

From: [Casey KirkHart](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Action needed now on 2045 Regional Transportation Plan
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 8:32:17 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I commend you and support your comprehensive approach to meeting the County's transportation needs.

For the sake of the environment, for economic opportunity, and for the physical and mental health of our citizens, I support you to take action now to mobilize Santa Cruz County residents via ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION in these 3 areas:

1. Proceed with the INTERIM trail plan that would build a safe, continuous, active transit resource that we can afford and build now;
2. Expand and fund METRO to bridge the gaps between inaccessible parts of the County with bikeable and walkable areas, and;
3. Reinstate a BIKE RIDESHARE system (like JUMP bikes) so that people have convenient, affordable, safe, and fast means to get around and have fun.

It is imperative that we give people transportation options now to replace short, local trips that add congestion to our roads and costs to drivers. The INTERIM trail, expanded METRO, and BIKE RIDESHARE are proven solutions.

I admire and support your work on our behalf.

Thank you,

Dr Casey KirkHart

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Casey KirkHart, D.O.

email: [REDACTED]

cell: [REDACTED]

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From: [Iwalani Faulkner](#)
To: [Sandy Brown](#); [Greg Caput](#); [Ryan Coonerty](#); eduardo.montesino@cityofwatsonville.org; greg.caput@santacruzcounty.us; bruce.mcpherson@santacruzcounty.us; thekristenbrown@gmail.com; openup@ucsc.edu; jbertrand@ci.capitola.ca.us; rj12@comcast.net; manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us; ari.parker@cityofwatsonville.org
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Subject: Letter re June 16, 2022 RTC Meeting, Item #27 Adoption of the Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations
Date: Tuesday, June 14, 2022 2:32:55 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)
[2022-06-14 FORT Letter to RTC re June16-2022AgendaItemdocx.pdf](#)

Dear Chair Brown, Commissioners, Commissioner Alternates, and Staff:

Please consider the attached letter from the Board of the Friends of the Rail and Trail regarding Agenda Item #27 of the June 16, 2022 RTC Agenda.

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Best regards,

Lani Faulkner, Board member

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Rail & Trail





Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
June 14, 2022

RE: June 16, 2022 RTC Meeting, Item #27 Adoption of the Findings, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program as required by CEQA Guidelines and adoption of the *2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)* - **Sent as pdf via email**

Dear Chair Brown, Commissioners, Commissioner Alternates, and Staff:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the adoption of this important Plan. The *2045 Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Plan* is intended to represent our county's vision for enhancing regional mobility over the next twenty years. This year, the document is anomalous in that it does not represent the sentiment of the people of Santa Cruz County, but rather the future as viewed via the lens of shifting alliances and representation on RTC. It also does not reflect the environmentally-superior alternative analyzed in the associated EIR prepared by AMBAG.

The 2045 RTP does not reflect public views of our transportation future. The resounding defeat of the 2022 Measure D Greenway Initiative, while not yet certified, indicates a clear mandate to continue to integrate and emphasize rail and trail planning and projects along the Santa Cruz Coast Rail Line. As detailed in the Friends of the Rail and Trail (FORT) January 31, 2022 letter on the *Draft 2045 RTP*, the *2045 RTP* is seriously inadequate in this regard. FORT recommends that work begin immediately on the next update of the Plan in order to bring it in line with not only the recent countywide vote reaffirming the Coastal Rail + Trail, but also to shift the RTC's project planning priorities into alignment with the *2045 RTP's* stated Goals, Targets and Policies.

The Statement of Overriding Considerations and EIR Alternative 3 merit close review by the RTC. Pages 27-164 to 27-167 (505-509) in the June 16 RTC agenda packet list the "significant and unavoidable impacts" of the *2045 RTP* in the *2045 Metropolitan Transportation Plan EIR*, prepared by AMBAG based on regional RTP constrained projects. **This list of 44 serious and drastic unmitigated environmental impacts, including the Plan's "inability to meet long-term State GHG reduction targets" (#38) and "significant and unavoidable increase in daily VMT per capita" (#42) should sound a very loud alarm for the RTC and for us all.** EIR Alternative 3 - Infill and Transit - was determined to be the "environmentally superior alternative" but rejected primarily because AMBAG "does not have land use authority and cannot require local agencies to make major changes to their general plans." (p.27-151) The Cities and County who are represented on the RTC do however have land use authority, and many of their general plans are moving toward future land use policies suggested by AMBAG Infill and Transit EIR Alternative 3. This alternative should form the basis for the next update of the RTP.

Thank you very much for your consideration of FORT's comments.

Sincerely,

Lani Faulkner, Board member

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Friends of the Rail & Trail

From: [Rick Longinotti](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Cc: [CFST Working Group](#)
Subject: Regional Transportation Plan is inadequate
Date: Wednesday, June 15, 2022 7:58:03 AM

Transportation Policy Workshop item: approval of RTP

Dear Commissioners,

Regarding the Regional Transportation Plan, we need to do much better than prioritizing auto travel over transit and active transportation. And we can do much better. Let's start with a community stakeholder committee that will allow the diverse voices in our community to recommend a comprehensive plan prioritizing transit and active transportation. The time for healing community division is now.

Thank you,
Rick Longinotti, chair
Campaign for Sustainable Transportation

Begin forwarded message:

From: Rick Longinotti [REDACTED]
Date: June 15, 2022 at 7:41:57 AM PDT
To: aflores@ambag.org
Cc: CFST Working Group [REDACTED]
Subject: [CFST] Public Comment for the June 15, 2022 Board of Directors Meeting

From: Campaign for Sustainable Transportation
Re: item 9. Certification of Final EIR

Dear Directors,

The Final EIR for the MTP/SCS does not meet CEQA requirements and should not be certified.

The EIR finds that per capita vehicle miles traveled will increase due to this project. This is not an acceptable outcome. It violates state policy to reduce per capita VMT. The resolution you are asked to approve includes an inaccurate statement:

“The AMBAG Board of Directors finds that no other mitigation measures or alternatives are feasible that would reduce this impact to less than significant levels. “

The EIR did not examine the alternative recommended by my organization in comments on the Draft, which was to combine Alternative 2 that prioritizes active transportation with Alternative 3 that prioritizes transit and infill development.

The rationale explained in the Final EIR for not analyzing this alternative is unconvincing.

If this whole exercise of creating a Metropolitan Transportation Plan is to be meaningful, then we need to prioritize transit, active transportation and infill development.

Please send the EIR back to the consultant with the instruction to develop an alternative that better represents the community's values.

Thank you,
Rick Longinotti, Chair
Campaign For Sustainable Transportation