

**From:** [Lawrence Kaplan](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [BoardOfSupervisors@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:BoardOfSupervisors@santacruzcounty.us)  
**Subject:** Appearance of Impropriety and Conflict of Interest  
**Date:** Thursday, October 28, 2021 11:00:30 PM

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This email is a consequence of a letter written by Mike Rotkin and published on 10/28/21 in the Santa Cruz Sentinel under the heading, "Greenway's Petition Would Kill Future Rail Service"

Dear Supervisors,

Mike Rotkin has gone too far. As a long-serving County official, he knows better than to switch hats and become an advocate for FORT and the train lobby. By virtue of his appointment to S.C. Metro, he has an obligation to enhance our bus system, not to promote this pie-in-the-sky train boondoggle. It is his **duty** as a RTC Commissioner to remain open-minded and impartial on matters before the RTC; he should have "no dog in this fight".

Instead, like a lawyer or lobbyist, he refers to "conspiracy theories" and directly attacks Greenway's honesty and integrity. Why? Precisely because Greenway is gathering signatures for a ballot initiative that would let our citizens vote on a pedestrian and bike trail. Talk about voter suppression! Lawyers and lobbyists have paying clients; RTC Commissioners serve the public wisely, choosing their words carefully without a hint of impropriety or bias.

This is shameful. Mr. Rotkin should recuse himself from further proceedings on this controversy before the RTC. If he doesn't, the RTC or the Board of Supervisors should remove him for his completely inappropriate public statements and behavior.

Sincerely, Lawrence Kaplan, Watsonville

**From:** [Cynthia Dzendzel](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Campaigns  
**Date:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 9:47:59 PM

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I don't understand why it is okay for Manu Koenig to advocate against trains and trolleys but not for Mike Rotkin to advocate for them. I do not understand how advocating for a trolley or train is in conflict with advocating for better bus systems, or for biking and hiking trails. They go hand in hand. I also do not understand why we can't continue to have private companies operating transportation systems on our public right of way, as has been done historically since the beginning of railroads. Do the Greenway people not know history?

Public/private collaborations are how we get things done in this country, from space exploration to vaccines. Let's find solutions, not block progress.

Cynthia Dzendzel

[REDACTED]

Felton 95018

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Sean Shrum](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Connecting to statewide Rail & Trail projects  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:01:46 PM

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Every Vision Santa Cruz County meeting resulted in traffic as the top priority. Even when people were asked to think beyond that problem it was the #1 negative trend in the county. Traffic was a higher concern to county residents than crime, housing, illegal drug use, homelessness, educational opportunities, employment opportunities, and support for farmworking families and those working in tourism. It is past the time to listen to your residents, guests, and tourists. They want safe, reliable options like rail commuting.

PVUSD typically employs 4,000+ educators and staff every year, and that number has historically trended upward. Many educators bring their hard earned and expensive education to Santa Cruz specifically to teach in Watsonville. They have families, buy and rent property, and their children typically attend public schools. They all across the county, but usually in Santa Cruz. They need safe, reliable options, and so do the students that they teach. It is time to give them what they need.

Thank you,  
Sean Shrum  
local disability advocate

**From:** [Ginger Dykaar](#)  
**To:** [Krista Corwin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Graham Hill Rd PowerPoint, etc.  
**Date:** Monday, November 15, 2021 10:37:35 AM

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Hi Krista,

See below email from Will Menchine for correspondence.

Thank you,

*Ginger*

.....  
[Ginger Dykaar](#)  
[RTC | 831.460.3213](#)

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**From:** Ginger Dykaar  
**Sent:** Monday, November 15, 2021 10:35 AM  
**To:** menchine@cruzio.com  
**Subject:** RE: Graham Hill Rd PowerPoint, etc.

Hi Will,

Thank you for the below information. I forwarded to Tommy Travers on RTC staff who supports the Bike Committee. Who at the county public works and city public works did you speak with a few years back?

*Ginger*

.....  
[Ginger Dykaar](#)  
[RTC | 831.460.3213](#)

---

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 5:47 PM  
**To:** Ginger Dykaar <[gdykaar@sccrtc.org](mailto:gdykaar@sccrtc.org)>  
**Subject:** Graham Hill Rd PowerPoint, etc.

Hi Ginger,

It was nice to see you last week and my apologies for not recognizing you initially.

I dug through some of my files and found the old PowerPoint presentation pertaining to the Graham Hill Road proposal that I mentioned. It was the visual part of several briefs that I worked on. I am not sure if you ever saw this work or not.

In the years since I produce this PowerPoint we moved from downtown Santa Cruz to a house that my wife and I remodeled at 6 Lyle Way. Lyle is the second street on the left side of GHR, about 6/10s of a mile up from Ocean Street Extension at the crest of the first marine terrace where the road straightens out. It is just past Michael Lane referenced in the PP.

I put in quite a bit of effort in the past to get buy-in for doing something on Graham Hill and met with both Bruce McPherson and Ryan Coonerty's staff as well as City and County Public Works and Traffic Engineering Staff. The way it was left was that the County would be interested in doing something on the south end of the road if the City was spearheading the project. The City's position was that any project would need to come up through the Transportation and Public Works Commission to be considered and that was not going to happen for political reasons. All parties suggested that I gather support from people living on Graham Hill Road and the surrounding neighborhoods. I ran out of steam and was mired with elder care and other family matters.

Now that we are living on Lyle Way I have been able to establish contacts with a number of Graham Hill area neighbors to gauge support for roadway improvements and traffic control measures. The key issues I hear from neighbors are excessive traffic speeds and the complete lack of roadway shoulders or sidewalks. With the exception of the south end, Graham Hill Road is in the County and is really a 5<sup>th</sup> district issue. The south section of GHR is an example of what I call a transportation "orphan" like Brookwood Drive and the Harbor (other pet projects) in that they straddle two jurisdictions. It would be great if the RTC would recognize these areas as special cases where there needs to be some in house preliminary planning in order to make progress between the different jurisdictions.

One of the most important things that I learned as a designer, engineer and project manager was the Pareto Principle (the 80/20 Rule) and it has been a valuable tool for me over the years. It has a corollary that borrows from Voltaire's "Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good" that takes the form: "A rapid, imperfect solution is far better than a perfect solution that is never achieved".

My proposal is far from a perfect solution, but it is achievable and solves a high percentage of the problem for a fraction of the cost of the perfect solution. Most importantly it is a starting point and puts down a marker for doing future improvements along the entire length of Graham Hill Road. Things have to start somewhere and getting started is about 80% of the challenge.

Please take a look when you have a chance and let me know your thoughts.  
Thanks for taking the time to read this and for your service to the community.

Best regards,

Will Menchine



**From:** [Yesenia Parra](#)  
**To:** [Krista Corwin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Trail Now Comments to RTC Board meeting (11/4)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:18:41 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Add to correspondence log for next month.

