



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 Hector Marin, Candidate for Santa Cruz City Council District 4

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 these policies because they seek to unify North County with South County through mass transit and transportation. Workers from Watsonville, who are predominantly Latinx, contribute to the economy of the City of Santa Cruz, and we are to keep that same energy through sustainable transportation projects like the Corridor. As a City Council-member of District 4, I would seek to not only support the Rail Corridor, but encourage mass transit by helping propose a bus-to-shoulder lane that is provided exclusively to buses that are commuting from Santa Cruz to Watsonville, and ensure that such services are affordable to working class families and the poor.

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 support the multi-use walking and biking path of the trail since bicycle and pedestrian trails are necessary to incentivize non-motorized mobility for marginalized communities. As a City Council member, I would expand on the work of the multi-use trail by expanding and assuring the security of bikeways and shared-use paths by recommending bicycle buffer zones, reduce traffic lanes, and expand pedestrian walkways. I do not support the multi-use trail of initiatives like Greenway.

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?

Along with the previously mentioned recommendations, I would recommend that high residential areas with duplexes have road bumps and stop signs, so families and children can be safe and secure. I would also recommend that during Summer, tourist times, a traffic congestion tax would be imposed on tourists, the tax is based on the median levels of their income, and the money of the tax can go in improving Santa Cruz's road infrastructure. I would also recommend that high residential areas near highly popular areas for tourists have certain streets blocked off where tourists cannot venture, to make the quality of life easier and better for residents. I would also recommend for the bus passes in the Metro be for free for students and the unhoused.

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 voted no on Measure D since I want to see equitable and sustainable transportation for all residents of Santa Cruz County. Measure D sought to destroy publicly-owned rail infrastructure through rail-banking. By eliminating the publicly owned rail, senior, disabled and POC communities are inaccessible to public transportation that is green. The community has resoundingly voted No on D, and they have made their point very clear.

Find-out more about Hector Marin at their website:

<https://www.hector4santacruz.com/>