

[Brian Peoples](#) [REDACTED] [12/1/2023](#)

SELECTION OF RTC CHAIR (RTC Meeting Item #21):

We ask that the new RTC Chair prioritize making our community safer for pedestrians and cyclists by opening the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor from Watsonville to Davenport in a timely, cost-effective, and eco-friendly manner. With Highway 1 construction, Soquel Drive upgrades and Harbor Bridge seismic improvements, traffic congestion in Santa Cruz County has become unbearable. Worse yet, these conditions have increased risk to pedestrians and cyclists as we have witnessed with the increase in injuries and deaths on county roads.

The new RTC Chair should be a champion for active transportation and advocate for the opening of the Coastal Trail. A great opportunity is the historic Capitola Trestle converted into a Trail. Former RTC ED Guy Preston had recommended railbanking, pulling/recycling rails & ties and converting the Capitola Trestle into a trail, providing a preliminary design of the proposed Trestle Trail. The fact is, the Capitola Trestle can not be used for trains today or any future passenger rail system, and with the passage of Measure L by Capitola residents, the message should be clear that the community wants the Capitola Trestle converted into a trail. We ask that the RTC Chair support opening the Capitola Trestle Trail NOW!