Yesenia

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**[Yesenia Parra](#)**, Administrative Services Officer  
**[Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission](#)**

1523 Pacific Avenue | Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Main Office 831.460.3200 | Direct 831.460.3218



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---

**From:** Brian Peoples <brian@trailnow.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 10:46 AM  
**To:** Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>; [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** Guy Preston <gp Preston@sccrtc.org>; Manu Koenig <manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us>; rlj12@comcast.net; sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com; rpquinn@pacbell.net; Zach Friend <bds022@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>; Bruce McPherson <bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us>; Gine Johnson <gine.johnson@santacruzcounty.us>; greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org; openup@cats.ucsc.edu; ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us; Andy Schiffrin <andy.schiffrin@santacruzcounty.us>; Steve Wiesner <steve.wiesner@santacruzcounty.us>; Nathan Nguyen <nnguyen@cityofsantacruz.com>; Shannon Munz <smunz@sccrtc.org>; Yesenia Parra <yparra@sccrtc.org>; Sarah Christensen <schristensen@sccrtc.org>; Alex Clifford <aclifford@scmtd.com>; ladykpetersen@gmail.com; tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov; [REDACTED] jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net; 'jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org' <jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org>  
**Subject:** Re: Trail Now Comments to RTC Board meeting (11/4)

Peter,

Thanks for pointing out that Mr. Rotkin used his title as RTC Commissioner Santa Cruz in a letter to the editor to the local newspaper. This is absolutely poor public policy by the Santa

Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), allowing commissioners to make public comments without approval by the Board.

Some form of reprimand is needed to control RTC communications and recommend Mr. Rotkin remove himself from the RTC Board.

Best regards,

Brian Peoples  
Trail Now

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** [info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org) <[info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org)>; Brian Peoples <[brian@trailnow.org](mailto:brian@trailnow.org)>  
**Cc:** Guy Preston <[gpreston@sccrtc.org](mailto:gpreston@sccrtc.org)>; Manu Koenig <[manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us)>; [rlj12@comcast.net](mailto:rlj12@comcast.net) <[rlj12@comcast.net](mailto:rlj12@comcast.net)>; [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com) <[sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com)>; [rpquinn@pacbell.net](mailto:rpquinn@pacbell.net) <[rpquinn@pacbell.net](mailto:rpquinn@pacbell.net)>; Zach Friend <[bds022@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:bds022@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)>; Bruce McPherson <[bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us)>; Gine Johnson <[gine.johnson@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:gine.johnson@santacruzcounty.us)>; [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us) <[greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)>; [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org) <[eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org)>; [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu) <[openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu)>; [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us) <[ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us)>; Andy Schiffrin <[andy.schiffrin@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:andy.schiffrin@santacruzcounty.us)>; Steve Wiesner <[steve.wiesner@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:steve.wiesner@santacruzcounty.us)>; Nathan Nguyen <[nnguyen@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:nnguyen@cityofsantacruz.com)>; Shannon Munz <[smunz@sccrtc.org](mailto:smunz@sccrtc.org)>; Yesenia Parra <[yparra@sccrtc.org](mailto:yparra@sccrtc.org)>; Sarah Christensen <[schristensen@sccrtc.org](mailto:schristensen@sccrtc.org)>; Alex Clifford <[aclifford@scmt.com](mailto:aclifford@scmt.com)>; [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com) <[ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com)>; [tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov) <[tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov)>; [REDACTED] <[marcy@scseaside.com](mailto:marcy@scseaside.com)>; [jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net) <[jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net)>; 'jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org' <[jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org)>  
**Subject:** Re: Trail Now Comments to RTC Board meeting (11/4)

Dear Commissioners,


I agree with everything written here by Brian Peoples and representing the interests of Trail Now supporters.

I ask that RTC Commissioners censure Commissioner Michael Rotkin for his recent letter-to-the-editor published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. In expressing his personal opinion, Commissioner Rotkin signed his letter and noted "RTC Commissioner." Commissioner Rotkin's personal opinion expressed in the letter-to-the-editor was his own, and not that of the SCCRTC. Therefore, he should not identify his opinion as "RTC Commissioner."

Mr. Rotkin has never been elected to any countywide public office, and has never

been elected to any Santa Cruz City public office in a fairly apportioned city district election. In fact, it has been nearly two decades since he last held office in the City of Santa Cruz from a unfair at-large citywide election (that violates the California Voting Rights Act.) His position on the Santa Cruz Metro and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is untenable, and he should be removed and replaced from both the Metro and RTC with a commissioner who is more representative of the current countywide dynamics.

Respectfully,  
Peter Stanger

  
Watsonville, CA 95076

On Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 05:25:44 AM PDT, Brian Peoples <[brian@trailnow.org](mailto:brian@trailnow.org)> wrote:

RTC,

Please accept the following comments for the items on RTC agenda for Thursday, 11/4. Also included is a photo of the Roaring Camp train parked on the taxpayer-owned Santa Cruz Boardwalk Trestle. Please include this photo as part of our communications.

**Item #13a. October 15 Letter to Nathan Nguyen - Notice of Preparation of an EIR for Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9**

Trail Now supports the letter from the RTC to the City of Santa Cruz to include an alternative analysis in the EIR to railbank and construct the interim Coastal Trail along Segments 8 & 9. This alternative analysis will demonstrate a more cost-effective approach to opening the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor for transportation, and will show that railbanking, pulling the tracks and building an interim trail is the best solution for our community. We fully support the RTC's leadership in moving toward railbanking the Coastal Corridor.

In addition, we recommend that the Santa Cruz Boardwalk Trestle that extends over the San Lorenzo River be included in the Segment 8 & 9 analysis. Currently, the Boardwalk Trestle is NOT included in any of the segments, which results in the trestle NOT being included in any EIR analysis.

Finally, Roaring Camp has stated that they want what is best for the community and look forward to working with the RTC on a win-win solution for the Coastal Trail and their on/off-boarding operations. Therefore, we ask that the RTC and City of Santa Cruz take Roaring

Camp up in their offer to relocate to Depot Station as part of the Segment 8 & 9 trail development.

**Item #19 Unsolicited Rail Proposal - TIG/m and Roaring Camp**

We support the RTC's staff recommendation to NOT accept the unsolicited proposal by TIG/m and Roaring Camp to operate a tourist train along the taxpayer-owned Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor. As stated by RTC Executive Director Guy Preston, "the trolley demonstration did not provide information that would make commuter rail easier or less expensive to implement. RTC did not sponsor the event and is not responsible for the information disseminated at the demonstration, either orally or in writing."

The trolley demonstration should never have occurred and should not have been supported by ANY RTC commissioners. The demonstration increased traffic congestion along adjacent surface streets and added workload to RTC staff.

This on-going push by rail advocates is blocking the use of the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor for active transportation. The Coastal Corridor has remained closed for over a decade since becoming a taxpayer-owned resource. We ask the RTC to move forward with railbanking, pulling the rails, and building an interim Coastal Trail NOW.

Best,

Brian Peoples

Trail Now

**From:** [Yesenia Parra](#)  
**To:** [Krista Corwin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Trail Now Comments to RTC Board meeting (11/4)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 12:03:33 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Please add this correspondence log only for next month. All Commissioners have been CC'd and it will be part of the link.

