

## **Handout item 13**

Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission  
1101 Pacific Avenue, Suite 250  
Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Subject: FORT comments for RTC E&D TAC meeting Feb 6<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Support for item #13

Chair Elsea and Commissioners,

Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail & Trail (FORT) is a local, non-profit community organization that advocates for expanding Santa Cruz County's transportation system to include passenger rail service and a 32-mile multi-use trail as detailed in the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Master Plan. We would like to offer the following comments on the RTC agenda for this week.

Agenda Item #13 – 2025 Draft Unmet Transit and Paratransit Needs List and Survey Update

FORT would like to thank staff for the preparation of this list and encourage commissioners to adopt this list as written. In particular, we encourage commissioners to keep the rail and rail trail infrastructure improvements and ZEPRT project as these projects will help expand options for existing transit users and increase opportunities for expanded transit usage in the county. As noted in the list, these projects will improve accessibility, increase paratransit and ADA-Compliant services, and increase the frequency and span of transit service.

Thank you for your attention,

Matt Farrell  
Chair  
Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail and Trail