

Handout item 21

RTC November 6, 2025

From: [PATRICE BOYLE](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Approve Item 21 on 11/6 agenda
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:45:38 AM

SeaBright businesses are in trouble. You can help make a difference voting yes and approving item 21 on your November 6 agenda moving forward with the opening of the Murray Street rail bridge to pedestrians and cyclists for a limited time., Enda Brennan

From: [Scott Miller](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Cc: [Fred Keeley](#); [Justin Cummings](#); [Supervisor Justin Cummings, Ph.D](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:08:52 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Scott

--

Scott Miller
Santa Cruz, CA

From: [Peter Lansdale](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:12:18 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Peter Lansdale
Live Oak Resident

From: [Brian Blackwell](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:25:23 PM

Hello!

I am in support of the temporary path on the Murray bridge!! Not only would it provide easier access between the east and west sides during construction, it would open access to all the business near the harbor and Seabright that desperately need foot traffic to survive!

Thank you

Brian Blackwell
Owner
Riverside Lighting and Electric


From: [Sara Wainer](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 6:32:18 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I'm writing in support of the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,
Sara Wainer

From: [Sarah Reed](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:42:25 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,

From: [Susan Cavalieri](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:35:13 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in complete support of the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase accessibility in the area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating and providing support for the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

*Sincerely,
Susan Cavalieri*

Santa Cruz

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:09:40 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

I am still hoping for a temporary/permanent tram, on the existing tracks, between the Boardwalk to before the Capitola Stockton Avenue Bridge.

Sincerely,

Michael Pisano – Soquel

From: [Darren Huckle](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle/ Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:15:16 PM

Dear Commissioners,

As an avid cyclist and walker, I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. and to help alleviate the high traffic situation on the Arana Gulch path. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period. It will also steer some traffic away from the Arana Gulch pathway which is seeing a wonderful but also intense use by commuting bicyclists and the regular walkers.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

*Sincerely,
Darren Huckle*

Best Wishes Darren Huckle [REDACTED] "Life is like a mirror, it reflects all what you do If you face it smiling, it will smile right back to you" Joseph Hill

From: [Joel Dodge](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:37:16 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

*Sincerely,
Joel Dodge*

From: [Mitchell Bramlett](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:37:07 PM

Dear Commissioners,

It is long past due to take action to support the Seabright community and to help to relieve the economic impact of the Murray Street Bridge construction.

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,
Mitchell Bramlett

From: [Kathy Montano](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:43:36 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,
Kathy Montano

From: [Prentice Steffen](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:56:28 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,

Prentice Steffen, MD, FAAEM
Santa Cruz, CA



From: [Gerardo van den Hoek](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:39:31 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,

Gerardo van den Hoek



From: [Christie Donaldson](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:17:37 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone.

I frequently ride to the Westside from Capitola to access my storage unit, play volleyball on Main Beach, and to eat/drink/shop in Midtown and Downtown. Riding along the coast is much more seamless - avoiding navigating on and around Frederick and Soquel Ave.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

*Sincerely,
Christie Donaldson
Capitola Homeowner*

From: [Mikey Cohen](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Monday, November 3, 2025 5:27:31 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing in support of using the Murray rail trestle as temporary pedestrian and bike access to and from 7th ave and Seabright neighborhoods. I have personally walked and biked this section to understand how feasible it is today as well as to understand the benefit to the community. I also spoke with many of the local business owners in the Seabright neighborhood. What was apparent to me is that it would be a useful path if it were improved. It's also clear to me that the Seabright businesses are really being affected.

As part of my personal research, as a board member of Bike Santa Cruz County, I spent a few hours speaking with local seabright business owners about Murray Street. What was apparent to me is that they are truly struggling. These businesses are their dream and life and I was touched by some of the stories that I heard. While we can't magically make the automobile bridge repair itself overnight, we can provide an alternative that would bring some relief to them and provide an active transportation option that would be the most time efficient way for people to travel that corridor today.

And finally, I applaud the RTC's efforts in making a project like this happen both rapidly and cost effectively. People in this county are frustrated that progress happens slowly and is expensive, and making choices that pursue a "fast and cheap" solution deserves applause and will be very much celebrated as government working for most the people of this County,

Thank you for your consideration.

