

From: [Contact Request Form](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: New submission from Contact Form
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 7:40:08 PM

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

Name
Joseph Pruss
Email
[REDACTED]
Subject
Measure D
Your Message
<p>Dear RTC Commissioners,</p> <p>I am writing to comment on Items 28 and 11 on the May 5 agenda.</p> <p>Item 28 seems designed to bypass the will of the voters on the issue of the Rail and Trail. It's not right to do an end-run around the election by deciding now between the Ultimate Trail and the Interim Trail when this issue is going to the polls in just a few weeks. Please table it until after the election.</p> <p>If the commission acts on Item 28 instead of tabling it, please choose the Ultimate Trail. The Interim Trail is bad planning. It would increase the cost of building the trail by approximately \$12 Million per mile. It would require the Commission to engage in a messy, drawn-out forced-abandonment railbanking attack on Roaring Camp, which very possibly might fail in the end. If successful, abandonment and railbanking would be a betrayal of our promise when we bought the rail line. Tearing out tracks would hurt the RTC's ability to implement Electric Passenger Rail with the trail, which the RTC chose as our Locally Preferred Alternative because the data showed it would best serve the transportation needs of everyone in the county. Finally, if the RTC succeeded in forced abandonment and track demolition it would hurt Roaring Camp's business.</p> <p>For all these reasons, I strongly support sticking with the Ultimate Trail design and keeping our tracks and trail both. However, I urge you to table this item until after the election. Making the decision now, when the public is about to vote on this issue, would be unethical and undemocratic.</p> <p>Regarding consent agenda Item 11, staff is asking you to cancel the planned repairs of the Pajaro bridge, despite the availability of a \$500,000 grant budget for repairs. This bridge is actively in use by Watsonville freight rail customers served by Roaring Camp. The Commission took legal responsibility for repairs when it purchased the line. I urge you to pull this item off the consent agenda and direct staff to figure out how to leverage the grant funding to get the most critical bridge repairs done ASAP.</p> <p>Finally, I would like to say I consider the Rail and Trail solution one way to provide for additional employment of Watsonville residents in Santa Cruz. I am aware of the worker shortage, causing temporary or permanent closure of restaurants and other employers that employ entry level workers in Santa Cruz. Surely a rail alternative from Watsonville, would bring additional employees to Santa Cruz, which is a win-win : good for Santa Cruz business and good for Watsonville employment.</p> <p>Sincerely, Joseph Pruss</p>

From: [ROBERT STEPHENS](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Comments on Agenda Items for you 5/5 Meeting
Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 8:38:27 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I don't think anyone in our community wants to kill a train or not have mass transit, but we do have to deal with reality. What is doable and what can we afford should be the way forward. Here are my comments on two of your agenda items:

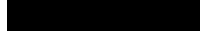
Agenda Item #11: It appears the cost to repair this important bridge is 522% over cost. Where will the money come from? Maybe funding for an overly expensive rail/trail in Santa Cruz should pay for this or drop the project for a while.

Agenda Item #28: It is finally time to look at rail banking and an interim trail. Please vote for Scenario 1. Again no one is trying to kill a train, we just want to start looking at other options to start using the wonderful resource our county purchased 10 years ago.

I appreciate all the time and effort each one of you has put into this issue. It is time to move our county forward.

Sincerely,

Robert Stephens



Aptos, CA

From: [Laurence Gathy](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Cc: [Laurence Gathy](#)
Subject: Comments on items 11 and 28 on the May 5th Agenda
Date: Wednesday, May 4, 2022 7:20:17 AM

Dear RTC Commissioners,

My name is Laurence Gathy and I am a Felton resident. I am writing to you to comment on items 11 and 28 on the May 5th agenda.

1. Item 11 [Approve rejection of Bid for the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Line]

I object to this item. This bridge is actively in use by Watsonville freight rail customers served by Roaring Camp. It is my understanding that the commission agreed to take on repairs to the bridge when it purchase the rail corridor in 2012. Staff should be redirected to pursue other bids or figure out how to leverage the \$500,000 grant budget funding to get the most critical bridge repairs done ASAP.

2. Item 28 [in which staff asks the Commission to decide between the 'Interim Trail' and the 'Ultimate Trail']

This item is very confusing to me! Are we not voting on Measure D and this issue in the June elections? Is this a strategy on the part of the commission to influence the outcome of the upcoming election? Perhaps someone on the commission can explain why this is on the agenda in advance of the June 7 vote?

For the record, I am a strong supporter the "Ultimate Trail" plan with continued completion of the trail, and I am in STRONG Opposition to the Interim Trail.

More than 50% of greenhouse gas emissions in our county are from the transportation sector. We need to reduce emissions urgently to meet the state's goals of net zero emissions by 2045 and to avoid the most catastrophic consequences of climate change. We will not have enough ZEV (Zero Emission Vehicle) infrastructure and ZEV vehicles adoption by 2045 to meet the greenhouse gas reduction necessary to achieve the net zero goal. Rail transit is a viable option and must be part of the solution.