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**[Yesenia Parra](#)**, Administrative Services Officer  
**[Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission](#)**  
1523 Pacific Avenue | Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Main Office 831.460.3200 | Direct 831.460.3218



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---

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**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** Regional Transportation Commission <info@sccrtc.org>; Brian Peoples <brian@trailnow.org>  
**Cc:** Guy Preston <gpreston@sccrtc.org>; Manu Koenig <manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us>; rlj12@comcast.net; sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com; rpquinn@pacbell.net; Zach Friend <bds022@co.santa-cruz.ca.us>; Bruce McPherson <bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us>; Gine Johnson <gine.johnson@santacruzcounty.us>; greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us; eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org; openup@cats.ucsc.edu; ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us; Andy Schifffrin <andy.schifffrin@santacruzcounty.us>; Steve Wiesner <steve.wiesner@santacruzcounty.us>; Nathan Nguyen <nnguyen@cityofsantacruz.com>; Shannon Munz <smunz@sccrtc.org>; Yesenia Parra <yparra@sccrtc.org>; Sarah Christensen <schristensen@sccrtc.org>; Alex Clifford <aclifford@scmtd.com>; ladykpetersen@gmail.com; tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov; [REDACTED] jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net; 'jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org' <jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org>  
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Watsonville, CA 95076

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Best,

Brian Peoples  
Trail Now

**From:** [Yesenia Parra](#)  
**To:** [Krista Corwin](#)  
**Subject:** FW: article on Transportation by Climate Organization  
**Date:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:36:19 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)

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Please add to next month's correspondence log and ensure it is included in the link. I will forward the link to staff. I will not forward to Metro as that is not our procedure.

Yesenia



**[Yesenia Parra](#)**, Administrative Services Officer  
**[Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission](#)**  
1523 Pacific Avenue | Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Main Office 831.460.3200 | Direct 831.460.3218



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**From:** Ben Vernazza [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 12:40 PM  
**To:** Yesenia Parra <yparra@sccrtc.org>  
**Subject:** article on Transportation by Climate Organization

Yesenia,

Please distribute this link to RTC Commissioners and also to staff and send to Metro Board. It is very interesting. Up to date too, and by a climate concerned non-profit.

<https://grist.org/article/mobility-justice-how-cities-are-rethinking-public-transportation-after-covid/>

Ben

**From:** [Molly Ording](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Forwarding a recent email to Capitola Council re rail trail and daily recent traffic messes!  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 6:44:44 PM

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Begin forwarded message:

**From:** Molly Ording [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Our support..and HOPEFULLY...yours for the Rail Trail...  
**Date:** October 28, 2021 at 8:08:57 PM PDT  
**To:** Capitola City Council <[citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:citycouncil@ci.capitola.ca.us)>

Greetings City Council Members!

Hope you are all well! That was great news about Andy Dally...it is always good to see well deserved promotions come from within the local ranks!

I am writing to express our continued, unflinching support for the RAIL or light rail or whatever environmentally friendly iteration of passenger transportation along our invaluable rail corridor! I will not get into the oft used half truths that the anti rail contingent use but will refer you to a very local vision of what YOUR Capitola residents are experiencing cut through traffic-wise Monday thru Friday! Recently several times a week, I have been traveling to Seacliff for physical therapy and then on to Aptos High School.. Park Avenue from 4:15 pm until 6:00 pm is backed up from New Brighton almost back to Monterey with people cutting through to avoid the freeway back-up! I feel very badly for residents along Park Avenue & adjacent neighborhoods...you should too! No doubt most of these cut through cars have travelled through the Village and up Monterey... (often driving faster than 25 when they are able, FYI, as they are no doubt so frustrated at the state of our only freeway!) Can't say as I blame them! But, if you want to see a very local effect of cut through traffic and overflow traffic from our completely inadequate freeway and alternative transportation systems, you need not look far!

I had the opportunity recently to listen in to an interesting presentation made by Mike Rotkin regarding the "rail trail!" It was extremely informative, seemingly unbiased and a much-needed factual recounting of information regarding the whole project...pitfalls an all! Very interesting...I wish there were more opportunities for factual information to get out to the broader community. It seems the opponents have unlimited funds to publicize their incorrect and often false facts. It is unfortunate that many of the proponents of the rail are like me... super busy citizens who have not enough time for the demands of life and work and not unlimited funds for the advancement of untruths!

Thank you to each of you for your attention and for your generous service to Capitola!

Cheers!

Molly Ording

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** League of American Cyclists and social equity  
**Date:** Monday, November 15, 2021 2:49:06 PM

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Dear SCCRTC,

Please read this information from the League of American Cyclists published just last week. I am familiar with the City of Santa Cruz and the City of Watsonville's ongoing campaigns to upgrade their standings within the League's rankings. I would suggest that the City Council Representatives from both Santa Cruz and Watsonville pay attention to what the league has stated in this report. The piecemeal and painfully slow creation of a car free, safe, wide, flat bicycle trail from Watsonville to Santa Cruz along the long-ago purchased and long dormant rail corridor should be accelerated and completed. Further delays to accommodate use of the old freight rails should be abandoned.

Please open this link:

<https://bikeleague.org/content/bicycling-benefits-business>  
<https://bikeleague.org/content/reconnecting-new-majority>

Respectfully,

Peter Stanger

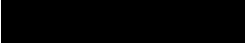
[REDACTED] Watsonville, CA 95076

**From:** [Doug Huskey](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission; boardinquiries@scmttd.com](#)  
**Subject:** Mike Rotkin should recuse from RTC votes  
**Date:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 10:23:30 PM

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Mike Rotkin has overstepped his boundaries as a neutral, unbiased and fact seeking supervisor in matters concerning the Rail Corridor. He is distinctly positioning himself as an advocate for FORT, and as such should withdraw himself from future RTC meetings associated with votes on the use of the Coastal Corridor.

Regards,  
Doug Huskey

 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**From:** [Brian Peoples](#)  
**To:** [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu)  
**Cc:** [Guy Preston](#); [Manu Koenig](#); [Zach Friend](#); [Bruce McPherson](#); [Gine Johnson](#); [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com); [jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net); [rj12@comcast.net](mailto:rj12@comcast.net); [rpquinn@pacbell.net](mailto:rpquinn@pacbell.net); [Alex Clifford](#); [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org); [Shannon Munz](#); [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com); [boardinquiries@scmttd.com](mailto:boardinquiries@scmttd.com); [jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org); [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us); [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us); [Andy Schiffrin](#)  
**Subject:** Mr. Rotkin withdraw from RTC Board  
**Date:** Saturday, October 30, 2021 7:11:01 AM

---

Mr. Rotkin,

We could not agree more with the recent letter to the editor in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. As a Metro Board member, it is unacceptable that you advocate for rail over other more effective and viable transit solutions. We support the call for you to withdraw yourself from future RTC meetings associated with votes on best use of the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor.

Mike Rotkin has gone too far. As a long-serving public official, he knows better than to switch hats and become an advocate for FORT and the train lobby. By virtue of his appointment to S.C. Metro, he has an obligation to promote our bus system, not this pie-in-the-sky train boondoggle. It is his duty to remain open-minded and impartial on matters before the RTC; he should have “no dog in this fight.”

Instead, like a lawyer or lobbyist, he refers to “conspiracy theories” and directly attacks Greenway’s honesty and integrity. Why? Precisely because Greenway is gathering signatures for a ballot initiative that would let our citizens vote on a pedestrian and bike trail. Talk about voter suppression! He should recuse himself from further proceedings on this controversy before the RTC.