=-Mikey Cohen=-

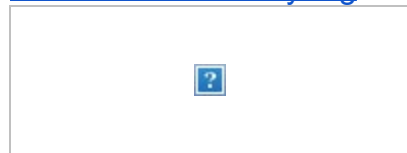
Board Member | Bike Santa Cruz County

[REDACTED]

"Bike Santa Cruz County promotes bicycling through advocacy, education, and community building."

[REDACTED]

bikesantacruzcounty.org



From: [Natascha Bruckner](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item # 21: Supporting proposed Murray Street Bridge project - temporary bike and pedestrian trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:22:11 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am reaching out to express my support for creating a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone.

I live on Pilkington Avenue, a few blocks from the Murray Street Bridge. The lack of bridge access has made it difficult for me to access all points east of the harbor.

Having a temporary trail would make this area much more accessible for me, my partner, and our neighbors. It also would be a huge support for the businesses in our neighborhood, which have been hit hard by the lack of visitors due to the bridge closure.

Thank you very much for considering my input.

With gratitude for your work on behalf of our community,
Natascha Bruckner

[REDACTED]

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

[REDACTED]

From: [Caitlin Brune](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item #21 - Murray Street Bridge closure and request for temporary bike/pedestrian path
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:12:08 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am a Seabright resident, cyclist, supporter of local businesses, and active transportation enthusiast writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians. It will be an important step to re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period while simultaneously restoring flow for active transportation and recreation enthusiasts wanting to hug close to the Harbor when moving E- W or W - E.

Thank you for taking your time to consider this decision and its potential impact on our community.

*Sincerely,
Caitlin Brune

Caitlin M. Brune (she/her/hers)

We plant seeds that will flower as results in our lives, so best to remove the weeds of anger, avarice, envy and doubt, that peace and abundance may manifest for all. ~ Dorothy Day

Schedule with me here: [REDACTED]

Pronouns: *she/her/hers* ** **Email:** [REDACTED]
<https://www.homeconsulting.me> ** <https://lovingtheworld.substack.com/>

I live on the occupied unceded territory of the Awaswas-speaking Uypi Tribe. The Amah Mutsun Tribal Band, descendants of indigenous people taken to missions Santa Cruz & San Juan Bautista during Spanish colonization of the Central Coast, is working hard today to restore traditional stewardship practices on these lands and heal from historical trauma. I recognize that I benefit from living and working on their traditional homeland and affirm their sovereign rights as First Peoples.

Please note: my working day may not be your working day. Please don't feel obligated to respond to my emails outside of your working hours.

From: [Connie](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item #21: Murray Street Bridge project and temporary bicycle and pedestrian trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 8:56:30 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period. As a daily cyclist and pedestrian this path is critical in access from live oak area to the seabright neighborhood. The traffic due to the bridge construction impacts the safety of cyclist and pedestrians. Please give us options.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

*Sincerely,
Connie Wilson*

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Renate Kupke](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item #21: Murray St. Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:46:38 PM

Dear RTC,

I am unable to attend Thursday's RTC meeting because of work, but I would like to express my support of creating a bicycle and pedestrian trail over the Murray St rail bridge to bypass the construction. I am a Live Oak resident (near 17th and Merrill) and bike commuter, and would use the bypass daily to go to and from work on the Westside. I and my partner would also use the trail to access the Seabright businesses that have been adversely affected by the long term bridge shutdown. We enjoy Linda's cafe and La Posta, and although we are willing to pedal the extra mileage to access them, we would greatly appreciate the more direct route.

Thank you for considering this option, it would be a boon to the neighborhood!

My best,
Renate Kupke



From: [Terri Baker](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item #21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:42:45 PM

Dear Commissioners,

i am a resident of the Seabright neighborhood, and ride my bike 75 % and drive 25% of the time.

the bridge closed down has put a huge inconvenience to my life. I live part of my time in Live Oak.

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for the pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This will greatly help with the traffic over Arana Gulch. .

Please vote yes on this bypass !!!!
It will also help with the business in lower Seabright.

Thank you for your consideration.

Truly

Terri Baker

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [Darrow](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item #21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:06:08 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,
Darrow Feldstein

From: [Elliott Campbell](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item 21 - Murray St Bridge
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 3:27:33 PM

Dear RTC Commissioners,

I would like to urge you to support a temporary pedestrian and bike path on the Murray St Bridge. I already walk this route and know that it would be an incredible asset to the community and our local businesses to increase access.

Thank you for your consideration.