Laurence Gathy

From: [David Schonbrunn](#)
To: [Krista Corwin](#)
Subject: Comments on upcoming Agenda
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 4:43:48 PM
Attachments: [Santa Cruz RTC 5-5 Comments.pdf](#)

Please distribute the attached to Commissioners. An email indicating receipt would be much appreciated.

Thank you,

--David

David Schonbrunn, President
Train Riders Association of California (TRAC)
P.O. Box 151439
San Rafael, CA 94915-1439

 cell & office

www.calrailnews.org

From: [Dieter Siegmund](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Cc: [Dieter Siegmund](#)
Subject: Feedback for May 5, 2022 meeting
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 12:34:04 PM

Dear RTC Commissioners,

Regarding Item 28:

I am against the Interim Trail option, and for the Ultimate Trail option. I support using our corridor for Rail and Trail, not just a Trail. The Interim Trail would force abandonment of the rail line, which I am strongly opposed to. The Interim Trail would harm Roaring Camp's operations, and result in delays getting rail deployed on the line.

Regarding Item 11:

The RTC is legally obligated to maintain the rail line, and that includes repairs on the Pajaro bridge. The bridge is actively used by freight operations run by Roaring Camp. It's unclear why we are considering not doing these repairs, given that there is \$500K of grant funds available. Please figure out how to get this repair work completed.

Best regards,
Dieter Siegmund
Santa Cruz, CA



Officers

David Schonbrunn
President
Marin County

Susan MacAdams
Vice-President
Washington, D.C. Rep.

Fred Glienna
Secretary
Los Angeles County

Gordon Osmundson
Treasurer
Alameda County

Board Members

Art Brown
Orange County

Derek Casady
San Diego County

Wallace Cook
San Diego County

John Deeter
Sacramento County

Benjamin Etgen
Sacramento County

Ron Jones
Madera County

William F. McGeehan III
Contra Contra County

May 3, 2022

Sandy Brown, Chair
Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1101 Pacific Avenue Suite 250
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Re: Comments on May 5 RTC Agenda Items 11 and 28

Dear Chair Brown:

The Train Riders Association of California, TRAC, advocates on behalf of rail passenger service. We publish *California Rail News*, whose new issue is all about Santa Cruz Measure D. We invite Commissioners to review it:
<http://www.calrailnews.org/current/>

We were shocked to find that staff has agendized the controversial issue of interim vs. ultimate trail as Item 28 of the May 5 Regional Transportation Commission Agenda. Given that this matter will be brought before the public in an expensive election, this strikes us as unnecessary, divisive, and highly unwise. There is no need for the RTC to consider this item now when the voters will definitively express their preferences in only a few weeks. Please table this matter until after the election.

We disagree with the Staff Recommendation on Consent Agenda Item 11. We are disappointed that the bid needs to be rejected, but understand. We believe that rather than merely cancelling the project, a better approach would be to secure a second engineering opinion (we can recommend an appropriate bridge expert). That would give the RTC the option to either extend the life of the existing structure, or replace it more cost-effectively, using available funds.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ DAVID SCHONBRUNN

David Schonbrunn, President

From: [REDACTED] on behalf of [Robin Belkin](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Fund The Approved Rail and Trail Plan RE: Items 28 and 11, Repair the Tracks, Build the Ultimate Trail for The Common Good
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 1:09:36 PM

Dear SCCRTC Commissioner,

Items 28 and 11 on the May 5th agenda have a substantial impact on my life, my community, and generations to come.

Infrastructure is supposed to serve our community wellbeing and the common good. Thus, our infrastructure development ought to address the pressing issues of green house gas emissions from cars that contribute to global warming, energy dependence that threatens our national security, traffic congestion that adds to the aforementioned issues as well as interfering with our productivity, health, and wellbeing. Further, our infrastructure development must address transportation equity and accessibility. The Interim Trail is a senseless diversion from the Ultimate Trail chosen specifically to best address the aforementioned issues.

Recently, the RTC seems to have become distracted by a wealthy special interest group and oddly influential hobby bike enthusiasts. Neither of these groups ought to hijack our community's long-standing, hard-won achievements toward building the chosen Ultimate Trail to best serve everyone for our entire community wellbeing, now and for generations to come.

Agenda Item 28 seems designed to bypass the will of the voters and the common good on the issue of the Rail and Trail. Former (2016) tax Measure D won super-majority voter approval in part to maintain and preserve our railroad (purchased pursuant to majority voter-approved Prop. 116) via a 30-year, 1/2 cent, sales tax increase until 2045. Now, your timing of doing an end-run around the upcoming election to decide between the Ultimate Trail and the Interim Trail seems ill-advised. Seems you ought to table this item until after the election unless you are planning to finally act on the mandate you received in the 2016 tax Measure, and in order not to be diverted by a vote on the intrinsically contradictory, poorly designed, and very deceptive upcoming ballot Measure D.