— *Lawrence Kaplan, Watsonville*

Best regards,

Brian Peoples  
Trail Now

**From:** [Contact Request Form](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** New submission from Contact Form  
**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 9:44:23 AM

---

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

<b>Name</b>
Peter Albert
<b>Email</b>
[REDACTED]
<b>Subject</b>
Written comments RE Coast Futura demonstration
<b>Your Message</b>
<p>I was delighted with the demonstration of the possibility of light rail in Santa Cruz County. I am an outsider: I live in San Francisco but visit Santa Cruz often (my family lives nearby, my visitors want to visit the area, my son attended UCSC). I see the demo as evidence that "outsiders" like me can visit Santa Cruz and spend our dollars on local businesses if this light rail option is linked to Northern California's rail system at Watsonville. Imagine what an economic boom this connection could be not just to Santa Cruz or Aptos or Capitola, but also to Watsonville with a transfer hub. Imagine how much better overall quality of life in Santa Cruz County could be if more "outsiders" like me had a rail-to-rail option to visit and enjoy the area. Imagine a local AND regional future, then, without expanding highways and adding cars and parking lots to the fragile setting so much in the balance today. It is much easier to imagine all of these thanks to the demonstration.</p>

**From:** [Trink Praxel](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Nov. 4 RTC Agenda Item 9 - Unsolicited Rail Proposal from TIG/m and Roaring Camp  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 3:54:53 PM

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Santa Cruz Regional Transportation Commission

Sent via email

RE: Nov. 4 RTC Agenda Item 9 - Unsolicited Rail Proposal from TIG/m and Roaring Camp  
November 3, 2021

Dear Commissioners:

For brevity's sake, I want to express my strong concurrence with the comments made by Mark Mesiti-Miller in the letter he has sent to the Commissioners today.

I have over 20 years of public sector experience, both acting as staff to public bodies and serving on them. I believe strongly in the fundamental advisory role of staff to public bodies, to provide the best available facts and recommendations based on those facts. It is particularly challenging to serve effectively a public body that is divided in its position on issues, as is the current case with the SCCRTC. This requires even more diplomacy and care to ensure that ALL facts and perspectives are presented accurately. I do not believe that Guy Preston has, in this staff report, met that requirement, as specified by Mr. Mesiti-Miller.

In fact, I think the current rail/trail debate, both in the community and among the Commissioners, has moved past a point where all concerned trust Mr. Preston's ability to remain neutral and professional. I have heard reports about Mr. Preston's refusal to meet with representatives from one side of this debate, and of his expressions of full anger in discussions with some of those individuals. With this loss of respect and dialogue, I think it is time for the Commission to look at other means to develop an effective way forward on this issue.

There have been past issues in this community that have similarly divided people into active and vocal support groups that have gotten so heated that no progress was being made. Rather than letting this debate continue with hope that someone will change his/her mind, or someone will be elected to a seat to change the vote, I think it is time for the Commission to think more creatively. I think of the desalination plant debate in the City of Santa Cruz in which a way action forward was finally reached through an advisory committee to the City Council that included supporters on both sides of the debate and professional staff.

Thank you for considering this.

Trink Praxel

Aptos Resident

**From:** [Debbie Bulger](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Pedestrian News  
**Date:** Saturday, November 6, 2021 7:00:49 PM  
**Attachments:** [LOCAL ROADWAY SAFETY PLAN.PDF.pdf](#)

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Hi All,

Hope you all have been enjoying the fall weather and especially the much-needed rain.

I have attached a document adopted by the Santa Cruz City Council at the end of May this year which didn't get a lot of press.

The Local Roadway Safety Plan was created by the transportation firm Kimley-Horn and looks at all types of crashes, not just pedestrian crashes. It's a lot of reading, but some you might want to spend some time with this report.

Here's a quote:

"Table 5 shows the number of collisions within the City that involved a pedestrian or bicyclist. Between 2015-2019, there were a total of 448 collisions that involved a pedestrian or bicyclist, which is about 18% of the total collisions within the City. This reflects a combination of the active beach community, tourism, and active transportation culture of Santa Cruz. The high numbers of pedestrians and bicyclists highlight a need to enhance safety to protect vulnerable users. Compared to other cities in the 2018 OTS grouping, Santa Cruz ranks 2nd highest in collisions involving pedestrians, 7th involving pedestrians under the age of 15, and 6th involving pedestrians over the age of 65. As for the bicycling community, the 2018 OTS rankings show the City of Santa Cruz as having the 4th highest number of collisions involving bicyclists and 10th involving bicyclists under the age of 15. It is important to note that the high number of bicycle and pedestrian traffic throughout the city increases exposure for these vulnerable populations; however, the OTS rankings do not normalize for these volumes." (p. 30)

Note the map on p. 31 shows the location of pedestrian collisions. One of the most dangerous intersections for pedestrians is Hwy 1/River Street which the city is in the process of making wider and more dangerous for pedestrians to cross safely.

Three key "Emphasis Areas" were identified:

1. Improving visibility and lighting
2. Reduce aggressive driving behavior
3. Improve traffic safety for vulnerable roadway users including unhoused population.

Driving under the influence has been increasing in Santa Cruz (15 collisions in 2015; 26 in 2019).

There are no big surprises in this report, and I agree with the goals.

I was, however, disappointed that more emphasis was not put on the most effective way to decrease aggressive driving and increase safety for ALL USERS (including drivers). That is, geometric changes in road design to reduce speeding. Treatments such as reducing

curb radii, narrowing travel lanes, installing median islands and curb extensions, among other treatments.

Eight intersections are singled out for specific suggestions for changes. Again many good suggestions, but the report does not include important safety considerations for pedestrians such as marking all crosswalks at Bay and Mission, for example, instead of the current prohibiting one leg (naturally the one that leads to the bus stop!) Instead the report gingerly mentions in another section that some intersections "sometimes prioritize vehicle operations" [at crosswalks].

This report is a step in the right direction. There is much to do to implement roadway safety in Santa Cruz.

Stay safe,

Debbie

**From:** [Board Chair Friends of the Rail Trail](#)  
**To:** [Jacques Bertrand](#); [Sandy Brown](#); [Greg Caput](#); [Ryan Coonerty](#); [Zach Friend](#); [Renee Golder](#); [Tim Gubbins](#); [Felipe Hernandez](#); [Gine Johnson](#); [Randy Johnson](#); [Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson](#); [Manu Koenig](#); [Donna Lind](#); [Bruce McPherson](#); [Amy Miyakusu](#); [Eduardo Montesino](#); [Larry Pageler](#); [Kristen Petersen](#); [Guy Preston](#); [Dr. Rob Paul Quinn](#); [Mike Rotkin](#); [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [Andy Schiffrin](#); [Sam Storey](#); [Derek Timm](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Item #19 on the agenda for the November 4 RTC meeting  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 5:28:43 PM  
**Attachments:** [RE-Item#19November4thRTCagenda.pdf](#)

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Dear Commissioners and RTC Staff,

I apologize this is reaching you so late. I've attached comments on item 19 for your agenda tomorrow morning.

FORT advocates for the preservation and use of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) for the purposes for which it was originally purchased and which are still the RTC's stated policy:— to implement an electric passenger rail system and build an adjacent bike and pedestrian trail along the publicly-owned coast rail line. As an advocate for these projects, we trust that any rail service proposal will be judged by the merits of each proposal and how well they fulfill our community needs.