Elliott Campbell

From: k.mueller@yahoo.com
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item 21: Murray St. Bridge
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 7:15:07 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I support a trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge. This trail will greatly increase accessibility in this area and help businesses in the area hurt by the extended construction period.

Thank you,

Karsten Mueller MS, PhD

From: [Brian Peoples](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Item 21: Right-of-Entry Agreement — Murray Street Bridge Project
Date: Saturday, November 1, 2025 7:30:30 AM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Trail Now supports RTC staff's recommendation to approve the **Right-of-Entry Agreement** with the **City of Santa Cruz** for a temporary pedestrian and bicycle trail between **Seabright Avenue and 7th Avenue**, and to allow use of the rail corridor for construction staging.

Rationale:

- Provides a safe, accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists during construction.
- Supports small local businesses impacted by the Murray Street Bridge lane closures.
- Requires **no fiscal burden** on the RTC—costs are fully covered by the City of Santa Cruz.
- Maintains corridor continuity and complements future Coastal Trail development.

Conclusion:

Approving this agreement demonstrates a **balanced, community-oriented approach** that supports local commerce, encourages active transportation, and aligns with RTC policy.

Best regards,

Brian Peoples



From: [Daniel Spero](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Murry st bridge
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:04:28 PM

Open the Murry street rail bridge to bike traffic!

Daniel

From: [Rosalind Alley](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Murray Bridge Pedestrian Crossing Solution
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 12:11:26 AM

My letter of support:

Dear Chair Montesino and Members of the Regional Transportation Commission,

I am writing to express strong support for the staff recommendation under Agenda Item 21, approving the Right-of-Entry Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for the temporary bicycle and pedestrian trail and access near the Murray Street Bridge.

The Murray Street Bridge closure has had a serious impact on the Seabright and Harbor communities, cutting off easy access for local residents, employees, and customers of small businesses in the area. A temporary trail connection along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line using the Woods Lagoon bridge will restore a vital active transportation link and help maintain economic activity while the bridge retrofit continues.

It is unfortunate that Progressive Rail continues to oppose this limited, temporary, and community-minded use of a corridor that currently has no active freight service north of Watsonville. Their resistance should not prevent the public from using public right-of-way to meet urgent local transportation needs. I encourage the RTC to move forward under its authority as corridor owner, secure the necessary insurance coverage, and ensure that the City can proceed without unnecessary delay.

This project offers an immediate, low-cost way to reconnect neighborhoods, support local businesses, and demonstrate the flexibility of the rail corridor to serve real community needs today. Please approve staff's recommendation and help keep Santa Cruz moving safely and efficiently during the bridge construction period.

Sincerely,
Former Valley Women's Club President
And West Side Local
Rosalind Waite Alley

From: [Suzanne Cochran](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:12:42 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cochran
Property Owner and Full Time Resident of Santa Cruz County

From: [Amber Gillespie](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Murray Street Bridge Project
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:14:40 PM

Good afternoon!

Please consider the decision to allow usage of the trail over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction area. Permission to use this already-existing trail greatly increases the accessibility of this area, and may potentially get more people out on foot or wheels to access their destinations without relying on a car; Hopefully leading to a lifestyle change away from said cars. We need it and the businesses on both sides of the bridge need it, so we may as well access it with permission.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Yours on bike and on foot,

Amber Gillespie

Billing Manager

EyeQ Optometry

[REDACTED]

Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

To:

Regional Transportation Commission;

Subject:

Murray Street Bridge, Agenda item #21

Date:

Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:51:25 PM

To the Santa Cruz County RTC Commissioners:

I am writing to urge the Commissioners to approve Agenda Item 21: to create a temporary trail on the Murray Street rail bridge for bicyclists and pedestrians over the now closed Santa Cruz Harbor.

In July of this year, out of desperation for the business conditions in lower Seabright, I initiated a Change.org petition to open this bridge. Since that time, more than 2,200 citizens of Santa Cruz County have added their support for this change.

Our community, business and residents, on both sides of the SC Harbor need the connectivity this bridge opening will allow. Moreover, after the difficulties inflicted by the pandemic, our small business community cannot bear 2.5 additional years of continual emergency.

Thank you,

Patrice Boyle

La Posta Restaurant

[REDACTED]

From: [Steven Jonsson](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Murray Street Bridge
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:26:53 AM

Dear Chair Montesino and Commissioners,

We are writing to share our support for Agenda Item 21 to approve the Right-of-Entry Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for the bike and pedestrian trail next to the Murray Street Bridge.