If the commission acts on Item 28 instead of tabling it, I strongly urge you to choose the Ultimate Trail. The Interim Trail lacks common sense, and further institutionalizes foot-dragging on some of the most pressing issues we face. The Interim Trail would increase the cost of building the trail by approximately \$12 Million per mile. It would require the Commission to engage in a drawn-out, forced-abandonment railbanking attack on Roaring Camp, which likely will fail in the end. But, if successful, abandonment and railbanking would be a betrayal of our promise when we bought the rail line. Tearing out tracks would hurt our community's and the RTC's ability to implement Electric Passenger Rail with the Trail, which the RTC chose as our Locally Preferred Alternative--because the data show it would best serve the transportation needs of everyone in the county both locally and as an essential connection to our Statewide, high-speed rail network. Finally, If the RTC succeeded in forced abandonment and track demolition it would hurt Roaring Camp's business.

For all these reasons, I strongly support sticking with the Ultimate Trail design and keeping both our tracks and trail.

Regarding consent agenda Item 11, staff is asking you to cancel the planned repairs of the Pajaro Bridge, despite the availability of a \$500,000 grant budget for repairs. This bridge is actively in use by Watsonville freight rail customers served by Roaring Camp. The Commission took legal responsibility for repairs when it purchased the line. I urge you to pull this item off the consent agenda and direct staff to figure out how to leverage the grant funding to get the most critical bridge repairs done ASAP.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Robin Belkin

The Interim Trail plan would harm Roaring Camp and harm our progress towards building the Locally Preferred Alternative of trail and electric passenger rail together. I support the Ultimate Trail plan. I do NOT support the Interim Trail plan.

Sincerely,
Robin Belkin

 Soquel, CA 95073-9401

From: [Tina Andreatta](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [Guy Preston](#)
Cc: [manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us](#); [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](#); [bruce.mcperson@santacruzcounty.us](#); [rlj12@comcast.net](#); [ari.parker@cityofwatsonville.org](#); [jbertrand@ci.capitola.ca.us](#); [greg.caput@co.santa-cruz.ca.us](#); [thekristenbrown@gmail.com](#); [tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov](#); S Brown; [Michael Rotkin](#); [eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](#); [zach.friend@santacruzcounty.us](#)
Subject: Fund and Repair the Tracks, Build the "Ultimate Trail" for The Common Good
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 3:40:48 PM

Dear Commissioners,

In recent times, the RTC seems to have become distracted by a wealthy special interest group and oddly an influential hobby bike enthusiast's group. Neither of these groups ought to hijack our community's long-standing, hard-won achievements toward building the chosen "Ultimate Trail" to best serve everyone.

It seems this wealthy special interest group would rather spend money on big signs, online paid ads and trolling, tv ads and full page sentinel ads; rather than to continue moving forward with completing the Coastal Rail AND Trail.

Items #11 and #28 on the May 5, 2022 agenda have a substantial impact on my family and my life, my neighborhood, my community, and future generations.

Hard infrastructure is roadways, bridges, railways not trails. Infrastructure is supposed to serve our community's well-being and the common good. Thus, our infrastructure development ought to address the pressing issues of green house gas emissions from cars that contribute to global warming, energy dependence that threatens our national security, traffic congestion that adds gridlock and stresses the physical, mental, productivity and financial well-being of our community and south county commuters.

Further, our infrastructure development must address transportation equity and accessibility.

Our neighbors in Monterey are working on their Branch Line, and encourages the Santa Cruz Transit Commission to continue completing the Coastal Rail AND Trail (as we promised).

What about our connections to the California State Rail Plan? The "Interim Trail" is a trail to no where.

The "Ultimate Trail" connects Davenport, Santa Cruz, Capitola, Aptos, La Selva Beach, Watsonville to the Pajaro/Watsonville Train Station then to Salinas, Gilroy and the rest of the state.

The "Interim Trail" is a senseless diversion from the "Ultimate Trail."

The "Interim Trail" would increase the cost of building the trail by approximately \$12Million per mile.

I strongly support the "Ultimate Plan" and continued completion of the trail.

I am in STRONG Opposition to the "Interim trail."

I object to **consent agenda Item 11**, canceling the planned repairs of the Pajaro bridge.

I object to **Item 28**, - staff asks the Commission to decide between the 'Interim Trail,' basically Measure D requiring railbanking and tearing out the tracks through Mid-County, and the 'Ultimate Trail,'

Agenda Item #28 seems designed to bypass the will of the voters and the common good on the issue of the Rail AND Trail.

Former (2016) tax Measure D won super-majority voter approval in part to maintain and preserve our railroad (purchased pursuant to majority voter-approved Prop. 116) via a 30-year, 1/2 cent, sales tax increase until 2045.

Now, your timing of doing an end-run around the upcoming election to decide between the "Ultimate Trail" and the "Interim Trail" seems ill-advised.

