

**From:** [Connie](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Change of course  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 7:35:40 PM

---

Dear Commissioner,<BR>We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency. High household transportation costs, injuries and health impacts, hours spent commuting, and environmental degradation. Our county has no viable alternative to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1. <BR>It's time to come together in pursuit of alternatives to the idea that we can build our way out of auto congestion. <BR>Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.<BR>Thank you,<BR>

Sincerely  
Connie wilson

Sent from my iPhone

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Change of course  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 5:09:56 PM

---

Dear Commissioner,

We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency: high household transportation costs, injuries and health impacts, hours spent commuting, and environmental degradation. Our county has no viable alternative to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1.

It's time to come together in pursuit of alternatives to the idea that we can build our way out of auto congestion. Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

Thank you.

Elissa Wagner  
[REDACTED]  
Aptos 95003

**From:** [Benny Drescher](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Agenda Item #25 (reconsider Highway 1 widening)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:40:03 PM

---

Dear RTC members,

Studies on highway expansion all around the world show the problem of induced demand. Any new lanes should be only for buses, to improve public transit. We need to change our thinking on transportation in Santa Cruz County, in light of the climate goals of our cities, our county and the state of California.

Thanks for all you do toward a just and thriving future for Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,

Benny Drescher  
Seabright

**From:** [Michelle Y. Merrill](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Agenda Item #25 (reconsider Highway 1 widening)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 6:40:25 PM

---

Dear RTC members,

Studies on highway expansion all around the world show the problem of induced demand. Any new lanes should be only for buses, to improve public transit. We need to change our thinking on transportation in Santa Cruz County, in light of the climate goals of our cities, our county and the state of California.

Thanks for all you do toward a just and thriving future for Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Y. Merrill, Ph.D  
Capitola

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Comment on Agenda Item #25 (reconsider Highway 1 widening)  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:13:03 PM

---

Dear RTC members,

Studies on highway expansion all around the world show the problem of induced demand. Any new lanes should be only for buses, to improve public transit. We need to change our thinking on transportation in Santa Cruz County, in light of the climate goals of our cities, our county and the state of California. Thanks for all you do toward a just and thriving future for Santa Cruz County.

Sincerely,  
Elissa Wagner  
Aptos 95003

**From:** [Alex Moore](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Vote Against HWY EIR  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 3:26:34 PM

---

Dear Commissioner,

We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency. We cannot build our way out of auto congestion. Instead, let's come together to find low or zero-carbon alternatives.

Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

Thank you,  
Alex Moore

**From:** [fred geiger](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Aug 4 meeting agenda #25  
**Date:** Friday, July 29, 2022 9:00:27 AM

---

Please quit wasting our money on freeway expansion that will not solve our congestion and pollution problem on Hwy 1.

Instead use the funds for proven bus on shoulder lanes!

Fred G.

**From:** [REDACTED]  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Change of course  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 10:00:56 AM

---

Dear Commissioner,

We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency. High household transportation costs, injuries and health impacts, hours spent commuting, and environmental degradation. Our county has no viable alternative to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1.

It's time to come together in pursuit of alternatives to the idea that we can build our way out of auto congestion.

Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

Thank you,

Judy Geer we are in a Climate Emergency. We need to invest in electric mass transit



**From:** [Judi Grunstra](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Change of course  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:43:33 AM

---

Dear Commissioner,

For 12 years I commuted between Santa Cruz and Watsonville for a job with varying hours. After awhile, I no longer accepted late afternoon shifts that would leave me stuck in traffic for 45 minutes or longer. But not all workers can choose to opt out. (I have since retired)

Our county has no viable alternative to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1.

Study after study shows that widening highways is not a solution. From what I have seen, the auxiliary lanes at Morrissey and Soquel exits get backed up and haven't made significant improvements. It seems the only way to get people to take a bus is to allow the bus its own lane so that it is not stuck in traffic with cars. That seems like common sense.

Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

Thank you,

Judi Grunstra

Sent from my iPad

**From:** [Sandra Ward](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Change of course  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 1:00:10 PM

---

Dear Commissioner,

We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency. High household transportation costs, injuries and health impacts, hours spent commuting,

and environmental degradation. Our county has no viable alternative to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1.

It's time to come together in pursuit of alternatives to the idea that we can build our way out of auto congestion.

Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

I am a transplant from the Los Angeles "inland empire" area. Over the years I experienced the addition of many lanes on most of the freeways, but never

did I see less traffic always an increase. If given open space, it will be filled.

Thank you,

Sandra Ward

**From:** [Liz Milazzo](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Change of course  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 1:29:20 PM

---

Dear Commissioner,

We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency. High household transportation costs, injuries and health impacts, hours spent commuting, and environmental degradation.

Our county has no viable alternative to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1.

It's time to come together in pursuit of alternatives to the idea that we can build our way out of auto congestion.

Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

Thank you,

Liz Milazzo

[REDACTED]

Santa Cruz, CA 95065

[REDACTED]

**From:** [Gray Jameson](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Change of course  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:28:33 AM

---

Dear Commissioner,

We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency. High household transportation costs, injuries and health impacts, hours spent commuting, and environmental degradation. Our county has no viable alternative to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1.

It's time to come together in pursuit of alternatives to the idea that we can build our way out of auto congestion.

Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

Thank you,

Thank you,

Gray Jameson

Pronouns: They/Them/Theirs

**From:** [Kathleen Tyger Wright](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Change of course  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 8:22:57 AM

---

Dear Commissioner,

We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency. High household transportation costs, injuries and health impacts, hours spent commuting, and environmental degradation.

Our county has no viable alternative to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1.

It's time to come together in pursuit of alternatives to the idea that we can build our way out of auto congestion.

Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

Thank you,

Kathleen Wright

**From:** [Zennon Ulyate-Crow \(zennonuc\)](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Public Comment: HWY 1 EIR  
**Date:** Tuesday, August 2, 2022 2:16:45 PM

---

Dear Commissioner,

We've already paid a steep price for our auto dependency. High household transportation costs, injuries and health impacts, hours spent commuting, and environmental degradation.

Our county has viable alternatives to offer people stuck in traffic on Highway 1, but none of them involve inducing demand by expanding the highway. It's time to come together and pursue alternatives that don't revolve around the false notion that we can build our way out of auto congestion.

Do not get caught in a sunk cost fallacy when we are being given the opportunity to change course towards a greener future. Please vote against spending more local transportation dollars on the Hwy 1 EIR.

Thank you,

Zennon Ulyate-Crow (he/him)  
Commissioner of Transportation and Public Works, City of Santa Cruz

The opinions expressed above are solely my own and do not express the views or opinions of the City of Santa Cruz, the Transportation and Public Works Commission, or any other entity.

**From:** [Debbie Bulger](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** HOV lanes will exacerbate climate change  
**Date:** Friday, July 29, 2022 8:54:11 PM

---

Dear Commissioners,

This week's news with fires in California, 100 degree temps in Seattle, and torrents of rain causing flooding in Kentucky should wake us all up to the folly of planning to widen Highway 1 with HOV lanes and Auxiliary Lanes.

For our children's sake and the future of our grandchildren, I beg you to abandon existing plans to increase auto travel and invest in transit options such as bus only lanes, bus service on weekends, and rail travel.

It is the moral thing to do.

Sincerely,

Debbie Bulger  
Santa Cruz

**From:** [micheal saint](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Transportation Alternatives/Litigation/Suggestions  
**Date:** Thursday, July 28, 2022 10:37:56 PM

---

Dear Commissioners,  
20<sup>th</sup> 2022

July

Instead of spouting numbers and facts on transportation and reminding you of climate mandates that I am sure you are aware of, let me emphasize why I persist in trying to change the course of our transportation planning.

There are three reasons I do what I do – climate change, social justice, and a healthier and sustainable environment for everyone.

CFST's vision supports these goals.

1. Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs.
2. We acknowledge nature's limits – boundaries that can't be exceeded without damaging the health of natural ecosystems upon which all life depends.
3. Do work to reduce our community's dependency on auto travel.
4. A focus on our public transit, safe bicycles and pedestrian infrastructure rather than projects that increase auto capacity.

You may disagree with me but we have just hit a crossroad to allow us to reset our direction or get back on track with a more sustainable transportation future. The overwhelming defeat of Measure D and the setting aside of the Tier 1 HOV lane EIR gives us the opportunity to refocus our efforts to really provide Santa Cruz County with a real sustainable future transportation system.

Our twelve commissioners are the ones that are in charge and direct the process, not staff or *Caltrans*. You talk about voter mandates. The 2016 Measure D promised to get the County of Santa Cruz moving forward. So let's give the County what you promised - A superior alternative of dedicated bus on shoulder that will be a system that will last for generations. We all know that the aux lanes will fail in the future. Taxpayer's money will be wasted, household expenses will increase and it will exacerbate climate change by increasing vehicle miles traveled because the present RTC highway projects currently promote a need for more auto dependency.

An additional benefit for considering the Bus Rapid Transit scenario is a cost savings. Less money spent on Highway 1 means more money that can be directed to a rail project.

We need to revisit the business plan for the rail project and initiate the EIR study so we



can really get a handle on what amount of money will be available for the rail project.

So what is the ultimate plan I am suggesting? It is getting two transit corridors in Santa Cruz County started - Highway 1 dedicated bus on shoulder, and with money redirected, to get the rail corridor up to operational condition in order to run a Coast Futura-type transit system from Seaside Resort to the Boardwalk. This plan would relieve some congestion and give two alternate modes of transportation to our community, within a reasonable time frame.

Sincerely,  
Micheal Saint  
CFST/Aptos Resident