FORT urges the Commission to direct staff to consider each proposal before us to help meet our identified countywide goals of implementing electric passenger rail service and the Rail Trail sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

Faina Segal

Faina Segal  
Board Chair  
Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail & Trail  
P.O.Box 1652, Capitola, CA 95010-1652  
[www.railandtrail.org](http://www.railandtrail.org) and [coastconnect.org](http://coastconnect.org)  
Cell: 831-331-6432

November 3, 2021

RE: Item #19 on the agenda for the November 4 RTC meeting

Dear Commissioners and Staff,

FORT advocates for the preservation and use of the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line (SCBRL) for the purposes for which it was originally purchased, and which are still the RTC's stated policy: to implement an electric passenger rail system and build an adjacent bike and pedestrian trail along the rail line. As an advocate for these projects, we trust that any rail service proposal will be judged by the merits of each proposal and how well they fulfill our community needs.

Given these goals some of the broad assertions within the staff report are concerning.

### **PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS CAN BE BENEFICIAL**

On pg 19-1, the report says: "RTC staff does not recommend pursuing this unsolicited Public Private Partnership (P3) proposal or any other potential P3 proposal for passenger rail service."

This blanket rejection of any P3 seems shortsighted and is concerning if we truly share the goal of implementing passenger rail service on our line. Public-private partnerships are the foundation of any thriving community. Local business councils, chambers of commerce, and public-private partnerships such as the Monterey Bay Economic Partnership are founded on public-private collaborative principles. The Santa Cruz Warriors' arena, Santa Cruz fiber optics project, and numerous affordable housing projects in our local communities are the result of successful public private partnerships. In fact, nearly all transportation projects could be seen as public private partnerships. Planes owned and operated by individuals and businesses use public airports and airspace; cars, trucks and other vehicles are privately owned but use public roads. Transportation projects are largely, if not entirely, funded by the tax dollars paid by residents and businesses, making virtually all transportation projects P3's. It seems very short-sighted that the RTC would consider a recommendation refusing to consider any P3 proposal now or in the future.

### **RAILBANKING IS UNWISE**

On page 19-2, the report says: "railbanking does not require removal of tracks, but preserves the right-of way for future potential re-activation of freight rail, stopping short of abandonment."

FORT is concerned about this continued flirtation with railbanking. Though railbanking in and of itself does not require track removal, it does allow it. Without a rock-solid some guarantee that the path forward leads to passenger rail service in the near future, FORT cannot support railbanking. We remain alarmed that staff and Commissioners continue

to advocate for this without heed to the doors it PERMANENTLY closes. A requirement of railbanking is notice of abandonment: Roaring Camp Railroad (Santa Cruz Big Trees & Pacific Railway) has strongly indicated they have no intention of allowing or supporting abandonment of the SCBRL. The RTC has repeatedly and publicly stated that, without abandonment, railbanking is impossible. There will be plenty of money and time wasted should railbanking occur, leaving all RTC projects that touch the rail line with further delays.

## **PROJECT FUNDING CONSISTENCY**

On page 19-4, the report says: “On May 6, 2021, RTC elected not to accept the Draft TCAA Business Plan. The Draft Business Plan identified several risks for the project, including securing funding as the greatest risk.”

RTC staff and Commissioner’s argument that “there’s no money” is fully inconsistent with the approach to other RTC-led projects, and with development of any major transportation project irrespective of the project sponsor. No major project has its entire package of project funding identified at the outset: for example, the newly added multi-million-dollar Highway 1 project between State Park Drive and Freedom Blvd has only Measure D Highway Program funding approved thus far. That is significantly less funding than has been identified as available for passenger rail service. The fact that the Draft TCAA Business Plan identified a great majority of likely funding sources for electric rail transit is the exception, not the rule for major transportation projects.

## **PHASED IMPLEMENTATION SHOULD BE EVALUATED**

On page 19-6, the report says: “TIG/m and Roaring Camp’s “Concept Proposal” was an offer to design, build, partially finance and deliver recreational rail service from Capitola to Davenport, while maintaining freight service on the line as part of a partnership with Roaring Camp.”

It seems that a proposal that potentially addresses the ACL requirement of excursion service is worthy of consideration. We continue to advocate for regular passenger rail service from Watsonville to Santa Cruz. However, given the widely varying condition of our tracks, perhaps a phased implementation is also worth considering.

The TIG/m and Roaring Camp Railroads proposal before the RTC at its November 4 meeting offers the RTC an opportunity to sit down and engage with knowledgeable and successful business in the passenger rail industry. Rejecting this opportunity out-of-hand, especially in this frightful era of rapidly accelerating global warming due to irrational overuse of fossil fuels, is extremely short-sighted. The RTC should direct its staff to return with a detailed proposal for a series of public conversations with the intent of crafting strategies for incremental development of self-propelled electric rail transit on the SCBRL. This fuller evaluation of the potential of phased implementation could then be used to update the Draft Business Plan.

In conclusion, FORT urges the Commission to immediately direct staff to consider ways in which public private partnerships, phased implementation of rail service and eliminating the cost of building wayside power infrastructure could help us meet our identified countywide goals of implementing electric passenger rail service and the Rail Trail sooner rather than later.

Sincerely,

Faina Segal  
Board Chair  
Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail & Trail

**From:** [Shannon Munz](#)  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** RE: TIG/m Trolley exceeded speed limit during demonstration  
**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:00:28 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Hi Jack,

The RTC does not regulate operations on the rail line. For complaints, you will need to contact either Progressive Rail, Roaring Camp or the Federal Railroad Administration.

Best,

Shannon

.....



**Shannon Munz**, Communications Specialist  
**[Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission](#)**  
1523 Pacific Avenue | Santa Cruz, CA 95060  
Main Office 831.460.3200 | Watsonville 831.460.3205  
Direct 831.460.3210

***Follow our social networks for the latest RTC news***

---

**From:** Jack Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** Regional Transportation Commission <[info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org)>; Guy Preston <[gpreston@sccrtc.org](mailto:gpreston@sccrtc.org)>  
**Subject:** TIG/m Trolley exceeded speed limit during demonstration

I believe the trolley was supposed to be limited to a maximum speed of 10 MPH/16 KPH, but I noticed in one of the promotional videos during the event that they exceeded the speed limit by 12.5%. Is there any ramification for putting passengers at risk by speeding on class 1 excepted track and violating their agreement?

COAST FUTURA: Electric street car exhibition from Watsonville to Harkins Slough



**From:** [Richard Kojak](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Railbanking  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 9:34:44 AM

---

Dear RTC commissioners,

I am deeply opposed to railbanking and or any other action that could lead to the demise of the railroad system in Santa Cruz county. Rail continues to be the lowest carbon impact way to move freight and people. We need every tool to combat climate change. Please protect our railroad and help develop it into the viable transportation link that it has the potential to be. Once lost we will never get it back. Don't be swayed by special interests that claim to be environmentally responsible in words only. The goal of removing the railroad tracks is environmentally and economically detrimental to the people of Santa Cruz county and their future generations.