Table this item until after the election unless you are planning to finally act on the mandate you received in the 2016 tax Measure, perhaps to best avoid ill-conceived diversions by a vote on the intrinsically contradictory, poorly designed, and very deceptive upcoming ballot Measure D.

If the commission acts on Item #28 instead of tabling it, I strongly urge you to choose the "Ultimate Trail."

The "Interim Trail" lacks common sense, and further institutionalizes foot-dragging on some of the most pressing issues we face.

The "Interim Trail" would increase the cost of building the trail by approximately \$12 Million per mile. It would require the Commission to engage in a drawn-out, forced-abandonment railbanking attack on Roaring Camp, which likely will fail in the end. But, if successful, abandonment and railbanking would be a betrayal of our promise when we bought the rail line.

Tearing out tracks would hurt our community's and the RTC's ability to implement Electric Passenger Rail with the Trail, which the RTC chose as our Locally Preferred Alternative-- because the data show it would best serve the transportation needs of everyone in the County-- both locally and as an essential connection to our Statewide, high-speed rail network.

If the RTC succeeded in forced abandonment and track demolition it would hurt Roaring Camp's business.

For all these reasons, I strongly support sticking with the "Ultimate Trail" design and keeping both our tracks and trail.

Regarding consent agenda Item #11, staff is asking you to cancel the planned repairs of the Pajaro Bridge, despite the availability of a \$500,000 grant budget for repairs. This bridge is actively in use by Watsonville freight rail customers served by Roaring Camp.

The Commission took legal responsibility for repairs when it purchased the line. I urge you to

pull this item off the consent agenda and direct staff to figure out how to leverage the grant funding to get the most critical bridge repairs done ASAP.

Protect the Tracks, Respect the Community, Build the “Ultimate Trail.”

Don't allow politics to rule the public process.

Thank you very much for your careful consideration of these matters.

Sincerely,

Tina Andreatta
Aptos, CA 95003

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Andree LeBourveau](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: I support Ultimate Trail plan, Rail & Trail
Date: Tuesday, May 3, 2022 1:55:12 PM

Regional Transportation Commission,

I have been meaning to email ever since I rode the Costa Futura back in Oct 2021. I loved it and I want to encourage a electronic train in Santa Cruz county. I enjoyed the big windows, the quiet, green energy use, and the easy access for the disabled.

I want you all to support the Ultimate Trail plan to keep the rail tracks and the trail. I work at Cabrillo and I would love to take a train to and from Cabrillo as well as up and down the coast and eventually connect with the bullet train. I lived in Europe and the train was my main use of transportation.

Please continue to repair the Pajaro Bridge to keep our area connected and safe.

Thank you
Andree

--
Andrée LeBourveau
Visual Resource Curator
Visual, Applied, & Performing Arts
Cabrillo College
VAPA 1005
[REDACTED]
M-Th: 8-12pm, F: 7:30-11:30am

~~~~~  
Library Resource Specialist  
Robert E. Swenson Library  
Cabrillo College  
1020  
[REDACTED]  
M-Th: 1-5pm, F: 12-4pm

**From:** [Casey KirkHart](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Item #11 - Please REJECT Pajaro River Bridge Rehab Project  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022 12:16:01 AM

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Dear Commissioners,

We have many important and expensive priorities in the County, from building affordable housing to supporting our schools to fixing our roads.

We cannot afford to repair the Pajaro River Bridge at an exorbitant cost and when the future of the rail corridor is uncertain.

Please reject the bid to repair the bridge and wait to act until we have a clear plan for the use of the corridor.

Thank you  
Dr Casey KirkHart

--

~~~~~  
Casey KirkHart, D.O.

email: [REDACTED]

