benjamin Drescher

95062

From: Trician Comings <triciansc@mindspring.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 5:01 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Item # 25 on 12/5/19 agenda

Dear Commissioners,

I am so excited to learn that we are going to have a demonstration of a passenger rail trolley vehicle on our rail line. Many of us are looking forward to rail service of some kind – the sooner the better!

Please accept and approve the staff recommendation to begin track improvements and provide a license to operate the TIG/m, California manufacturers of the hydrogen fuel cell battery electric streetcar.

I hope you will use our Measure D funds to fix up the rail corridor line so that different companies can come to Santa Cruz County and test, demonstrate and showcase new, clean technologies for rail service.

Sincerely,

Trician Comings

Longtime Santa Cruz resident and bike rider

From: Eliece Horton <elieceh@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 1:31 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Please approve the staff recommendation

Dear Commissioners,

Someday I would love to take my bike on the train. Please support approval of the staff recommendation to commence track improvements and provide a license to operate to TIG/m, California manufacturers of the hydrogen fuel cell battery electric streetcar.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director to:

1. Enter into a prevailing wage no bid contract with Industrial Railways Company (IRC) to upgrade the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line track between Capitola and Santa Cruz to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class I standards for a contract value not to exceed \$60,000 and a term ending on December 31, 2020; and 2. Enter into a temporary license agreement with TIG/m for demonstration of its passenger rail trolley vehicle between Capitola and Santa Cruz and in Watsonville. Both documents identified immediately above in substantially the same form as attached to this staff report but subject to approval by RTC's General Counsel.

R E C Y C L E: Ride your Bike again Today!
Eliece Horton

From: Bruce Sawhill <brucesawhill@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, November 29, 2019 1:03 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Cc: Sawhill Bruce <brucesawhill@gmail.com>
Subject: potential rail vehicle demo

Dear RTC Commissioners:

I am writing you to urge approval of items related to the proposed streetcar demo by TIG/m on the rail line.

1. Resolution authorizing a contract for rail track repairs and a temporary license to operate 2. Draft prevailing wage no bid contract with Industrial Railways Company 3. Draft temporary license agreement with TIG/m

I understand the track work required to bring the demo segment of track up to Class 1 standards is projected to cost about \$60k. This is certainly easily affordable with the 8% proportion of Measure D funds allocated to the rail line specifically and is a completely appropriate use of said monies. Track work also prepares the track for other possible vehicle demonstrations which we would like to see in the near future. Rail tech is changing rapidly and we would like to see what's available and appropriate for our County's needs.

Thank you for your attention,

Bruce Sawhill, PhD

From: Paul Drescher <pauldad22@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2019 11:07 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Approve the license for fuel cell battery powered electric streetcar!

Dear Comissioners,

Please accept and approve the staff recommendation to commence track improvements and provide a license to operate the TIG/m, California manufacturers of the hydrogen fuel cell battery electric streetcar. This low cost improvement and approval of license will make it possible to test and run a clean and quiet public transit option on the high traffic Santa Cruz-Capitola corridor and make valuable use of existing rail infrastructure.

Item #25 on the December 5 RTC Agenda:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to:

1. Enter into a prevailing wage no bid contract with Industrial Railways Company (IRC) to upgrade the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line track between Capitola and Santa Cruz to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class I standards for a contract value not to exceed \$60,000 and a term ending on December 31, 2020; and
2. Enter into a temporary license agreement with TIG/m for demonstration of its passenger rail trolley vehicle between Capitola and Santa Cruz and in Watsonville. Both documents identified immediately above in substantially the same form as attached to this staff report but subject to approval by RTC's General Counsel.

<https://sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-11-02%20RTC%20agenda-packet-final.pdf#page=239>

Thank you in advance for authorizing the fix up of the rail corridor line so that different companies can come to Santa Cruz County and test new clean technologies. It is a great way to use our Measure D funds for environmentally friendly public transit and community benefit!

Sincerely,

Paul Drescher

Resident, City of Santa Cruz

Mobile (831) 239

-

5208

From: Tina Andreatta <tina.marieotr@gmail.com>

Sent: Thursday, November 28, 2019 1:01 AM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Please immediately approve and provide a license to TIG/m to operate on the rail corridor

Dear Commissioners,

Please immediately accept and approve the staff recommendation to commence track improvements and provide a license to operate the TIG/m, California manufacturers of the hydrogen fuel cell battery electric streetcar.