Sincerely  
Richard Kojak

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu); [Brian Peoples](#)  
**Cc:** [Guy Preston](#); [Manu Koenig](#); [Zach Friend](#); [Bruce McPherson](#); [Gine Johnson](#); [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com); [jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net); [rj12@comcast.net](mailto:rj12@comcast.net); [rpquinn@pacbell.net](mailto:rpquinn@pacbell.net); [Alex Clifford](#); [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org); [Shannon Munz](#); [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com); [boardinquiries@scmted.com](mailto:boardinquiries@scmted.com); [jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org); [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us); [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us); [Andy Schiffrin](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Mr. Rotkin withdraw from RTC Board  
**Date:** Saturday, October 30, 2021 8:55:46 AM

---

Dear Mr. Rotkin,

Now doubt you are unpersuaded by anyone's argument except your own.

All the same, I wish to express my wholehearted agreement with Mr. People's letter and Mr. Kaplin's Letter to the Editor.

Your seat on Metro, and your seat on the RTC are the fruit of the City of Santa Cruz' avoidance of district elections, which in itself is a untenable position as laid-out by the judiciary.

As someone who hasn't run for a elected office in over a decade, it is unethical for you to sign your biased Letter to the Editor as a member of the RTC.

The sooner you withdraw yourself from future RTC meetings associated with votes on best use of the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor, the better for Metro, the RTC, and the entire Santa Cruz County community.

Sincerely,  
Peter Stanger

[REDACTED] Watsonville, CA 95076

On Saturday, October 30, 2021, 07:10:58 AM PDT, Brian Peoples <[brian@trailnow.org](mailto:brian@trailnow.org)> wrote:

Mr. Rotkin,

We could not agree more with the recent letter to the editor in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. As a Metro Board member, it is unacceptable that you advocate for rail over other more effective and viable transit solutions. We support the call for you to withdraw yourself from future RTC meetings associated with votes on best use of the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor.

Mike Rotkin has gone too far. As a long-serving public official, he knows better than to switch hats and become an advocate for FORT and the train lobby. By virtue of his appointment to S.C. Metro, he has an obligation to promote our bus system, not this pie-in-the-sky train boondoggle. It is his duty to remain open-minded and impartial on matters before the RTC; he should have “no dog in this fight.”

Instead, like a lawyer or lobbyist, he refers to “conspiracy theories” and directly attacks Greenway’s honesty and integrity. Why? Precisely because Greenway is gathering signatures for a ballot initiative that would

let our citizens vote on a pedestrian and bike trail. Talk about voter suppression! He should recuse himself from further proceedings on this controversy before the RTC.

— *Lawrence Kaplan, Watsonville*

Best regards,

Brian Peoples  
Trail Now


**From:** [Donald Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Brian Peoples](#)  
**Cc:** [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu); [Guy Preston](#); [Manu Koenig](#); [Zach Friend](#); [Bruce McPherson](#); [Gine Johnson](#); [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com); [jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net); [rji12@comcast.net](mailto:rji12@comcast.net); [rpquinn@pacbell.net](mailto:rpquinn@pacbell.net); [Alex Clifford](#); [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org); [Shannon Munz](#); [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com); [boardinquiries@scmttd.com](mailto:boardinquiries@scmttd.com); [jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org); [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us); [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us); [Andy Schiffrin](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Mr. Rotkin withdraw from RTC Board  
**Date:** Saturday, October 30, 2021 8:52:38 AM

---

Thanks for the heads up Brian.

For \$1.0 billion Santa Cruz County could implement a world class Metro system AND a world class trail. Fixed rail is a horrible means of serving public transportation needs. A world class Metro system could implement current technologies in a flexible 'where you need it, when you need' it fashion - all for free! We need to look at the larger picture and get Metro out of the dark ages. They just acquired its first electric bus. Too little, too late. I recently consulted a local engineer about 'bus systems' and he opened my eyes to what Metro could be. It's stunningly amazing.

Who appointed Mike Rotkin?

Donald Charles Schwartz, M.B.A., J.D.  
Law Office of Donald C. Schwartz  
7960-B Soquel Drive, No. 291  
Aptos, CA 95003  


Sent from iPhone

On Oct 30, 2021, at 7:10 AM, Brian Peoples <[brian@trailnow.org](mailto:brian@trailnow.org)> wrote:

Mr. Rotkin,

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— *Lawrence Kaplan, Watsonville*

Best regards,

Brian Peoples  
Trail Now

<Rotkin.jpg>

**From:** [Donald Schwartz](#)  
**To:** [Brian Peoples](#)  
**Cc:** [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu); [Guy Preston](#); [Manu Koenig](#); [Zach Friend](#); [Bruce McPherson](#); [Gine Johnson](#); [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com); [jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net); [rji12@comcast.net](mailto:rji12@comcast.net); [rpquinn@pacbell.net](mailto:rpquinn@pacbell.net); [Alex Clifford](#); [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org); [Shannon Munz](#); [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com); [boardinquiries@scmted.com](mailto:boardinquiries@scmted.com); [jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org); [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us); [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us); [Andy Schiffrin](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Mr. Rotkin withdraw from RTC Board  
**Date:** Sunday, October 31, 2021 9:17:16 PM

---

It is more than quite obvious that Mr. Rotkin sees the light on Greenway because the beam is in his own eye.

Donald Charles Schwartz, M.B.A., J.D.  
Law Office of Donald C. Schwartz  
7960-B Soquel Drive, No. 291  
Aptos, CA 95003

Sent from iPhone

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[REDACTED] wrote:

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Law Office of Donald C. Schwartz  
7960-B Soquel Drive, No. 291  
Aptos, CA 95003

Sent from iPhone

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— *Lawrence Kaplan, Watsonville*

Best regards,

Brian Peoples

Trail Now

<Rotkin.jpg>

**From:** [Jack Brown](#)  
**To:** [Shannon Munz](#)  
**Cc:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Re: TIG/m Trolley exceeded speed limit during demonstration  
**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 10:02:16 AM  
**Attachments:** [image003.png](#)  
[image004.png](#)  
[image005.png](#)  
[image006.png](#)  
[image002.png](#)

---

Thanks for the information.

On Thu, Nov 4, 2021 at 10:00 AM Shannon Munz <[smunz@sccrtc.org](mailto:smunz@sccrtc.org)> wrote:

Hi Jack,

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Best,

Shannon

.....



**Shannon Munz**, Communications Specialist  
**[Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission](#)**  
1523 Pacific Avenue | Santa Cruz, CA 95060



Main Office 831.460.3200 | Watsonville 831.460.3205

Direct 831.460.3210

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**From:** Jack Brown [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, October 27, 2021 4:29 PM  
**To:** Regional Transportation Commission <[info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org)>; Guy Preston

<[gpreston@sccrtc.org](mailto:gpreston@sccrtc.org)>

**Subject:** TIG/m Trolley exceeded speed limit during demonstration

I believe the trolley was supposed to be limited to a maximum speed of 10 MPH/16 KPH, but I noticed in one of the promotional videos during the event that they exceeded the speed limit by 12.5%. Is there any ramification for putting passengers at risk by speeding on class 1 exempted track and violating their agreement?



