

Regional Transportation Commission

From: Trail Now [REDACTED]
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To: Regional Transportation Commission
Subject: Trail Now Newsletter



TRAILNOW • SANTA CRUZ

[RTC Meeting: Item #19 Highway 1 widening update](https://sccrtc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/2023-10-05-RTC-agenda-packet-final.pdf)

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RTC Staff will provide an update of the construction of Highway 1 widening / bus on shoulder project. We support widening Highway 1 all the way to Larkin Valley Road to improve transportation across Santa Cruz County. The issue we have with the Highway 1 construction project is the resulting traffic congestion that will exist for years during the project. RTC plans should have included opening the Coastal Trail from Watsonville to Santa Cruz to provide an alternative transportation corridor. "Retiring" RTC Executive Director Guy Preston recommended years ago that the old railroad tracks be railbanked and a trail built. If RTC Commissioners listened to Mr. Preston, we would have the Coastal Trail as an alternative to Highway 1.

Vote for local candidates who support railbanking (Sentinel letter to editor)

Politics are crazy! We get to vote for a narcissist-criminal or mature/Silent Gen-career politician for president of the United States. Worst of all, county residents have no influence on the vote for president.

Fortunately, we can make a difference in our local elections. Vote for supervisors and city councils that support railbanking now and opening the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail from Watsonville to Davenport. "Retiring" RTC Executive Director Guy Preston recommended railbanking and building the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail on the railroad bed as it is commonly done across America. Mr. Preston recommended this because it was the most timely, cost-effective, and eco-friendly manner to build the Coastal Trail from Watsonville to Santa Cruz.

Fact is, the Coastal Trail will never be built to Watsonville unless it is railbanked and built on the railroad bed.

Any politician who doesn't understand that a new passenger rail system on the Santa Cruz coastal bluff will never be allowed by the California Coastal Commission due to sea-level-rising requirements should not be elected.

https://www.santacruzsentinel.com/2023/10/02/letter-vote-for-local-candidates-who-support-railbanking/?fbclid=IwAR2ly4_rtzzf75eni2_T6aOLICpBf4-APyDIeSyUIZQ7zvl20qINY3QosMs

HELP SUPPORT TRAIL NOW

We continue to press RTC leadership to build the Coastal Trail from Watsonville to Davenport in a timely, cost-effective, and eco-friendly manner. Please consider donating at <https://www.trailnow.org/donate>.

