

From: bikerick@att.net
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: RTC Oct 6 2022 meeting Item 23 rail trail maintenance
Date: Friday, September 30, 2022 8:50:47 AM

Dear Commissioners:

I am pleased to read that you are concerned about rail trail maintenance and that staff has met with local staffs to discuss funding. As trail development progresses and the hence sees more users, I suggest that you consider more comprehensive maintenance strategies. For example, it may make sense to have only one or two entities responsible (e.g., jurisdictions with trail segments in the north county contract with the City of Santa Cruz and in the south county contract with the City of Watsonville) or for the RTC itself to contract with a private company to perform all of the maintenance. It may also make sense to combine or at least coordinate rail track maintenance with rail trail maintenance, at least for vegetation control and litter clean-up. I would suggest looking towards other rail trails in the country of at least similar lengths to help you determine the best way forward, not only cost-wise, but also operationally. Future users should be able to expect a uniform, safe and enjoyable experience along whatever portion of the rail trail that they are on irrespective of jurisdiction.

Again, thanks for your focus on this important topic.

Rick Hyman