



# Rail & Trail Candidate Questionnaire

November Election 2022

*Local elected officials are appointed to serve on boards like the Metro and the RTC and can have an impact on countywide transportation decisions. Friends of the Rail & Trail is committed to discovering candidate positions and sharing them with the public so we can all make informed choices at the ballot box.*

Responses by Alexander Pedersen, Candidate for Capitola City Council

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1

The Regional Transportation Commission owns the **rail** corridor. The RTC has unanimously affirmed its commitment to leave the railroad infrastructure in place, maintain freight rail service, and institute high capacity public transit service. The RTC has also selected electric passenger rail transit as the locally preferred alternative for transit on the corridor. Do you support these policies? Why or why not? How would this position be expressed in your work, should you be elected?

I support leaving the railroad infrastructure in place and exploring options of utilizing the rail corridor in whatever way benefits our community to the greatest extent, which may be an electric passenger rail system. I would have to deeply consider the cost to benefit of any specific passenger rail system being considered. If elected, I would consider any transportation proposal with due diligence and am generally in favor of public transportation projects.

2

Construction has begun on the **trail** next to the tracks, but some segments have faced opposition and resulting delays. What is your position on the multi-use trail planned for the rail corridor? How would this position be expressed in your work, should you be elected?

I am strongly in favor of an extended trial being developed and will happily continue to use the trail as it grows. My position on the multi-use trail planned is that a trail next to the tracks is the only path forward at this point and that it will be a great benefit to the public.

3

Neighborhoods with **safe streets**, bike lanes, and sidewalks create room for us to move freely without our cars. What would you do to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists?

I am in favor of more bike paths and more protection for cyclists and pedestrians. I believe that we as a society rely too much on car and would love to see an increase in safe and environmentally friendly modes of transportation.

4

What did you think of the June 2022 **Measure D vote**? What was your position on this measure?  
How do you interpret the outcome of this vote?

The public clearly stated their preference in regards to measure D and I agree with the decision to keep our options open by maintaining the railroad infrastructure at this time.

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**Find-out more about Alexander Pedersen at their website:**

<https://www.pedersenforcapitola.com/>