cell: [REDACTED]

~~~~~

**From:** [Jeffrey Bergamini](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Items 28 and 11: Support the Interim Trail  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 1:49:35 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to comment on Items 28 and 11 on the May 5 agenda.

I urge you to act on Item 28 and choose the Interim Trail. I have seen no realistic monetary or logistical plan for passenger rail in this area, and would like to move forward and create something usable and useful for the community for the foreseeable future, which at this point seems to be a multi-use trail.

Regarding consent agenda Item 11, I urge you to cancel the planned repairs of the Pajaro bridge. This is a poor and expensive time to be soliciting such bids.

Thank you,  
Jeffrey Bergamini  
Santa Cruz, CA 95065

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Elizabeth Schilling](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Keep and repair the tracks  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 9:24:06 AM

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Dear SCCRTC Commissioner,

Please delay your vote on item 28 till after the next election. The public's decision on Measure D should guide future action in this area.

Also urgent is item 11. Please pursue all available funds and possibilities to repair the Pajaro bridge. Freight rail is currently moved on this line and it is part of our national transport/supply line.

In all actions preserve the Ultimate Trail plan to develop trail and electric passenger rail together.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Schilling

The Interim Trail plan would harm Roaring Camp and harm our progress towards building the Locally Preferred Alternative of trail and electric passenger rail together. I support the Ultimate Trail plan. I do NOT support the Interim Trail plan.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Schilling  
[REDACTED] Santa Cruz, CA 95062-1849

**From:** [James Weller](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [ari.parker@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:ari.parker@cityofwatsonville.org); [Sandy Brown](#); [jbertrand@ci.capitola.ca.us](mailto:jbertrand@ci.capitola.ca.us);  
[eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org); [greg.caput@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:greg.caput@santacruzcounty.us); [ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:ryan.coonerty@santacruzcounty.us);  
[bruce.mcperson@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:bruce.mcperson@santacruzcounty.us); [zach.friend@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:zach.friend@santacruzcounty.us); [thekristenbrown@gmail.com](mailto:thekristenbrown@gmail.com); [Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson](#); [manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us](mailto:manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us); [rj12@comcast.net](mailto:rj12@comcast.net); [Michael Rotkin](#);  
[tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov](mailto:tim.gubbins@dot.ca.gov)  
**Subject:** May 5, 2022 SCCRTC meeting agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 7:16:34 PM  
**Attachments:** [Letter to RTC 050222.docx](#)

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Honorable Commissioners, Executive Director, and staff:

Attached is my public testimony and input for your meeting this Thursday.

Please take heed.

Respectfully,

Jim Weller



Capitola

May 2, 2022

TO: RTC Commissioners, Executive Director, and staff

FROM: Jim Weller, Capitola resident

Concerning Item 11 on the consent Agenda, “Approve rejection of Bid for the Pájaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Project along the Santa Cruz Branch Line,” THIS MATTER MUST BE PULLED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND DISCUSSED FULLY AND OPENLY AND PUBLICLY.

Speaking for myself and the general public, we need to participate in a full and open hearing of the RTC staff’s considerations in this regard, and of all relevant circumstances surrounding the matter. My understanding is that staff intends to delay needed bridge repairs indefinitely, even though at least \$500,000 of grant funding is available for the project. Is it not the case that the RTC is obligated under the terms of the present ACL with Saint Paul & Pacific Railroad to make those repairs?

Many of us fear that hidden in the subject matter of Item 11 is a subrosa agenda that would attempt to set up some basis for an argument in favor of an application to the Federal Surface Transportation Board for adverse abandonment of the SCBRL and the Felton Branch, and for railbanking that, if approved, would make possible the removal of the railroad tracks. Such an outcome would severely damage Roaring Camp Railroads’ business options and seemingly would prevent continuing freight rail operations to and from Watsonville.

We demand that the RTC commissioners reject staff’s proposal in Item 11, and instead direct staff to proceed with all deliberate speed to accomplish whatever repairs are needed to the Pájaro River railroad crossing infrastructure.

Concerning Agenda Item 28, the present is not the time to choose between the RTC staff’s very recently disclosed so-called “Ultimate” and “Interim” Coastal Rail Trail scenarios. Much more study and public consideration of the potential adverse consequences of a premature commitment to the so-called “Interim” scenario is needed.

THE RTC COMMISSIONERS MUST NOT TAKE ANY ACTION TOWARD PREFERRING OR PRIVILEGING THE SO-CALLED “INTERIM” SCENARIO NOW OR IN THE NEAR FUTURE.

**From:** [Vicki Miller](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Measure D funds Agenda items 11 and 28  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 10:13:31 PM

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Guy Preston, Executive Director and SCCRTC Commission

Mr. Preston and Commissioners,

I definitely am not in favor of the Interim Trail plan.

**I do not see a benefit fiscally or environmentally for our community either short term or long term:**

- Rail banking will not happen in six months – this will be fought legally and in the public sector
- Rail banking for an “Interim Trail” will result in further delay of the proposed multi-modal trail
- Rail banking will add costs to a rail project that is long due
