

**From:** [Joe Martinez](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Dec 5th SCCRTC Meeting - Item 21 and Item22  
**Date:** Monday, December 2, 2024 1:33:09 PM

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Commissioners and RTC Staff,

Item 21 - FEMA's decision to not fund repairs appears to be a clear signal that the railroad corridor is a bad investment. The commissioners and RTC staff should have recognized the problem with the corridor long ago.

Item 22 - Commissioners and RTC should stop all work on the unsafe trail being constructed next to the unusable tracks and stop the continued waste of taxpayers' money on the ZEPRT project. Especially, since it has not yet been established that a train is feasible.

Jose Martinez

**From:** [Brian Peoples](#)  
**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission](#)  
**Subject:** Comments to Dec 5th Agenda Items  
**Date:** Tuesday, December 3, 2024 12:21:55 PM  
**Attachments:** [image.png](#)

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RTC,

Statements to agenda items for December 5th RTC meeting:

Item #21 Update on Repairs to the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line Damaged by Previous Severe Winter Storms in Santa Cruz County:

We agree with FEMA that providing funding to repair the old railroad tracks for freight is not justifiable. At the end of the day, this is another great example of poor public policy by RTC Commissioners who wasted time and resources on an infeasible rail plan.

Item #22 Public Hearing (no earlier than 10:30 a.m.): Zero Emission Passenger Rail and Trail Project Milestone:

The RTC Rail Study continues to illustrate how a new passenger rail system will is not feasible on the Santa Cruz Coastal Corridor. The real issue is that the rail plan is delaying the construction of the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail in a timely, cost-effective and eco-friendly manner. The delay in opening the Santa Cruz Coastal Trail from Watsonville to Santa Cruz due to the unrealistic rail plan is a burden to our community. Ultimately, the ongoing delays in the opening of the Coastal Trail from Watsonville to Davenport are detrimentally affecting the quality of life for county residents.

Best,

Brian Peoples