Item #25 on the December 5 RTC Agenda:

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the resolution authorizing the Executive Director to:

1. Enter into a prevailing wage no bid contract with Industrial Railways Company (IRC) to upgrade the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line track between Capitola and Santa Cruz to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class I standards for a contract value not to exceed \$60,000 and a term ending on December 31, 2020; and
2. Enter into a temporary license agreement with TIG/m for demonstration of its passenger rail trolley vehicle between Capitola and Santa Cruz and in Watsonville. Both documents identified immediately above in substantially the same form as attached to this staff report but subject to approval by RTC's General Counsel.

<https://sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/2017-11-02%20RTC%20agenda-packet-final.pdf#page=239>

Please fix up the rail corridor line so that different companies can come to Santa Cruz County and test new clean technologies because it is a great way to use our Measure D funds.

Sincerely,

Tina Andreatta

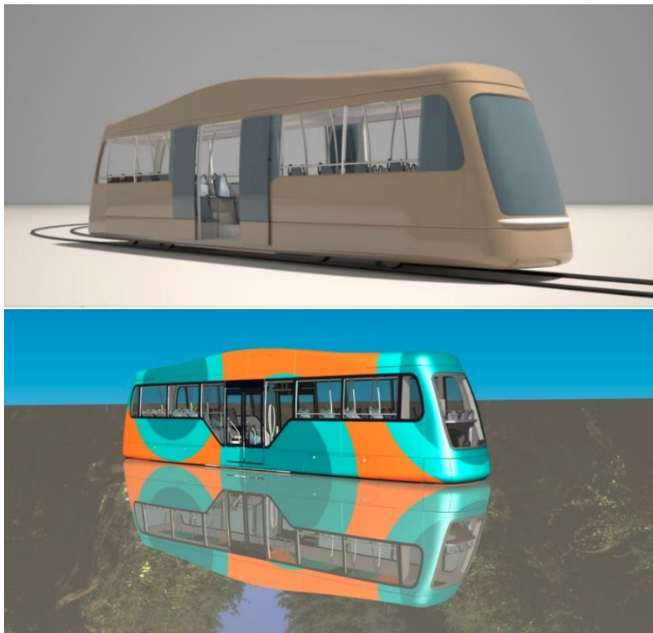
Santa Cruz County Resident

Sent from my iPad

From: Mike Pisano <mpisanoful@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, November 27, 2019 11:35 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Item #25 on the December 5 RTC Agenda:

Hello SCCRTC Commissioners,

I urge the commissioners to approve the staff recommendation to commence track improvements and provide a license to operate the TIG/m, California manufacturers of the hydrogen fuel cell battery-electric streetcar shown in the images below.



Item #25 on the December 5 RTC Agenda:

RECOMMENDATIONS

Staff recommends that the Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) approve the attached resolution (Attachment 1) authorizing the Executive Director to:

1. Enter into a prevailing wage no-bid contract with Industrial Railways Company (IRC) to upgrade the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line track between

Capitola and Santa Cruz to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) Class I standards for a contract value not to exceed \$60,000 and a term ending on December 31, 2020; and

2. Enter into a temporary license agreement with TIG/m for demonstration of its passenger rail trolley vehicle between Capitola and Santa Cruz and in Watsonville. Both documents identified immediately above in substantially the same form as attached to this staff report but subject to approval by RTC's General Counsel.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Michael Pisano - Live Oak

From: Barry Scott <barry@coastalrail.org>

Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 4:45 PM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Support for Item 25, track improvements and license to TIG/m to operate a demonstration service.

Dear RTC Staff and Commissioners,

Consistent with Measure D expenditure plans and the agreement with Progressive Rail, I am delighted to see Item 25, a recommendation to authorize a no-bid contract to improve a few miles of the rail line between the Santa Cruz wharf and Capitola and a limited term license to TIG/m to operate demonstration passenger rail service on our branch rail line.

We haven't seen a demonstration of this type since 1996 when three different one-day demonstrations were provided. This time we'll see modern battery electric technology as the propulsion type, a real sustainable way to move passengers in safety and comfort. This streetcar accommodates wheelchairs and bikes and can operate for 20 hours without charging, it does not require overhead wires.