The Murray Street Bridge closure has had devastating impacts on Seabright and Harbor businesses and communities. We support a temporary trail on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line using the Woods Lagoon bridge because it will restore an active transportation link, bolster business activity and reconnect workers, neighbors and customers.

Progressive Rail's resistance should not prevent the public from using public right-of-way to meet urgent local transportation and economic needs. We encourage RTC to move forward under its authority as corridor owner, secure the necessary insurance coverage so the City can proceed without delay.

This project offers an immediate solution to serve real community needs today. Please approve staff's recommendation and keep Santa Cruz moving safely and efficiently during the bridge construction period.

And as a Watsonville resident, I applaud the support of the Freedom, Pennsylvania, and Clifford Projects. These will be a great improvement for our bicycle and pedestrian community.

Thank you.

**Steven Jonsson
BSCC Board Member
RTC BAC Dist 4 alternate**



From: [REDACTED]
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Murray st. rail bridge/early returns
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 4:26:33 PM

Hey - let's do this. Find a way to resolve the insurance concerns of Progressive Rail and lets get some use of the corridor for us tax payers asap.

Thanks!

Bill Cook

From: [Ann Durbin](#)
To: [REDACTED]
[Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Open the Eaton Street bridge path, item 21
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 9:00:38 AM

If it's going to take as long as predicted to complete the bridge rebuild, please take steps to open the rail path to pedestrians and bicycles. People depend on this artery for commuting and commerce.

Ann Durbin
95060

From: [mary.morgan](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission;](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: Opening access for pedestrians
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:43:55 AM

Goodmorning,

My name is Mary Morgan. I am a licensed acupuncturist who works down at the harbor and I am urging all to please figure out a way to open up the pedestrian access RTC rail trail. Businesses on both sides are being stifled by the lack of access.

The bottleneck during high commute times in other areas of the town adds another layer to the immediate need for foot and bicycle access.

Many of my patients live in the Seabright, Downtown, and Westside areas who are active individuals who like to walk or bicycle over to my office. But with the bridge shut down some opt to drive instead as the roads are congested and more dangerous for cyclists. Which then increases traffic with more cars on the road.

It would have been better if this access was established before the bridge was shut down. I urge all persons involved in this decision to act swiftly to getting it open for the community!

Thankyou for you attention to this serious matter.

Sincerely,

Mary Morgan L.Ac. MTCM
Ancient Waves Wellness

[REDACTED]
Santa Cruz, Ca 95062
[REDACTED]

From: [Colleen Holland](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission;](#) [REDACTED]
Subject: PLEASE reopen the rail bridge
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:41:28 AM

Hello,

I am a resident of the Yacht Harbor, and need to go to Seabright at least twice a day for work, to help family, or to patronize specific stores. This has all come to a stop given the bridge closure, and the current state of the rail bridge is unsafe and not usable for many reasons.

- >> It's difficult to access from the yacht harbor
- >> It's uneven terrain, making it unsafe
- >> It's unsafe outside of daylight hours and already feels isolated
- >> Riding a bicycle across is virtually impossible
- >> Going through Arana Gulch adds 20 minutes (by bike) and 45 minutes (by walking)

I am in disbelief that an alternative wasn't planned and provided when the bridge closed. This situation has been catastrophic in terms of affecting the residents and businesses in the Seabright and Yacht Harbor areas, let alone drivers as a whole (the traffic on Soquel Avenue is now horrendous). I beg you to please offer a safe, simple way to get across this bridge during this construction.

Thank you,

Colleen Holland

From: [Orry Korb](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Please Open the Rail Bridge
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 8:13:03 AM

As a resident of 9th Avenue, I and my neighbors are among the many negatively affected by the Murray Street Bridge closure. Aside from increased traffic queues at Brommer and Capitola Road, we face elongated and circuitous routes by car, bike and foot when attempting to reach anything west of the Yacht Harbor, especially the Seabright businesses. Attempting to cycle the tracks and bridge as currently configured is uncomfortable at best and dangerous at worst.

With the current closure scheduled to extend to February, and additional restrictions expected through 2027, east side residents along with the Seabright businesses need as much access relief as possible as soon as possible. Opening the rail bridge with the necessary temporary infrastructure is one immediate and available option. Please end the delay and allow relief where possible.