- Rail banking will bisect our continuous rail track into two sections that will not serve the County to its fullest potential
- Removing rails and paving over the pathway will not solve our transportation needs for everyone; it will only serve a few
- Rail banking and removal of tracks will not reduce vehicle miles traveled
- Rail banking and track removal will not bring development along the corridor as there will be no confidence that the trail will remain at its projected width or that a mass transportation system will ever be established
- The Interim Trail will remove the only other transportation corridor that we currently have that can move large amounts of people and freight outside of Highway 1
- Rail banking will preclude further development of passenger rail and freight on the corridor
- Rail banking, rail removal and paving with asphalt will result in additional environmental damage upon removal for any rail projects
- Would there be any return on investment for an Interim Trail – no.

**Ultimate Trail has benefits for our county fiscally and environmentally:**

- Funding for the Ultimate Trail spent today will save us money in the future
- An Ultimate Trail moves us closer to passenger rail and freight on the rails thus moving toward reducing VMT
- An Ultimate Trail will have a return on investment as additional housing and business develops along the line
- Freight will be able to move from north to south without adding to the congestion on Highway 1

- Micro-business will develop to move people from rail stations to ultimate destination

I urge the Commission to direct the RTC Staff to move forward with planning for the Ultimate Trail and progress toward passenger rail as quickly as funding can be located.

Regarding the rejection of the bid for the Pajaro River Bridge: I believe it is foolish for the RTC to forego the funding received to repair this bridge. It would be best if the RTC re-advertised this project in the hopes of attracting additional interest, perhaps using a different platform to attract new bidders. This bridge is important for freight and passenger rail travel and links our system to the rest of the California rail system. As an asset of the County, this bridge should be repaired as quickly as is possible with whatever additional funds necessary.

Sincerely,

Vicki Miller  
District One Resident

**From:** [REDACTED] on behalf of [Ros Munro](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Please think of the futureItems 28 and 11: Repair the Tracks, Build the Ultimate Trail  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 2:24:02 PM

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Dear SCCRTC Commissioner,

I am writing to comment on Items 28 and 11 on the May 5 agenda.

Item 28 seems designed to bypass the will of the voters on the issue of the Rail and Trail. It's not right to do an end-run around the election by deciding now between the Ultimate Trail and the Interim Trail when this issue is going to the polls in just a few weeks. Please table it until after the election.

If the commission acts on Item 28 instead of tabling it, please choose the Ultimate Trail. The Interim Trail is bad planning. It would increase the cost of building the trail by approximately \$12 Million per mile. It would require the Commission to engage in a messy, drawn-out forced-abandonment railbanking attack on Roaring Camp, which very possibly might fail in the end. If successful, abandonment and railbanking would be a betrayal of our promise when we bought the rail line. Tearing out tracks would hurt the RTC's ability to implement Electric Passenger Rail with the trail, which the RTC chose as our Locally Preferred Alternative because the data showed it would best serve the transportation needs of everyone in the county. Finally, If the RTC succeeded in forced abandonment and track demolition it would hurt Roaring Camp's business.

For all these reasons, I strongly support sticking with the Ultimate Trail design and keeping our tracks and trail both. However, I urge you to table this item until after the election. Making the decision now, when the public is about to vote on this issue, would be unethical and undemocratic.

Regarding consent agenda Item 11, staff is asking you to cancel the planned repairs of the Pajaro bridge, despite the availability of a \$500,000 grant budget for repairs. This bridge is actively in use by Watsonville freight rail customers served by Roaring Camp. The Commission took legal responsibility for repairs when it purchased the line. I urge you to pull this item off the consent agenda and direct staff to figure out how to leverage the grant funding to get the most critical bridge repairs done ASAP.

The Interim Trail plan would harm Roaring Camp and harm our progress towards building the Locally Preferred Alternative of trail and electric passenger rail together. I support the Ultimate Trail plan. I do NOT support the Interim Trail plan.

Sincerely,  
Ros Munro

[REDACTED] Santa Cruz, CA 95062-4805  
[REDACTED]

**From:** [Karen Kaplan](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** RE: Items 28 & 11 - May 5, 2022 Agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 11:31:44 AM

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Dear Regional Transportation Commissioners:

**RE: Items 28 & 11 - May 5, 2022 Agenda**

Item 28 is contrary to the will of the voters, on the issue of the Rail and Trail. It is not the right time to decide between the Ultimate Trail and the Interim Trail, because this issue is on the upcoming ballot. Let the voters decide, in the next election.

If the commission must act on Item 28, please choose the Ultimate Trail. Do not choose the Interim Trail because it would increase the cost by approximately \$12 Million per mile and we will lose the tracks. Railbanking is an attack against Roaring Camp. Save Roaring Camp! We bought the rail line. Don't abandon it and don't railbank it. Don't tear out the tracks! We need Electric Passenger Rail and a Trail to serve the transportation needs of everyone in Santa Cruz County and to alleviate the traffic jam on Highway 1. The Ultimate Trail design keeps our Tracks and Trail.

**Vote "No" on Measure D.**

**RE: Consent Agenda Item 11**

Please do not cancel planned repairs of the Pajaro Bridge. \$500,000 grant budget was already designated for repairs. This bridge is used by Watsonville freight rail customers, served by Roaring Camp. The Pajaro River Bridge has a high traffic volume of more than 30,000 vehicle trips, daily. The Commission is legally responsible for repairs, since it purchased the line. Please repair the Pajaro Bridge, ASAP!