Please vote Aye on Item 25, and please embrace this opportunity to inform the public and to attract other similar demonstrations of modern clean rail transit.

Warm regards,

Barry Scott

Coastal Rail Santa Cruz

A not for profit organization

831-612-6574

CoastalRail.org

Facebook.com/CoastalRail

From: Robert Arko <robarko@mac.com>

Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 5:01 PM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Approve Item 25-Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations

Attention RTC Commissioners,

Please vote this Thursday to authorize a contract to repair the rail corridor tracks from Santa Cruz to Capitola to:

- Leverage funds Measure D made available to do the repairs. It's just common sense to maintain our valuable infrastructure assets!
- Allow demonstrations of rail vehicles providing the public a chance to see how passenger rail service could work on the line and expand public perceptions for viable future transportation options within the County of Santa Cruz.
- Use the demonstrations to provide insight to the 2020 alternatives analysis to support a credible comparison of long term costs & benefits for public transit on our corridor

Thank you for your efforts to build a sustainable transportation solution for our county.

From: Matt Farrell <mattfarrell922@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 5:25 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Approve Item 25-Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations”

Please support your staff's recommendation to perform track improvements. There is money available in the current RTC budget and this will allow vehicle manufacturers to demonstrate their vehicles on the route. The trolley manufacturer, TIG/m, has already made such a commitment. These vehicle demonstrations will also directly benefit the RTC's alternatives analysis. Finally, the RTC has an obligation to maintain the rail, which is the right thing to do. Not only because of the contractual obligation but because it offers the best transportation solution for the corridor.

Matt Farrell

922 Windsor St, Santa Cruz, CA 95062

cell: 831 331-7496

email: mattfarrell922@gmail.com

From: Catherine Marino <predicat1536@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 6:05 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Support Item 25, track improvements & license to TIG/m to operate demonstration

Dear RTC Commissioners,

Please vote Aye on the December 5th agenda, item 25, recommendation to authorize a no-bid contract to improve a few miles of the rail line between Santa Cruz Wharf and Capitola and a limited term license to TIG/m to operate demonstration passenger rail service.

Demonstration of Battery Electric Technology that does not require overhead electric wires and is capable of operating for 20 hours without charging will be a real eye opener for our citizens. The TIG/m easily accommodates wheelchairs and bicycles and will be a sustainable way to move passengers safely.

I hope that you will vote Aye on item 25, as it will be a most useful way to inform our citizens.

Sincerely,

Cathy Marino

Santa Cruz, CA

From: Molly Ording <mollyording@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 7:57 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Approve Item 25: Funds for track improvement!

Please approve the expenditure of funds for track improvements which will enable various vendors to try out their vehicles on our tracks! We are 100% supportive of rail and trail and strongly encourage your enabling vendors to utilize what will become an invaluable and integral part of the solution to our transportation and traffic woes!

Thank you for your support and forward thinking.

Mr and Mrs Mickey Ording
218 Monterey Avenue
Capitola, Ca. 95010

From: david van brink <david.van.brink@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 8:20 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Support for Item 25: Track Repair & Demonstration Service

Dear Commissioners,

I am a thirty-plus year resident of Santa Cruz city & county. Please approve the staff-recommended agenda item 25, for repairing certain segments of the Branch Line trackage and permitting TIG/m to run a demonstration electric vehicle for a fixed period of time.

This is a very exciting development which can help inform the Alternatives Analysis process, as well as raising public awareness of the possibilities.

As I understand it, some or all of the expense is within scope for measure D rail maintenance funding.

Warmly -- David Van Brink

david van brink / david.van.brink@gmail.com / 831.332.6077

From: Liz Neely <lizneely00@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 8:49 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: In Support of Item 25, demonstration service

Dear Commissioners,

I'm Elizabeth Neely and I live in Scotts Valley (unincorporated area). Please approve Agenda Item 25 for track upgrades and TIG/m demonstration service. This is exciting, and I look forward to transit in our future.

Thank you, Elizabeth Neely

From: Teri Handzel <terihandzel@comcast.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 8:19 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: I am in favor of the repair.

Sent from my iPad

From: Paula Bradley <pbradley2004@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 8:31 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Railroad tracks repair contract

Please continue to make the necessary repairs to the tracks from Santa Cruz to Capitola so that they may be available for rail demonstration projects. We need to reserve the option of rail for the future.