**From:** [Brian Peoples](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [REDACTED]  
**Cc:** [Guy Preston](#); [Manu Koenig](#); [rlj12@comcast.net](#); [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](#); [rpquinn@pacbell.net](#); [Zach Friend](#); [Bruce McPherson](#); [Gine Johnson](#); [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](#); [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](#); [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](#); [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](#); [Andy Schiffrin](#); [Steve Wiesner](#); [Nathan Nguyen](#); [Shannon Munz](#); [Yesenia Parra](#); [Sarah Christensen](#); [Alex Clifford](#); [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](#); [tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov](#); [REDACTED]; [jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](#); ["jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org"](#)  
**Subject:** Re: Trail Now Comments to RTC Board meeting (11/4)  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 10:46:06 AM

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Peter,

Thanks for pointing out that Mr. Rotkin used his title as RTC Commissioner Santa Cruz in a letter to the editor to the local newspaper. This is absolutely poor public policy by the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC), allowing commissioners to make public comments without approval by the Board.

Some form of reprimand is needed to control RTC communications and recommend Mr. Rotkin remove himself from the RTC Board.

Best regards,

Brian Peoples

Trail Now

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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, November 3, 2021 10:38 AM  
**To:** [info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org) <[info@sccrtc.org](mailto:info@sccrtc.org)>; [Brian Peoples](mailto:brian@trailnow.org) <[brian@trailnow.org](mailto:brian@trailnow.org)>  
**Cc:** [Guy Preston](mailto:gpreston@sccrtc.org) <[gpreston@sccrtc.org](mailto:gpreston@sccrtc.org)>; [Manu Koenig](mailto:manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us) <[manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us)>; [rlj12@comcast.net](mailto:rlj12@comcast.net) <[rlj12@comcast.net](mailto:rlj12@comcast.net)>; [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com) <[sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com)>; [rpquinn@pacbell.net](mailto:rpquinn@pacbell.net) <[rpquinn@pacbell.net](mailto:rpquinn@pacbell.net)>; [Zach Friend](mailto:zach.friend@co.santa-cruz.ca.us) <[bds022@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:bds022@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)>; [Bruce McPherson](mailto:bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us) <[bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us)>; [Gine Johnson](mailto:gine.johnson@santacruzcounty.us) <[gine.johnson@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:gine.johnson@santacruzcounty.us)>; [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us) <[greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us)>; [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org) <[eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org)>; [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu) <[openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu)>; [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us) <[ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us)>; [Andy Schiffrin](mailto:andy.schiffrin@santacruzcounty.us) <[andy.schiffrin@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:andy.schiffrin@santacruzcounty.us)>; [Steve Wiesner](mailto:steve.wiesner@santacruzcounty.us) <[steve.wiesner@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:steve.wiesner@santacruzcounty.us)>; [Nathan Nguyen](mailto:nnguyen@cityofsantacruz.com) <[nnguyen@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:nnguyen@cityofsantacruz.com)>; [Shannon Munz](mailto:smunz@sccrtc.org) <[smunz@sccrtc.org](mailto:smunz@sccrtc.org)>; [Yesenia Parra](mailto:yparra@sccrtc.org) <[yparra@sccrtc.org](mailto:yparra@sccrtc.org)>; [Sarah Christensen](mailto:schristensen@sccrtc.org) <[schristensen@sccrtc.org](mailto:schristensen@sccrtc.org)>; [Alex Clifford](mailto:aclifford@scmtd.com) <[aclifford@scmtd.com](mailto:aclifford@scmtd.com)>; [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com) <[ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com)>; [tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov) <[tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov)>; [REDACTED] <[marcy@scseaside.com](mailto:marcy@scseaside.com)>; [jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net) <[jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net](mailto:jacques.bertrand@sbcglobal.net)>; ["jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org"](mailto:'jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org') <[jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:'jimmy.dutra@cityofwatsonville.org')>  
**Subject:** Re: Trail Now Comments to RTC Board meeting (11/4)

Dear Commissioners,

I agree with everything written here by Brian Peoples and representing the interests of Trail Now supporters.

I ask that RTC Commissioners censure Commissioner Michael Rotkin for his recent letter-to-the-editor published in the Santa Cruz Sentinel. In expressing his personal opinion, Commissioner Rotkin signed his letter and noted "RTC Commissioner." Commissioner Rotkin's personal opinion expressed in the letter-to-the-editor was his own, and not that of the SCCRTC. Therefore, he should not identify his opinion as "RTC Commissioner."

Mr. Rotkin has never been elected to any countywide public office, and has never been elected to any Santa Cruz City public office in a fairly apportioned city district election. In fact, it has been nearly two decades since he last held office in the City of Santa Cruz from a unfair at-large citywide election (that violates the California Voting Rights Act.) His position on the Santa Cruz Metro and the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission is untenable, and he should be removed and replaced from both the Metro and RTC with a commissioner who is more representative of the current countywide dynamics.

Respectfully,  
Peter Stanger



Watsonville, CA 95076

On Wednesday, November 3, 2021, 05:25:44 AM PDT, Brian Peoples <brian@trailnow.org> wrote:

RTC,

Please accept the following comments for the items on RTC agenda for Thursday, 11/4. Also included is a photo of the Roaring Camp train parked on the taxpayer-owned Santa Cruz Boardwalk Trestle. Please include this photo as part of our communications.

**Item #13a. October 15 Letter to Nathan Nguyen - Notice of Preparation of an EIR for Rail Trail Segments 8 & 9**

Trail Now supports the letter from the RTC to the City of Santa Cruz to include an alternative analysis in the EIR to railbank and construct the interim Coastal Trail along Segments 8 & 9.

This alternative analysis will demonstrate a more cost-effective approach to opening the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor for transportation, and will show that railbanking, pulling the tracks and building an interim trail is the best solution for our community. We fully support the RTC's leadership in moving toward railbanking the Coastal Corridor.

In addition, we recommend that the Santa Cruz Boardwalk Trestle that extends over the San Lorenzo River be included in the Segment 8 & 9 analysis. Currently, the Boardwalk Trestle is NOT included in any of the segments, which results in the trestle NOT being included in any EIR analysis.

Finally, Roaring Camp has stated that they want what is best for the community and look forward to working with the RTC on a win-win solution for the Coastal Trail and their on/off-boarding operations. Therefore, we ask that the RTC and City of Santa Cruz take Roaring Camp up in their offer to relocate to Depot Station as part of the Segment 8 & 9 trail development.

**Item #19 Unsolicited Rail Proposal - TIG/m and Roaring Camp**

We support the RTC's staff recommendation to NOT accept the unsolicited proposal by TIG/m and Roaring Camp to operate a tourist train along the taxpayer-owned Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor. As stated by RTC Executive Director Guy Preston, "the trolley demonstration did not provide information that would make commuter rail easier or less expensive to implement. RTC did not sponsor the event and is not responsible for the information disseminated at the demonstration, either orally or in writing."

The trolley demonstration should never have occurred and should not have been supported by ANY RTC commissioners. The demonstration increased traffic congestion along adjacent surface streets and added workload to RTC staff.

This on-going push by rail advocates is blocking the use of the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor for active transportation. The Coastal Corridor has remained closed for over a decade since becoming a taxpayer-owned resource. We ask the RTC to move forward with railbanking, pulling the rails, and building an interim Coastal Trail NOW.