Orry Korb

[REDACTED]

[];-{>

From: [anne berne](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Please allow bikes and walkers to traverse Murray St bridge...from a SC Cyclist, homeowner, dog walker
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:09:26 PM

Dear Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission,

As a homeowner, cyclist, resident of Santa Cruz since 1992, dog walker, volleyball player and user of Arana Gulch area, please allow bikes and walkers access across Murray Street Bridge safely and easily. Three years is too long to block the access for people and especially those businesses that will not survive without patrons. I have to bring my dogs around through 7th avenue which does not feel as safe or as convenient for myself and my dogs when we are going to the Yacht Harbor from the Morrissey Neighborhood where we live.

Thank you for considering more access by cyclists and pedestrians.

Anne Berne

[REDACTED]

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

From: [Matt O'Leary](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Please support Agenda Item 21 – Open the Murray Street Rail Bridge Trail
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:40:25 AM

Dear RTC Board of Directors,

I'm writing to urge you to support **Agenda Item 21** and move forward with creating a **temporary trail on the Murray Street rail bridge** for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Since the closure of lower Seabright to through traffic, the neighborhood has been effectively cut off from about 90% of its previous traffic flow. As a result, lower Seabright businesses are struggling. Many are seeing a sharp drop in customers, and some are now facing the very real possibility of closing their doors.

Approving Agenda Item 21 to open a temporary path on the rail bridge would:

- Restore a **safe, direct connection** across the harbor for people walking and biking
- Bring critical **foot and bike traffic back to lower Seabright businesses**, helping them survive this long construction period
- Support a more **sustainable and less car-dependent** way to move around the city

I understand that the rail bridge trail could serve as many as **450 users per day**. That's not just a number; it represents neighbors, workers, students, and customers who would once again be able to reach this area safely and conveniently. It would be a lifeline for the small, locally owned businesses that give Seabright its character.

Please **vote YES on Agenda Item 21** and prioritize opening the Murray Street rail bridge to pedestrians and cyclists as soon as possible. Lower Seabright businesses—and the community that loves them—are counting on your support.

Thank you for your consideration and for your service to our community.

Sincerely,
Matthew O'Leary



From: [Jonathan Evans](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: SUPPORT: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:42:54 PM

Dear Commissioners,

Please create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass bridge construction. As a resident in the area the bridge closure has negatively affected me and my ability to patronize local businesses.

This temporary trail will greatly increase accessibility in the area.

Thank you,
Jonathan Evans
Santa Cruz, 95062

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Seabright / Harbor Businesses
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:11:50 AM

Dear RTC Board of Directors,

Please support a trail along the rail bridge for pedestrians and bicycles along Murray Street. The closure of Murray Street has unfairly affected the businesses in the Seabright / Harbor area. We don't want to see more small businesses go under due to this closure. Thank you for your consideration.

All the Best,
Carol Libby and Mike Young

From: [Leah Laddon](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Subject line: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:59:59 AM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,
Leah Laddon

From: [Stephen Svete](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission;](#) [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Subject: Support SCCRTC Agenda Item 21 – Murray Street Bridge Temporary Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 11:09:49 AM

Dear Chair Montesino and Commissioners,

I am writing to strongly support Agenda Item 21 to approve the Right-of-Entry Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for the bike and pedestrian trail north of the Murray Street Bridge.

The Murray Street Bridge closure has resulted in serious economic disruptions on Seabright and Harbor area businesses. It has also interrupted established cross-town active transportation routes and made other alternatives (Broadway/Brommer) more congested. A temporary trail on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line using the Woods Lagoon bridge will provide a safe active transportation link, bolster business activity and reconnect workers, neighbors and customers.

An out-of-state rail company's opposition to the project is self-interested, and ignores obvious public benefits. It should not prevent the public from using public right-of-way to meet urgent local transportation and economic needs. We encourage RTC to move forward under its authority as corridor owner, secure the necessary insurance coverage so the City can proceed without delay.

This project offers an immediate solution to serve real community needs today. Please approve staff's recommendation and keep Santa Cruz moving safely and efficiently during the bridge construction period.

Regards,

Stephen Svete, Board Member
Bike Santa Cruz County

From: [Tim Brattan](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Support SCCRTC Agenda Item 21 – Murray Street Bridge Temporary Trail
Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025 6:37:25 PM

Dear Chair Montesino and Commissioners,

We are writing to share our support for Agenda Item 21 to approve the Right-of-Entry Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for the bike and pedestrian trail next to the Murray Street Bridge.

