

From: Brian Peoples <brian@trailnow.org>

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:33 AM

To: Rachel Moriconi <rmoriconi@sccrtc.org>

Cc: Guy Preston <gpreston@sccrtc.org>; Manu Koenig <manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us>; Sarah Christensen <schristensen@sccrtc.org>; Shannon Munz <smunz@sccrtc.org>; Robertpquinn@gmail.com; thekristenbrown@gmail.com; Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson <shebreh4santacruz@gmail.com>

Subject: ITAC public comment / RTC Staff leadership

Rachel,

Thanks for getting back to me that I should be able to zoom into the ITAC meeting and make comments. Please find attached photos I would like to have shared during public comment.

For public comment, I will talk about the misguided approach RTC Staff is taking in the design of our transportation systems. When RTC ED Guy Preston started, he stated to me that he is not going to lead in design of our transportation system - but only implement the design desired by RTC Commission. Having our transportation system designed by politicians is not the approach typically used by public utility agencies because the staff is supposed to be the experts on designing systems. Having our transportation system designed by politicians is poor public policy and results in poor infrastructure systems - as we are seeing with the storm damage and poor construction of the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail.

We do not desire to criticize staff on their work - but as we continue to see the damage to our transportation infrastructure from the storms, wasting of our tax dollars on train studies, the poor implementation of building the coastal trail and an expensive, substandard trail built, we see it becomes more critical that we identify the root causes. Staff designing the Coastal Trail to accommodate a future electric train that is never going to exist is poor leadership.

Our community can not afford the continued design of transportation systems by politicians. Our hope is that RTC staff stop relying on "design by politicians" of our transportation system and design a system that works NOW.

Best regards,
Brian Peoples
Trail Now



TRAIN TRACKS FLOODED



From: Ben Vernazza <ben@benvcpa.com>

Sent: Monday, March 13, 2023 8:48 AM

To: 'Brian Peoples' <brian@trailnow.org>; Rachel Moriconi <rmoriconi@sccrtc.org>

Cc: Guy Preston <gpreston@sccrtc.org>; manu.koenig@santacruzcounty.us; Sarah Christensen <schristensen@sccrtc.org>; Shannon Munz <smunz@sccrtc.org>; Robertpquinn@gmail.com; thekristenbrown@gmail.com; 'Shebreh Kalantari-Johnson' <shebreh4santacruz@gmail.com>

Subject: RE: ITAC public comment / RTC Staff leadership

. and I add these comments for the Commissioners:

ARE WE HEADED 'DOWN' THE PATH? The RTC has 'again' continued the study of freight trains and passenger trains on one set of train tracks. It is one thing to have two passenger trains collide, but now we can also see what freight train mistakes leave. Then there is the Coastal Commission with a most likely decision to disallow freight/passenger trains near the cliffs and through the slough. Oh, also, the federal and state governments are running out of (borrowed) money to gift to boondoggle projects like the current RTC's Ultimate Trail which will, due to recent train accidents, need even more trees destroyed and more concrete wall separation than planned. And the width of the Ultimate Trail is only 12 ft wide. If we just RailBank and build the "Interim Trail" we would have a 16 ft. wide trail for millions & millions less while upholding our local government responsibility to provide for the publics' safety for all ages. WE NEED TO LITERALLY CHANGE OUR PATH!

J. Ben Vernazza

Aptos Resident since 1967