Thank you, Paula Bradley

From: Grace Voss <gracevoss@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:50 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: approve item #25 for rr track repair

Dear RTC board members...approval of item #25 at your 12/5/19 meeting is critical for many reasons:

1. **seeing is believing**...with necessary rail repair, the RTC may showcase the benefits of various forms of rail travel, including electric trolleys
2. haven't you **already approved** (11/5/19 RTC meeting) the funds needed for "high-priority bridge repairs, and maintenance and preservation activities on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line"?
3. **the future of transportation is rail transit**...\$\$ is available from the 2018 California Rail Plan if projects are finalized by local transit agencies, so it's important to act now to receive this funding!

please approve item #25 so rail travel in all its environmentally–friendly forms will happen!

Grace Voss

From: Keresha Durham <the.earth.needs.small.families@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 10:09 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Repair the tracks

Dear Esteemed RTC decision-makers,

Please approve the contract to repair the tracks!

There are several compelling reasons to support this contract:

CLIMATE CRISIS: If you are as concerned about the climate as some of us are and believe that we are "near the point of no return" (as the head of the United Nations reported yesterday) regarding extreme weather and massive starvation (due to extreme weather's effect on growing food), we need these tracks for future transit projects that support our climate.

RESPONSIBILITY: Isn't it true that the RTC is obligated to repair the tracks?

The Trolley manufacturer has proposed to demonstrate its electric passenger trolley in Santa Cruz County and will bear all of the costs, except the cost of any required track repairs.

DEMONSTRATIONS OF NON_FOSSIL_FUEL BURNING TRANSIT: Once the tracks are repaired, other demonstrations of solar-electric rail vehicles would be possible. These will give the public a chance to see how passenger rail service could work on the line.

The alternatives analysis will benefit from demonstrations of passenger rail but any such demonstration requires that the track meet FRA Class I standards.

MONEY IS THERE: Funds from Measure D are available to do these repairs and the RTC's budget already includes \$800,000 for track infrastructure maintenance and repairs.

--

Kerasha Durham ~ educator, environmentalist

"care-sha"

From: David Pais <pepedavid63@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 10:26 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@scrtc.org>
Subject: Approve Item 25-Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations

Dear Commissioners:

Please approve Item 25-Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations due to the following reasons:

1. Trolley manufacturer, TIG/m, has proposed to demonstrate its electric passenger trolley in Santa Cruz County and will bear all of the costs, except the cost of any required track repairs.
2. Once the tracks are repaired, other demonstrations of rail vehicles would be possible. These will give the public a chance to see how passenger rail service could work on the line.
3. The alternatives analysis will benefit from demonstrations of passenger rail but any such demonstration requires that the track meet FRA Class I standards.
4. Funds from Measure D are available to do the repairs and the RTC's budget already includes \$800,000 for track infrastructure maintenance and repairs.
5. And it's just common sense! The RTC is obligated to repair the tracks anyway!

Thanks, let me know if you have any questions.

David Pais

Santa Cruz Resident

From: Catherine Marino <c.e.marinos@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 11:19 AM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Vote Aye on Item 25, 12-5-2019

Hello RTC!

I urge an "Aye" vote on this Thursday's (12-5-2019) recommendation to make repairs to the Rail Line between Capitola and Santa Cruz Wharf, and grant a temporary permit so that TIG/m can demonstrate it's battery electric tram/streetcar to the RTC and our public.

I support using the Rail Corridor for equitable transit, which should include Trail options for walking and biking (suitable for the fit citizens), and also some sort of mass transit, be it Rail or Bus, for the not so able seniors, youth, and folks who can not ride bikes or walk for miles.

A demonstration of TIG/m's battery electric tram/streetcar should go a long way in helping the RTC determine whether the tram/streetcar can be a viable solution to transit on our rail corridor.

Frankly, if Rail Transit on the corridor is such a bad idea, I believe that the people pushing for no rail would be thrilled to have this demonstration happen so that they can prove how horrible it will be. Personally, after riding light electric rail with my own 80 year old family member in her city, and seeing the ease of boarding and freedom to travel about that it offers to her and students, bicyclists, and people of all ages, I believe that the TIG/m demonstration will give us a much better idea as to how the RTC and our citizens would like to proceed. Knowledge is power.

Thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Catherine Marino

From: Dan Dion <dandion1@me.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 11:58 AM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Approve Item 25-Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations

Dear RTC Staff and Commissioners,

As 20 year residents of Santa Cruz, we support the necessary and required repairs to our rail line. We eagerly await environmentally sustainable demonstration vehicles on our rail corridor to solidify the decision on best transit solution for our communities.

Best regards,

Jill and Dan Dion

From: Haakon Williams <hwillieyams@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 12:25 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Contract to repair tracks from SC to Capitola

Dear RTC Commissioners,

I hope you will vote on Thursday in favor of the contract to repair the train tracks from Santa Cruz to Capitola. These tracks, if operational, would strengthen our community immensely.

Several reasons to repair the tracks:

- RTC is obligated to repair the tracks.
- A working local rail system would open possibilities for lower-carbon emissions transportation, thus bringing our region more in line with the carbon reductions required to avoid extreme climate change.
- There are funds from Measure D, as well as in your budget, for exactly these repairs.

I hope you will vote in favor of the track repair!

Thanks for your time,

Haakon Williams

From: Contact Request Form <admin@sccrtc.org>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 1:56 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: New submission from Contact Form

This Contact Request Form has been submitted by a member of the public to <http://sccrtc.org/contact-us/>.

Name

Janie Soito

Email

soitoj@yahoo.com

Subject

SUPPORT rail line / bridge improvements & Demo project

Your Message

Commissioners,
I have reviewed much of the agenda and wish to express support for a couple of items regarding the Santa Cruz Branch Line:

Consultant Contract Award for Preparation of Construction Documents of Phase 1 Bridge Repairs
These repairs must be completed as soon as possible so that the SCBL can be turned over to Progressive Rail as expediently as possible. The sooner the rail line is turned over to PGR, the sooner the RTC will be relieved of responsibility for repairs. Measure D funds with provisions for maintenance of and repair of the rail line were included in the sales tax measure. The bridges must be repaired before The Santa Cruz Big Trees & Pacific Railway can receive their locomotives that are now stored in Watsonville and clearly visible from Beach Street. I support moving forward with this contract to enable repairing these bridges that are vital to the use of the rail line.

Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations
This is a very exciting agenda item. I am pleased to see that 4 miles of track can be upgraded to FRA Class 1 standards for only \$60,000. Replacement of a few ties, enhancing the ballast in a couple of areas and some other minor repairs shows that this section of the rail line is actually in pretty good shape. Since this is work that must be done prior to relinquishing the SCBL to PGR, this is a great opportunity to show the community what can be done with rail transit. I am a little disappointed that the demonstration does not include travel on Chestnut Street with a couple of stops there. This could really show the utility of having rail transit near the downtown area.

TIG/m is to be commended for their efforts to bring an established and fully tested electric vehicle to Santa Cruz for a demonstration project. Not to belabor the point about testing but TIG/m sends all of their new equipment (as do all transit manufacturers) to the Transportation Technology Center, Inc in Pueblo Colorado for comprehensive testing before deployment to transit providers. They must meet FRA standards before their transit vehicles can be delivered for transportation projects. I favor issuing a temporary operating permit for the duration of the demonstration project. I look forward to riding on the TIG/m vehicle and hope that the local community will engage in riding this equipment too.

Thank you in advance for your support of these important projects,
Janie Soito,
Watsonville native, North Monterey County homeowner

From: Paul Drescher <pauldad22@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 2:01 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Approve Item 25-Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations

Commissioners:

Please vote to approve agenda item #25, authorizing repair of the rail line and the test demonstration of the electric trolley from TIG/m. Funds for the repair are available from Measure D and already included in the RTC's budget.

This community will benefit from having the option of electric rail on the existing tracks. Clean, quiet, environmentally friendly self-propelled electric rail cars can carry people and bicycles (and baby carriages) efficiently along this corridor, reducing congestion on surface streets and providing a forward-thinking transportation alternative. Failing to repair the rail will slam the door on these possibilities.

Please disregard the hysteria that rages in some quarters over rail-trail and employ common sense in voting to approve these repairs. It is the RTC's responsibility to address forward-looking transportation needs of our ENTIRE community, no matter the pleas of a vocal and often misinformed minority.