Best,

Brian Peoples  
Trail Now

**From:** [Amelia Conlen](#)  
**To:** [Amelia Conlen](#)  
**Cc:** [nancy](#); [Natalie Olivas](#)  
**Subject:** Report of community survey data on transportation in Watsonville  
**Date:** Wednesday, November 10, 2021 12:04:44 PM  
**Attachments:** [Outlook-55ro5lgw.png](#)

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Hello community partners,

We wanted to share the results of a community survey conducted in Watsonville in summer 2021. Regeneración Pajaro Valley and Ecology Action received funding through California Climate Investments to conduct a Community Transportation Needs Assessment of two Census tracts within Watsonville. The program is focused on clean shared-mobility options such as public transit, electric vehicles, car-share, bike-share, and scooter-share programs, and electric shuttles.

The goal of the survey was to learn about residents' current travel behavior and their interest in new transportation options. Key findings from the 230 survey responses include:

- *There is a tremendous opportunity for new transportation programs in Watsonville: 38% of Spanish-speaking respondents did not drive a car, which indicates a large potential audience for new modes of transportation.*
- *Many transportation challenges were identified in the survey responses related to the built environment, lack of options, lack of awareness of options, affordability, lack of a driver's license, and inconvenience. These barriers disproportionately impact Spanish speakers: 19% of Spanish speakers are not able to get around easily, versus 9% of English speakers.*
- *Given the overall low level of familiarity with the majority of transportation options, education must be a significant component of any new program.*
- *When asked what new transportation options respondents would consider using for their commute trips, the top responses were shuttles, carpool services like Waze and Scoop, and driving alone. However, all transportation options except tricycle share (driving with others, bus, light rail, bicycle, walk/roll, Uber/Lyft, taxi, car-share, bikeshare, scooter-share, and microtransit) received at least 20% interest for commute trips, indicating interest in a broad range of new transportation options in Watsonville.*

You can read the full report below. It is also posted on Regeneracion's website: <https://www.regenerationpajarovalley.org/watsonvillecmo>

 [CMO Regen-EA Summary Report 2021\\_FINAL.pdf](#)

And big thanks to everyone who helped distribute the survey, reviewed survey questions, or provided comments on the Summary Report.

Best,



**Amelia Conlen**

Planner

**Mobile** 831-334-8393

**Web** <https://ecoact.org/> **Email** [aconlen@ecoact.org](mailto:aconlen@ecoact.org)

**Address** 877 Cedar St. Suite 240 Santa Cruz, CA 95060

**From:** [Jean Brocklebank](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Social equity via enhanced bus service  
**Date:** Saturday, November 13, 2021 7:18:29 PM

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Dear Commissioners ~

I recently read an interesting article that seems to indicate *enhancing our bus service* is where we can provide the greatest equity for transportation services for all members of the public. Here is the link: <https://grist.org/article/mobility-justice-how-cities-are-rethinking-public-transportation-after-covid/> .

*"However, Freemark points out that, 'frequent bus service can be accomplished on existing city streets tomorrow.' The need is clear: In Boston, bus ridership on some routes has recovered to 70 percent to 87 percent of pre-pandemic levels. Commuter rail has struggled to get above 20 percent."*

Our county already had the roadway infrastructure in place for public transit bus service. We just need to prioritize making the system user-friendly.

I hope you find the article thought-provoking.

Sincerely,  
Jean Brocklebank

**From:** [Joy Schendledecker](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Support rail for Watsonville  
**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 8:08:23 AM

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Dear All—

Please support rail in Watsonville and proceed with the long-planned rail-trail. I do not support Greenway, or Trail Now's proposal for rail banking. Let's keep the long-view in mind for sustainable transportation for everyone in the region!

Sincerely—

Joy Schendledecker  
Santa Cruz

**From:** [Sebastian Little](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Support rail  
**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 11:15:30 AM

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I am asking you to support rail service between Watsonville and Santa Cruz.  
That is all.

Sebastian Little



**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [alnorthc@cabrillo.edu](mailto:alnorthc@cabrillo.edu); [sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com](mailto:sbrown@cityofsantacruz.com); [ibertrand@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:ibertrand@ci.capitola.ca.us); [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org); [ryan.connerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.connerty@santacruzcounty.us); [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us); [bruce.mcpherson@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](mailto:bruce.mcpherson@co.santa-cruz.ca.us); [zach.friend@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:zach.friend@santacruzcounty.us); [ladykpetersen@gmail.com](mailto:ladykpetersen@gmail.com); "Manu Koenig"; [rji12@comcast.net](mailto:rji12@comcast.net); [openup@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:openup@cats.ucsc.edu); [tim.gobbins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:tim.gobbins@dot.ca.gov); [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Cc:** ["Lynne and Ray Simpson"](#)  
**Subject:** The rail transportation system  
**Date:** Friday, November 5, 2021 12:02:40 PM

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Dear Commissioners;

Along with the majority of Santa Cruz county residents/voters, I encourage you to get started now on building a fuel efficient, non-polluting, easy access rail system in the transportation corridor, owned by all of us!

Certainly, under the Build Back Better program and the emphasis on rail transit, the money is available to do so.

And there are numerous citizens of our area who such a system would benefit.

To be entirely honest, I do not understand why you would deny the public this affordable, reasonable, in the-right-place system of modern transportation!

Sincerely yours,

Lynne M. Simpson

[REDACTED]  
Santa Cruz 95062  
District 1

[REDACTED]



This email has been checked for viruses by AVG antivirus software.

[www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)

**From:** [Judy Gittelsohn](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission; executivedirector@santacruzcountyregionaltransportationcomission.org](#)  
**Subject:** Train Poem  
**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 4:08:24 PM  
**Attachments:** [November 4, 2021 Train Poem to the RTC.docx](#)

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Hello Commissioners;

Attached is the poem I read to you today. Thank you for including my poem in your records.

Best,

Judy Gittelsohn  
Watsonville

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Judy Gittelsohn



November 4, 2021

I've read you my train poems,  
and now I road  
I was a yes before, and now I'm sold.

I've said it before, and I'll say it again,  
The train being here it's a win, win, win.

Zero emissions, zero emissions, zero emissions, wow

It was Quiet and pleasant  
The views were beyond  
I just wish it was still here  
That the train wasn't gone.

California designed, and manufactured,  
What's not to like?  
You are the guys are who can install the first spike.  
This can be done with delight, without fear  
few years to build, \$350 Million – it's relatively cheap  
And the future is here.  
It could be running and boast  
Come see here what we've done on our coast...

The public will love you,  
The county will shine  
The earth will be happy  
The children will whine

I wanna ride  
I wanna ride

Zero emissions, zero emissions, zero emissions, wow.

**From:** [Erin Wood](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** We need rail connecting South and North Counties  
**Date:** Thursday, November 4, 2021 7:40:05 AM

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Good morning~

I wanted to reach out to voice my support of a train connecting South and North Counties. The Coast Futura is a very solid option and I know there are many options to upgrade the existing railway and still also have a trail alongside it. I live in Santa Cruz and work all over the county with Monarch Independent Living Services. I go down to Watsonville each week and it would be so helpful to have the option to take a train. Also, the majority of our clients with intellectual disabilities do not drive and a train would greatly increase their independence, mobility and engagement in the community.

Feel free to reach out with any questions,

Erin Wood, L.Ac.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** commissioners addresses  
**Date:** Friday, October 29, 2021 5:22:04 PM

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Dear RTC; I am very much in favor of a rail/trail plan on the transportation corridor.....can you send me the addresses of the RTC commissioners so I can send them my support for this plan? Thank you! Lynne Simpson



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[www.avg.com](http://www.avg.com)