



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 Joy Schendledecker, Candidate for Santa Cruz City Mayor

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 understand that Santa Cruz maintaining public ownership of our rail line and easements provides a unique and crucial means for providing publicly accountable, affordable, and environmentally sustainable mass transit to commuters within and beyond the city. Integrating electric passenger rail with complementary modes of city transit, particularly bus services, pedestrian / bike paths, and commuter parking additionally provide critical means for both residents and visitors to lower transportation costs, substantially decrease greenhouse gas emissions, relieve congestion, facilitate employment and economic exchange, enable flexible responses to regional hazards (such as fires, floods, and earthquakes), and foster diverse community relationships within the city of Santa Cruz, as well as the broader areas of the Northern Monterey Bay, Central Coast, and San Francisco Bay Area. As mayor I seek to further these projects to the extent that they continue to enjoy the broad-based support of Santa Cruz residents, while prioritizing the needs and interests of working and poor residents, safety, and long-term environmental health.

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 feel fortunate to live not far from the completed segments of the rail-trail on the Westside of Santa Cruz. It provides a great trail for cyclists and pedestrians off of the busiest streets, and I look forward to using it to get downtown and beyond as segments are completed. As an elected official, I will fully support continued construction of the trail, and commit to further funding the expedient completion of all segments. I also commit to engaging justly and productively with the public to resolve conflict and pursue necessary and fair compromise, without losing track of the overwhelming popularity and advantages of each completed section.

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?

By designing public infrastructure for people with the most limited mobility, especially minors, elders, and those with disabilities, everyone benefits. As mayor, I would prioritize funding and completion of those elements that ensure public safety, including protected and expanded pedestrian and bike lanes, sidewalk cuts and ramps, brightly illuminated crosswalks, driver education, and careful mapping and sharing of safety related information.

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 emphatically voted No on D, and contributed to the campaign to defeat the ballot measure. I interpret the voters' trouncing of Measure D at the polls as a mandate by the people to keep publicly owned property public, radically increase funding for public transportation, and carefully connect communities across the county. I understand that voters, and the vast majority of residents, desire healthy, dynamic, and diverse communities that prioritize the quality of life for workers, people with disabilities, and vibrant ecosystems, by helping

people escape cars and smog and enjoy better living, together, from the mountains to the sea.

Find-out more about Joy Schendledecker at their website:

<https://joyforsantacruz.com/>