Yours truly,

Paul Drescher

Resident, City of Santa Cruz

Mobile (831) 239-5208

From: pjlsb@att.net <pjlsb@att.net>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 3:09 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Hydrogen train demo

Dear SCCRTC,

\$60,000.00 expenditure for the purpose of demonstrating a hydrogen train is a stupid waste.

How about spending \$60,000.000 for the purpose of demonstrating a bicycle and pedestrian trail from La Selva Beach to Seacliff Beach on a crushed granite surface? At least then the public could get some benefit from their Measure D taxes.

The SCCRTC demonstrates the very worst in fiscal responsibility of taxpayer funds. Over, and over and over again.

Peter Stanger

19 Escuela Road

La Selva Beach, CA 95076

Subject: Please repair the train tracks

Date: Tue, 3 Dec 2019 11:18:47 -0800

From: Debbie Bulger <dfbulger@cruzio.com>

To: info@sccrtc.org

I am in favor of expending money to repair the train tracks.

Public transit on the rail line will enable those of us who do not wish to drive to get to Watsonville and points south.

The window to address the worst effects of Climate Change is rapidly narrowing. The County must act.

Please move forward on this important issue.

Debbie Bulger

Santa Cruz

From: J Lighthill [<mailto:jjmmlight@comcast.net>]

Sent: Monday, December 02, 2019 9:16 PM

To: Luis Mendez <lmendez@sccrtc.org>

Cc: Guy Preston <gpreston@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Demonstration train

Dear Mr. Mendez,

I sent an inquiry to the general RTC email address last week, but I just read this week's agenda and saw your recommendation to the RTC proposing the demonstration train, so I thought I'd address to you.

After his September presentation to the RTC, TIG/m president Mr. Read, explained to me that costs of demos are usually funded through partnership with the local community. I thought I heard him say \$90-\$120K. Your recommendation states that the only cost to the RTC would be that of repairing/preparing the line. Is TIG/m incurring the full costs of the demonstration? If so, why? Or do you know if there are any other funding sponsors?

Also, do you know how this train would be transported into the county? Due to vertical clearance limits on HWY 1, mobile homes and other over-sized items are diverted through Aptos neighborhoods, onto Rio Del Mar Blvd., Spreckels Dr. and up Seaciff Dr. Would we see a train transported through our (newly paved) neighborhoods as well?

Thank you for your feedback.

Sincerely,

Johanna Lighthill

Awesome! Thank you Nina! 🙏😊

On Tue, Dec 3, 2019 at 2:55 PM Nina Donna <onedona@gmail.com> wrote:

Please repair the tracks in the Santa Cruz, Capitola area. As we own the tracks and have the money from Measure D, it seems a wise thing to **vote yes** on keeping them in good repair.

I know there is a contingency of naysayers for the Rail Transit option and their voices have been heard. I am pro-environment and watchful on matters of social equity. An affordable public transport system for this County, utilizing the rails would create less toxic carbon and lead the way, by example, for other counties. Even your children know the hazards of doing nothing, or making things worse.

Thank you for reading my opinion. I am in district 1.

Nina Donna 🐾🐾

From: Steve McGuirk <cerebralcartography@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:05 PM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Approve Item 25 - Track Improvements for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations

Dear Esteemed RTC decision-makers,

As a long-time, and environmentally concerned, resident of Santa Cruz County, I write to ask you to please approve the contract to repair the tracks.

There are several compelling reasons to support this contract:

CLIMATE CRISIS: If you are as concerned about the climate as some of us are and believe that we are "near the point of no return" (as the head of the United Nations reported yesterday) regarding extreme weather and massive starvation (due to extreme weather's effect on growing food), we need these tracks for future transit projects that support our climate.

RESPONSIBILITY: Isn't it true that the RTC is obligated to repair the tracks?

The Trolley manufacturer has proposed to demonstrate its electric passenger trolley in Santa Cruz County and will bear all of the costs, except the cost of any required track repairs.

DEMONSTRATIONS OF NON-FOSSIL-FUEL BURNING TRANSIT: Once the tracks are repaired, other demonstrations of solar-electric rail vehicles would be possible. These will give the public a chance to see how passenger rail service could work on the line.

The alternatives analysis will benefit from demonstrations of passenger rail but any such demonstration requires that the track meet FRA Class I standards.

MONEY IS THERE: Funds from Measure D are available to do these repairs and the RTC's budget already includes \$800,000 for track infrastructure maintenance and repairs.

