

From: ROBERT STEPHENS <awranch@aol.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 2, 2020 8:55 AM
To: Shannon Munz <smunz@sccrtc.org>; Yesenia Parra <yparra@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Comments for your Meeting on Thursday

Dear RTC Commissioners:

While many of you have thought that you could predict the future and knew that future generations would want a train, you have not been able to predict the future. Did you see ebikes, electric cars or the pandemic coming? I suggest you leave that decision to future generations and not try to force a train on them. Just keep the option open by rail banking the corridor and turning it into a trail now.

Rail ridership was down everywhere across the country before the pandemic now it has drop so low many rail lines are goin gout of service. We currently have a rail system in California and it is not really working. Just go to Salinas and see how many people are using it now. The SMART train in the Bay Area is running out of money and could not pass a new tax, again, before the pandemic.

Due to the pandemic more and more people are working from home, so commuter patters are changing. Bike use is up everywhere. Too bad we did not have a trail for everyone to use now. Twelve percent of home in SC county don't have access to the internet. There are so many other needs our community has. A train in the corridor would only help a very small number of our community. We need cost effect solutions that will help a large number of people in our community.

Your current rail operator is failing and wants out of your contract. How many failures does it take before you see this is not working?

Please stop wasting time and money on your train fantasy. We need to spend our limited funds wisely, as we have a financial crisis and a local fire crisis. Most business have greatly reduced spending, what are you doing as an agency to cut back? How are you reacting to all the change in the nation and locally?

Your community is losing faith in your ability to govern.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephens
Aptos, CA

awranch@aol.com
831 234 2818

AGENDA: September 3, 2020

TO: Regional Transportation Commission
FROM: Guy Preston, Executive Director
RE: Director's Report

THIS ITEM FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Notice of Preparation – Highway 1 – Auxiliary Lanes / Bus on Shoulders / Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail

The Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact report/Environmental Assessment for the Highway 1 Auxiliary Lanes and Bus on Shoulder Improvements between Freedom Boulevard and State Park Drive and Coastal Rail Trail Segment 12 project is scheduled to be released on September 17, 2020. This notice also includes a scoping online open house to seek comments from responsible and trustee agencies and interested members of the public regarding significant environmental issues, reasonable alternatives and reasonable mitigation measures to be explored in the draft EIR/EA. The proposed improvements include 2.7 miles of auxiliary lanes and bus on shoulder improvements on Highway 1, replacement of 2 RTC-owned railroad bridges, and construction of a 1.25 mile segment of the Coastal Rail Trail. Caltrans as the lead agency for CEQA and under NEPA assignment by FHWA and will be accepting comments between September 17 through October 16, 2020. The notice, information on how to attend the open house, and instructions on how to submit comments will be posted on the RTC website.

Wildfires and Transportation Infrastructure

The CZU Complex fire has burned more than 85,000 acres, destroying over 1490 structures, including 925 single family homes. On August 18, 2020 Governor Newsome issued a State of Emergency proclamation for hundreds of fires actively burning during extreme weather conditions throughout California. On August 24, President Trump declared a major disaster exists in the State of California and ordered Federal aid to supplement State, tribal, and local recovery efforts in areas affected beginning on August 14, 2020 and continuing.

Federal funding is available to affected individuals in the counties of Lake, Napa, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Solano, Sonoma and Yolo

On August 24th, Caltrans requested that RTC, the County of Santa Cruz, UCSC and our four cities to submit their Initial Damage Estimate for the wildfire damage to their federal aid routes.

RTC did not sustain any damage to the rail line.

The County reported the following regarding its transportation infrastructure:

- Huge amount of fire debris on all roads
- Trees are a major concern with them continuing to fall daily, will take months to fully assess and remove hazardous trees
- Swanton Road – worst hit, complete loss of bridge over Mill Creek, significant bridge damage over Scott Creek, 3 culverts lost in fire
- Primary damage on all roads is loss of metal beam guard rail, signs, and some asphalt damage

The County has completed all initial roadway assessments and is entering the information into online GIS mapping. Repair work is beginning this week, but the County does not yet have a schedule to finish repairs. Most roads will be open for initial access within the next week or two, except for Swanton Road.

**Public Comments on
Measure D 5-Year Program of Projects**

The following comments were received on the Measure D 5-Year Plans by the noon deadline on 9/2/20.

From: Janet Coit <coit.janet@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, August 30, 2020 7:58 PM
To: Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>
Subject: Hwy 9 & BCR

To whom it may concern,

We're still evacuated, but we wanted to emphasize the importance of making the dangerous intersection at Bear Creek Road & Hwy 9, safer. The engineers all agree the sight lines are poor and with the number of vehicles using the intersection, it should be a high priority to improve the intersection with a 3 way stop or a light. There are many near misses with brakes squealing and folks up here don't report fender benders. There have been serious injuries in the past. Do we really need more people to be hurt at that intersection before improvements are made?

Thank you for your consideration,
Janet Coit & Mike Holton