The Murray Street Bridge closure has had devastating impacts on Seabright and Harbor businesses and communities. We support a temporary trail on the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line using the Woods Lagoon bridge because it will restore an active transportation link, bolster business activity and reconnect workers, neighbors and customers.

Progressive Rail's resistance should not prevent the public from using public right-of-way to meet urgent local transportation and economic needs. We encourage RTC to move forward under its authority as corridor owner, secure the necessary insurance coverage so the City can proceed without delay.

This project offers an immediate solution to serve real community needs today. Please approve staff's recommendation and keep Santa Cruz moving safely and efficiently during the bridge construction period.

Thank you.

Tim Brattan
Suzi Mahler
City of Santa Cruz residents

From: [Jack Brown](#)**To:** [Regional Transportation Commission; e](#) [REDACTED]**Subject:** Support for SCCRTC Agenda Item 21 – Murray Street Bridge Temporary Trail and Right-of-Entry Agreement**Date:** Wednesday, October 29, 2025 1:19:25 PM

Dear Chair Montesino and Members of the Regional Transportation Commission,

I am writing to express strong support for the staff recommendation under Agenda Item 21, approving the Right-of-Entry Agreement with the City of Santa Cruz for the temporary bicycle and pedestrian trail and access near the Murray Street Bridge.

The Murray Street Bridge closure has had a serious impact on the Seabright and Harbor communities, cutting off easy access for local residents, employees, and customers of small businesses in the area. A temporary trail connection along the Santa Cruz Branch Rail Line using the Woods Lagoon bridge will restore a vital active transportation link and help maintain economic activity while the bridge retrofit continues.

It is unfortunate that Progressive Rail continues to oppose this limited, temporary, and community-minded use of a corridor that currently has no active freight service north of Watsonville. Their resistance should not prevent the public from using public right-of-way to meet urgent local transportation needs. I encourage the RTC to move forward under its authority as corridor owner, secure the necessary insurance coverage, and ensure that the City can proceed without unnecessary delay.

This project offers an immediate, low-cost way to reconnect neighborhoods, support local businesses, and demonstrate the flexibility of the rail corridor to serve real community needs today. Please approve staff's recommendation and help keep Santa Cruz moving safely and efficiently during the bridge construction period.

Sincerely,
Jack Brown
Aptos, CA

From: [Meg Dennison](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Temporary Trail for pedestrians and bicyclists
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:48:01 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support Item #21 to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,
Meg Dennison


Santa Cruz

From: [Frank Kline](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Temporary trail
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 7:37:11 AM

Dear Commissioners,

Please move forward with the Murray street temporary bridge crossing. We all know it would help the local businesses and when I tried riding over the train bridge in its current state it was dangerous. Thanks, Frank Kline

From: [Richard Barrick](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Train bridge
Date: Wednesday, November 5, 2025 6:32:11 AM

Sent from my iPad

This is an important connection for many people. It is vital part of commute to school, work, shopping and visiting family members. There are many shut ins young and old that depend on people who use this access point. Not all of us have cars.

Thanks for considering this note, Richard

From: [Geoffrey Laredo](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Cc: [Geoffrey Laredo](#)
Subject: Upcoming meeting, item #21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trial
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:38:58 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

I am an avid cyclist and prior to its closure, used the bridge almost daily. I will do the same when you create the temporary trail. This is a no-brainer. It doesn't have to be hard to do. Please, please do the right thing and support our community.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

*Sincerely,
Geoffrey Laredo
[REDACTED]
Santa Cruz, CA*

From: [Brett Graf](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: Subject line: Item # 21: Murray Street Bridge Project and Temporary Bicycle and Pedestrian Trail
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 2:31:49 PM

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to support the decision to create a temporary trail for pedestrians and bicyclists over the Murray Street Bridge to bypass the construction zone. This temporary trail will greatly increase the accessibility of this area, estimating over 450 uses per day from bikes and pedestrians, re-invigorating the businesses in the area that have struggled with the extended construction period.

Thank you for taking your time to read and consider this decision!

Sincerely,

Brett Graf

Owner and Operator

Habitat Gardens LLC

CA license #914196

[REDACTED]

Santa Cruz, CA 95062

[REDACTED]

www.Habitat-Gardens.com

[REDACTED]

See more Photos of our work on FaceBook!

[REDACTED]

From: [david van brink](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: comment: Murray St Bridge
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 5:45:17 PM

Dear Commissioners,

This proposal to swiftly engineer, fund, and build a path on a railroad bridge appears clearly performative. It's understandable, as the bizarre anti-rail sentiment among a tiny but loud and influential minority is often expressed "forcefully".