For all of these reasons, and for a positive future for my children and grandchildren, please vote for these positive environmental improvements.

Respectfully,

Steve McGuirk, Retired landscape architect and Sierra Club member

From: Kurt Rosenberger <rosenberger.kurt@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:06 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Item 25 on the Agenda

Hello

I am writing to show my support for Item 25 on the agenda of the next meeting - I firmly believe passenger rail is the most equitable, energy efficient, and most accessible use of the rail right of way. I am greatly encouraged that the RTC wants to continue track improvements, and am extremely excited for a demonstration by TIG/m. This will show the general public that not only it can be done, it can be done very soon. Please vote to continue with track improvements so we can get people moving (and off our back roads and neighborhoods!)

Sincerely

Kurt Roensenberger

From: sanetown@gmail.com <sanetown@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 9:04 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Item #25 on 12/5 Agenda

Dear Commissioners

Please immediately accept and approve the staff recommendation to commence track improvements and provide a license to operate the TIG/m, California manufacturers of the hydrogen fuel cell battery electric streetcar. Most of us are eager for this exciting project to move forward.

Thank you for recognizing the value of this project. In the not too distant future all forms of environmentally sensitive mass transit will become ever more important. Decisions made today at the local level will be especially impactful as the decision makers at the federal level are not making the necessary choices to keep us safe and healthy.

Thanks for your attention to this issue,

Best regards,

Mary Miller

Santa Cruz Citizen

From: Margie Way <goldiesbest@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 9:04 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Support Demo train and track improvements

Dear RTC Staff and Commissioners,

Consistent with Measure D expenditure plans and the agreement with Progressive Rail, I am delighted to see Item 25, a recommendation to authorize a no-bid contract to improve a few miles of the rail line between the Santa Cruz wharf and Capitola and a limited term license to TIG/m to operate demonstration passenger rail service on our branch rail line.

I want to see modern battery electric technology as the propulsion type, a real sustainable way to move passengers in safety and comfort.

This streetcar accommodates wheelchairs and bikes and can operate for 20 hours without charging, it does not require overhead wires.

Please vote YES on Item 25, and please embrace this opportunity to inform the public and to attract other similar demonstrations of modern clean rail transit.

Many thanks,

Margie Way
831-234-0292

From: Will Clark <wclark26@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 8:36 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Rail

Dear RTC,

I hope you will consider repairing the tracks from Santa Cruz to Capitola. My family and I would benefit greatly from alternative forms of transit. With rail projects cropping up all over California—Sonoma, San Jose, and San Diego—it would be a shame to see Santa Cruz not follow this efficient and climate considerate trend.

My understanding is that an electric trolley company is willing to demonstrate on our tracks, and I would love to take part in that some day!

Thanks so much for your consideration!

Will Clark, Soquel

From: Toby Gray <lifesong@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 6:44 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Support for Item 25: Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations

Greetings

I'm writing to support funding of Item 25: Track Improvement for Rail Vehicle Demonstrations.

Authorizing funds and a contract for work to improve the tracks between Capitola and the Boardwalk and to provide a license to a California company to operate a two-week demonstration of their electric streetcar.

Let's get our rails online and working for us!

Thank you,

Toby Gray

From: Linda Wilshusen <liveoaklinda@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 6:08 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: RTC 12/5/19 Agenda Items 7 and 25, Rail Line Repairs - SUPPORT

Dear Chair Bottorff, Commissioners and Staff:

This note is to convey strong support for Items 7 and 25 on your December 5, 2019, meeting agenda. Both of these items pertain to initiating rehabilitation and repair work on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line.

Our coast rail line is a public asset of inestimable value to local citizens and businesses as well as visitors to our region. Its value will be best realized when the rail line itself is functional for a variety of rail vehicles and service scenarios. We are fortunate that Measure D provides funds for improving and upgrading the line, and encouraged to see that this work will be starting soon.

Thank you!

- Linda Wilshusen, RTC Executive Director, 1985-2005

From: Cory Ray <coryray@gmail.com>

Sent: Tuesday, December 03, 2019 5:11 PM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Forward to Commissioners - Support for Agenda Item 25, December 5, 2019 Meeting

Please forward to RTC

December 3, 2019

Dear RTC Staff and Commissioners,

Consistent with Measure D expenditure plans and the agreement with Progressive Rail, I am happy to support Item 25. This recommendation to authorize a no-bid contract to improve a few miles of the rail line between the Santa Cruz wharf and Capitola to demonstrate passenger service is timely and an obvious next step.