I have been a resident of Santa Cruz County Since 1974.

Thank you for your immediate attention and action.

*Sincerely,*

*Karen Kaplan*

**From:** [Trink Praxel](#)  
**To:** [Sandy Brown](#); [Greg Caput](#); [Ryan Coonerty](#); [Zach Friend](#); [Renee Golder](#); [ari.parker@cityofwatsonville.org](mailto:ari.parker@cityofwatsonville.org); [Felipe Hernandez](#); [Gine Johnson](#); [Randy Johnson](#); [Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson](#); [Manu Koenig](#); [Donna Lind](#); [Bruce McPherson](#); [Eduardo Montesino](#); [Larry Pageler](#); [Kristen Brown](#); [Dr. Rob Paul Quinn](#); [Mike Rotkin](#); [Andy Schiffrin](#); [Sam Storey](#); [Jacques Bertrand](#); [Lowell Hurst](#); [jdilles@scottsvally.org](mailto:jdilles@scottsvally.org)  
**Cc:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#); [Guy Preston](#); [Tim Gibbons](#); [Melani Clark](#)  
**Subject:** RTC 5/5/22 Meeting Agenda Items 28 and 11  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 4:58:57 PM  
**Attachments:** [5.5.22 RTC Mtng FORT Ltr.docx](#)

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Please consider the attached letter from the Friends of Rail and Trail regarding Agenda Items 28 and 11.

Thank you,  
Trink Praxel

**Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission**

1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Sent via email

RE: May 5, 2022 RTC Meeting, Items 28 and 11

Dear Chair Brown, Commissioners and Commissioner Alternates,

**The Friends of Rail and Trail are very surprised that RTC staff would bring agenda item 28 to you prior to the scheduled vote on Measure D "Greenway" on June 7, 2022.** Asking the Commission to choose between the Plan of Record for the Coastal Rail Trail/Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail MBSST project ("Ultimate") and the Greenway-proposed roadway ("Interim"), before the County voters take a similar vote, completely separates the Commissioners from the public you are appointed to serve. This is in direct conflict with key RTC, regional and State planning documents (specifically the Regional Transportation Plan and Public Participation Plan) that all commit to facilitate, value and enhance public participation in governmental decision-making. While FORT did not and does not support Measure D "Greenway" being brought before the public in the contorted manner that we now face, we believe that the public discussion it has engendered deserves to be completed BEFORE the Commission takes any vote on the Coastal Rail Trail.

We understand that the only partial explanation for the timing of this staff request is that both the City of Santa Cruz and County of Santa Cruz are planning on applying for Caltrans Active Transportation Program (ATP) grants in June. The City of Santa Cruz has already decided to submit the MBSST/Coastal Rail Trail (Plan of Record) for this funding and the County may choose otherwise; **but a vote from the RTC is not needed for either grant application to be submitted in June or to be successful.** In addition, the CEQA process for both won't be completed (per RTC staff) until later this calendar year. As we understand the proposed financing uses 2016 Measure D as a local match source, the RTC can also move forward with agreeing to bond against 2016 Measure D revenues without making this choice between trail options.

**FORT asks that commissioners table this agenda item until after the June 7 vote, when you will be able to make a more informed decision about the preferences of County voters inasmuch as they were able to understand the consequences of 2022 Measure D.** Of course, if you decide to move forward with a vote on this agenda item, we recommend that you vote for Scenario 2, the Ultimate Trail - the approved and under construction MBSST/Coastal Rail Trail alongside the existing rail tracks, because it is the RTC's current Plan of Record and the only option that continues to keep our rail line active. The railbanking process required by the Greenway proposal is opposed by Roaring Camp and many in the public, and will most likely take many years, cost a great deal, and ultimately not be successful.

**We also ask the Commissioners to continue Item 11 regarding the Pajaro River Bridge Rehabilitation Bid.** This will allow time for the RTC to fully consult with its freight operators and contractors about the best way forward.

We are certain that you will hear from MANY members of the public on this agenda and hope you will listen to their opinions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barry Scott". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light blue background behind the text.

Barry Scott  
Boardmember  
Friends of the Rail and Trail

Cc: All Commissioners and Alternates, and Roaring Camp

**From:** [Cheryl Pruss](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Cc:** [Cheryl Pruss](#); [Joe Pruss](#)  
**Subject:** RTC agenda Items 28 and 11: Repair the Tracks, Respect the Election, build the Ultimate Trail on the May 5 agenda  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 9:57:47 AM

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Dear RTC Commissioners,

I am writing to comment on Items 28 and 11 on the May 5 agenda.

Item 28 seems designed to bypass the will of the voters on the issue of the Rail and Trail. It's not right to do an end-run around the election by deciding now between the Ultimate Trail and the Interim Trail when this issue is going to the polls in just a few weeks. Please table it until after the election.

If the commission acts on Item 28 instead of tabling it, please choose the Ultimate Trail. The Interim Trail is bad planning. It would increase the cost of building the trail by approximately \$12 Million per mile. It would require the Commission to engage in a messy, drawn-out forced-abandonment railbanking attack on Roaring Camp, which very possibly might fail in the end. If successful, abandonment and railbanking would be a betrayal of our promise when we bought the rail line. Tearing out tracks would hurt the RTC's ability to implement Electric Passenger Rail with the trail, which the RTC chose as our Locally Preferred Alternative because the data showed it would best serve the transportation needs of everyone in the county. Finally, If the RTC succeeded in forced abandonment and track demolition it would hurt Roaring Camp's business.

