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To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
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Subject: Item #23 / North Coast Rail Trail Construction & Maintenance High Cost and Delay
Date: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 8:22:12 AM

RTC,

Response to Item #23.

The high cost to construct and maintain the North Coast Rail-Trail (Segment 5) is a direct result of the current Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (SCCRTC) policy to keep the old railroad tracks to Davenport and build trail next to tracks. RTC policy to keep the old railroad tracks has resulted in only 1.2 miles of trail being built in a decade. The cost to build the 12-foot-wide trail for Segments 9 – 12 (Boardwalk to Aptos) is twice as much as widening Highway 1 (per mile) and destroys twice as many heritages' trees. Construction of the trail to Aptos will be delayed for years due to private property rights challenges.

As RTC Executive Director Guy Preston recommended years ago, let's build the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail in a timely, cost-effective and eco-friendly manner by implementing the Interim Trail NOW from Watsonville to Santa Cruz Boardwalk.

Brian Peoples
Trail Now