This opportunity for the public to see and experience modern rail service is so important at this time when the image of rail service is of old large belching trains. Modern trains are a far cry from our options in the future.

Please support Measure D and our transportation future by voting yes on Item 25.

Regards,

Cory Ray

Santa Cruz Resident

Future train rider

From: GARY PLOMP <plomp@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 11:22 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: RE: Rail & Trail

To whom it may concern:

Please include my support for one, the rail and trail projects. And, put me on record that I do support and request that the SCCRTC **vote to repair** the Santa Cruz Branchline North of Watsonville for future use.

Thank you for your attention. Gary V. Plomp

Rail Advocate

From: Nadene Thorne <nadenetd@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 11:47 AM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Tourist Train?!

I was in school here back in the 60's and 70's when my father and other downtown business people promoted the Pacific Avenue Garden Mall to bring tourist dollars downtown and expand the county's income base. That was a long time ago and Santa Cruz no longer needs to expand its tourist industry: it seems clear that the community's capacity for tourist infrastructure support - hotels, parking, restaurants, emergency services, bathrooms, trash pick-up and the like - is maxed out.

And yet, you commissioners seem to be proposing we spend county TRANSPORTATION money to upgrade the rail corridor tracks and promote a tourist train! While we desperately need relief from congestion on Highway 1 as well as on our other major thoroughfares, more bus service, and safer cross-town bicycle routes, you're voting to spend county tax money from Measure D, not for local transportation improvements, but to expand our tourist industry - without providing any of the services which will additionally be required to support more visitors. And in the meantime, us residents live with daily gridlock on our streets and highways.

This proposal for a tourist train will only make traffic in Santa Cruz County worse. You're instigating a situation which is the opposite of your mandate as a transportation commission. I urge you to reconsider this dangerous proposal and vote against it.

Nadene Thorne
140 Averitt Street
Santa Cruz 95060
907-590-7996

From: Jeanne Mulhern <jamulhern1@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 12:10 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Contract to repair RTC tracks

I offer for your consideration the following to approve a contractor to repair the RTC tracks,

- Trolley manufacturer, TIG/m, has proposed to demonstrate its electric passenger trolley in Santa Cruz County and will bear all of the costs, except the cost of any required track repairs.
- Once the tracks are repaired, other demonstrations of rail vehicles would be possible. These will give the public a chance to see how passenger rail service could work on the line.
- The alternatives analysis will benefit from demonstrations of passenger rail but any such demonstration requires that the track meet FRA Class I standards.
- Funds from Measure D are available to do the repairs and the RTC's budget already includes \$800,000 for track infrastructure maintenance and repairs.
- And it's just common sense! The RTC is obligated to repair the tracks anyway!

Jeanne Mulhern

Jeanne Mulhern REALTOR

#01300981

Keller Williams Realty ~ Santa Cruz

[Kroft & Hulseley Team](#)

831-588-2414

Business: JeanneMulhernRealtor@gmail.com

Personal: jmulhern1@gmail.com

From: Julie and Jim Montgomery <julijim@pacbell.net>

Sent: Wednesday, December 04, 2019 6:06 AM

To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>

Subject: Please act to advance transit solutions for Santa Cruz County

Dear RTC Commissioners,

Thank you for all your great work to develop improvements to transportation options in Santa Cruz County. I am writing to encourage you to continue to move forward by adopting item 22, the 2020 Regional Transportation Improvement Program and approving item 25, the resolution to authorize a contract for rail track repairs to allow a demonstration of rail service on the Santa Cruz Branch line on the December 5th agenda.

Development of the rail corridor to provide rail transit and construction of protected bike paths are important elements in a comprehensive plan to address gridlock in the county. Repairing the tracks to provide an opportunity to demonstrate the potential of rail transit on the corridor will help to expand community support for this option. The urban areas of the county are bursting at the seams with too many cars simply because there is no other way to move around. Reliable and dependable transit options can reduce this reliance on cars. Fewer cars on our roads in turn will provide opportunities for the development of protected bike lanes.

Thank you for your consideration

Regards,

Julie Montgomery
2077 Redwood Drive
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
julijim@pacbell.net