Nonetheless, it seems in practical terms questionable and expensive. The City still states that the main bridge will be available to pedestrians as soon as February.

Obviously, efforts to keep that main project on schedule are more worthy than this probably-sham exercise.

Warmly -- David Van Brink, enthusiast of cycling infrastructure

david van brink / 

From: [Cris Tulloch](#)
To: [Regional Transportation Commission](#)
Subject: support for opening the rail bridge for pedestrians and cyclists.
Date: Tuesday, November 4, 2025 9:56:51 PM

Please note my support for opening the rail bridge for pedestrians and cyclists.

Cris Tulloch

Dear Commissioners,

Why is it that when it comes to a RTC item in the City of Santa Cruz that it becomes a prominent issue that needs to be addressed asap? When the City wanted to widen the San Lorenzo bridge crossing, the work jumped ahead of the timeline schedule for that segment of the rail corridor. When the City wanted to build a bike lane and enhance the parking between the Yacht harbor and Twin Lakes Beach the RTC tossed in \$1 million dollars and the work was done quickly.

Yet, when Pajaro flooded, the Main Street bridge was shut down and police prohibited the residents of Pajaro from accessing their flooded homes using the Pajaro train trestle, forcing them to walk nearly two miles to the Thurwacher bridge along the eastern levee. When the RTC debated the reconstruction of the Pajaro River train trestle they ignored requests (by me, at least) to build a pedestrian/bicycle crossing so that the dangerous Main Street/Riverside Drive intersection could be avoided. But no, that couldn't happen. Already the RTC has developed a plan to use the gentle grade of the rail corridor along Segment 17 ONLY for train operations, and force pedestrians and cyclists to take a two mile detour down Beach Street traffic and climb out of the Pajaro Valley basin on a steeper San Andreas hill with traffic.

The advocates from San Cruz City have often declared that they're interested in transportation equity. Yet south county residents have gotten very little benefit from the RTC. All of the trail development has occurred in the City of Santa Cruz over the past several years and devouring the lion's share of the available funding from 2016 Measure D. Watsonville has gotten a 200 yard piece of trail developed that goes from nowhere to nowhere.

And now residents of the City of Santa Cruz believe the long-planned Murray Street bridge construction should constitute an emergency, petitioning the RTC to prioritize their needs over all other County residents again.

Respectfully,

Peter Stanger

Watsonville, CA 95076

Item 21: Right of Entry Agreement – Murray Street Bridge Project

Please approve the Right of Entry Agreement for a temporary pedestrian and bicycle trail between Seabright Avenue and 7th Avenue. This would provide a safe, accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists during construction, while supporting local small businesses impacted by the Murray Street Bridge lane closures. It would require NO fiscal burden on the part of the RTC, while complementing future coastal trail development.

I am a full time resident of Santa Cruz County. I have lived in Aptos for 25 years. I look forward to seeing my recommendations being incorporated into your decisions.

Sincerely,

Ellen Martinez

Item 21: Right of Entry Agreement – Murray Street Bridge Project

Please approve the Right of Entry Agreement for a temporary pedestrian and bicycle trail between Seabright Avenue and 7th Avenue. This would provide a safe, accessible route for pedestrians and cyclists during construction, while supporting local small businesses impacted by the Murray Street Bridge lane closures. It would require NO fiscal burden on the part of the RTC, while complementing future coastal trail development.

I am a full time resident of Santa Cruz County. I have lived in Aptos for 25 years. I look forward to seeing my recommendations being incorporated into your decisions.

Sincerely,

Joe Martinez

Friends of the Rail and Trail has the following comments on tomorrow's agenda.

Item 21: Santa Cruz Branch Line and Right of Entry Agreement

The current schedule updates for the Murray Street Bridge Seismic Repair Project state that the Murray Street Bridge will be open to one way eastbound vehicle traffic and two way pedestrian traffic in February of next year. It is not clear what the anticipated schedule is for construction and opening of the temporary trail project. The project cost estimate (\$1.7 million) is quite high for a project which has been described as temporary.

Friends of the Rail and Trail appreciates all the hard work and dedication of the staff who have put so much work into preparing these reports.

Sincerely,

Matt Farrell

Board Chair

Santa Cruz County Friends of the Rail and Trail (FORT)