



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 Adam Spickler, Candidate for Trustee for Cabrillo College

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?

Yes, I support these policies! I hope to see vigorous grant exploration and collaboration with the federal government to maximize our ability to build clean, electric light rail passenger transit along the corridor for use in the next several years. As a trustee for Cabrillo, prior to the Coronavirus pandemic, I'd asked the RTC to study our college's usage of and impact on HWY traffic. I think one benefit we would see from developing public transit on our rail corridor, with stops placed within a half mile north and south of the college's Aptos campus, and within even shorter range of the college's Watsonville center, is a significant number of faculty, staff and students utilizing the rail corridor to regularly get to and from Cabrillo. The college is already involved in developing a multi-jurisdictional county-wide bike share program, which would make the last leg of an electric light rail ride to and from Cabrillo an easy and accessible trip for those who bike. Cabrillo is a leader in innovative environmental justice and equity. As a trustee I have and will continue to clarify that the transportation justice and reduced carbon footprint impact of electric light rail passenger transit along the corridor is very much in line with the values and goals of Cabrillo College.

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?

Like the position I stated relating to electric light rail passenger transit, I am very much in favor of a multi-use trail along side or positioned by the rail line. We've already implemented several miles of rail and trail successfully. It is providing our community with walking, biking, and other invaluable recreational options to get to where folks need to go in a healthy, community-centered, zero-carbon footprint manner.

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?

Pedestrian and cyclist safety is important, and at Cabrillo we've increased lighting and pathways, and have worked to make both our campuses more pedestrian and bike friendly over the years. As a trustee I want our college to continue modeling best practices for safety as a ways to help bolster and improve pedestrian and cyclist safety county-wide.

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?

I am proud to have been an early volunteer on the county-wide effort to defeat Measure D. I worked on the endorsements steering committee for

No Way Greenway, helping garner numerous key, early endorsements. My efforts brought a good deal of well-timed notoriety to the issue, helping the No Way Greenway team effectively tell the important story of the truth behind Greenway's efforts early on. I am so glad we turned out an overwhelming majority vote that defeated Measure D in June of 2022. I believe the outcome illustrates what we were saying all along—that people in our community see transportation justice and carbon reducing public transit as priority solutions to the gridlock of highway one for our county, and the growing climate change problems we face globally. Our community wants an effective multi use corridor to help get people where they need to go in a more equitable, timely and environmentally friendly manner.

Find-out more about **Adam Spickler** at their website: [Adam for Trustee \(adamspickler.org\)](http://adamspickler.org)