For all these reasons, I strongly support sticking with the Ultimate Trail design and keeping our tracks and trail both. However, I urge you to table this item until after the election. Making the decision now, when the public is about to vote on this issue, would be unethical and undemocratic.

Regarding consent agenda Item 11, staff is asking you to cancel the planned repairs of the Pajaro bridge, despite the availability of a \$500,000 grant budget for repairs. This bridge is actively in use by Watsonville freight rail customers served by Roaring Camp. The Commission took legal responsibility for repairs when it purchased the line. I urge you to pull this item off the consent agenda and direct staff to figure out how to leverage the grant funding to get the most critical bridge repairs done ASAP.

Finally, I would like to say I consider the Rail and Trail solution one way to provide for additional employment of Watsonville residents in Santa Cruz. I am aware of the worker shortage, causing temporary or permanent closure of restaurants and other employers that employ entry level workers in Santa Cruz. Surely a rail alternative from Watsonville, would bring additional employees to Santa Cruz, which is a win-win : good for Santa Cruz business and good for Watsonville employment.

Sincerely,  
Cheryl Pruss

**From:** [Mike Waller](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Rail funding  
**Date:** Wednesday, May 4, 2022 8:38:56 AM

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Please keep the option open for rail in Santa Cruz County. Freight is viable to SC and Watsonville to serve the three concrete readi-mix plants along the rail line. Granite Rock ships rocks, sand and cement to there SF peninsula operations, why not here? The county landfill is about played out, instead of adding trucks to haul trash and recycles use the rail service to move this,the rail runs by the landfill site. Keep the option open by repairing the Pajaro River Bridge and not closing down rail.

Thanks for your consideration, Mike Waller. Santa Cruz

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Sean Abbey](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Support for Ultimate Trail Configuration, object to Item 11  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 9:50:12 PM

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For the May 5, 2022 meeting, I would ask the commissioners to Table Item 28 until after the June ballot. It seems premature to make a decision on the interim or ultimate configuration while measure D is essentially asking that question of the voters. If the Commission chooses to move forward with a direction, I do believe the Ultimate trail should be supported, as I hope to see reflected in the June ballot. It is irresponsible to add significant costs to the locally preferred alternative of electric rail on the corridor for some short-lived trail use.

As for Item 11, I do not support canceling the repair of the Pajaro Bridge. The freight rail line should continue to be maintained for the businesses currently using it and for future rail programs.

Thank you for taking this comment.  
Sean Abbey

**From:** [Rose Marie McNair](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** VOTE "NO" ON D  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 4:54:45 PM  
**Attachments:** [image002.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Honorable RTC Commissioners:

Regarding Items 28 and 11 on the May 5 agenda, it is important that we maintain our rail lines in a fashion that benefits the future of our community.

We must vote with a RESOUNDING "NO" against Measure D. It is vital that we retain our railway system--the most effective transportation and shipping mechanism in our country! We MUST retain the plans to make repairs of the Pajaro Bridge so that freight traffic is not disturbed.

The Bottom Line will save the line:

1. Support the "Ultimate Trail" plan, with continued completion of the trail.
2. Strongly oppose the Interim Trail.
3. Object to Agenda Item 11, and continue to make the planned repairs of the Pajaro Bridge.

The Interim Trail plan would harm Roaring Camp as well as hinder progress towards building the Locally Preferred Alternative of trail and electric passenger rail together. I urge the Commission to support the Ultimate Trail plan and please do NOT support the Interim Trail plan.

With warm regards,  
Rose Marie McNair, Broker



**Rose Marie McNair, Broker**  
**McNair Real Properties**  
**1715-42<sup>nd</sup> Ave. "B"**  
**Capitola, CA 95010**

**DRE#00547533**  
**SCCAR Lifetime Achievement 2020**  
**REALTOR of the Year SCCAR 1995**  
**REALTOR of the YEAR PVAOR 2017, 2018**  
**MEMBER of the YEAR WCR 2012**



**From:** [Grace Voss](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** letter concerning items #28 and #11 for 5/5/22 meeting  
**Date:** Tuesday, May 3, 2022 4:08:17 PM

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Dear RTC Commissioners,

According to items #28 and #11 on the agenda for your May 5th meeting, you are changing horses in the middle of the stream! By choosing a trail now, before voters in the June election may decide on either the ultimate or the interim trail, you are ignoring the democratic process! You are casting aside all the hard work and expense of campaigning by your voters during the past months!

Remember, if you make this decision prematurely, your voters may cast you aside when it comes time for your re-election!

Why are you doing this? It's bad enough that the "Yes on D" folks ignore the fact that the interim trail is way more expensive than the ultimate trail. It's bad enough to know that tearing up the RR tracks will lead to all kinds of land title controversies once the RTC surrenders its right to the rail line, thus delaying the ultimate trail from resuming construction that is already under way!

It is undemocratic to toss this crumb of an idea out to voters who have supported you in the past and who would like to support you in the future! Shame on you!

Let the democratic process proceed according to the will of the people! Isn't that what distinguishes this country from a dictatorship like Russia?

Sincerely,  
Grace Voss (Live Oak)