

From: [J Lighthill](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Fwd: Please read item 15 from this week's RTC meeting agenda
Date: Wednesday, October 1, 2025 9:12:38 AM

Hi RTC,
I sent this message to commissioners this morning but forgot to copy RTC, so forwarding for your record. Thank you.
Johanna Lighthill

Date: October 1, 2025 at 9:00:27 AM PDT

To: [REDACTED]

Subject: Please read item 15 from this week's RTC meeting agenda

Dear Commissioners,

Why build the Ultimate trail? Commissioners approved it last year because they believed that both passenger rail and trail would fit within the corridor. Now we know they don't. There's no reason to build the Ultimate Trail anymore. Doing so would be fiscally irresponsible and short-sighted.

In item 15 of this week's agenda—correspondence between Capitola Mayor Joe Clark and RTC E.D. Sarah Christensen—Ms. Christensen acknowledges challenges with trail segments Segments 10 and 11:

“Right-of-way constraints for accommodating both future passenger rail and the Coastal Rail Trail within the RTC-owned Santa Cruz Branch Line right-of-way have been identified from 30th to 47th Avenue.”

Yet the RTC currently plans to build the Ultimate trail in the corridor anyway.

“Despite these potential further conflicts, shifting the Coastal Rail Trail outside the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line right-of-way was not adopted into the current near-term Coastal Rail Trail Project.”

And yet the trail, if built, would need to be changed later.

“In the long term should passenger rail be implemented, some modifications to the Coastal Rail Trail between 30th and 47th may be needed, or acquisition of additional right-of-way may be required for the trail to remain in the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line right-of-way.”

Please don't borrow against future Measure D funds to build a project that would need to be removed or reconstructed to make way for passenger rail. A trail in place of the tracks can be fully funded with CTC's generous Active Transportation Grant.

Please don't lose the largest active transportation grant ever awarded in California history. Pivot now and build the Interim Trail.

Johanna Lighthill