



# 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 Nancy Bilicich, Candidate for Watsonville City Council District 7

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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?

We have the train tracks and the voters have spoken. . .Keep the tracks. What a wonderful opportunity to institute high capacity public transit service! I agree with the RTC supporting electric passenger rail transit service. . .a great choice for the community. Electric rail should be quiet and good for the environment. If I am elected, I will continue to promote electric rail to assist those in Watsonville who want to travel to Santa Cruz for work and pleasure. A walking trail and bicycle path would be good for pleasure, but in my opinion, will not help to reduce traffic issues on Highway 1.

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 would like to see the trail completed. The project has been started. Progress needs to be made in the Watsonville area. I have previously advocated for Watsonville residents. . .starting the electric train in South County also and starting the trail in South County. If we really want to improve traffic, why wouldn't we start in South County? That being said, progress has been made in North County!

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?

In the City of Watsonville, many bike lanes have been provided on many streets with more to come. We need more flashing crosswalks. Although vehicles need to slow down, pedestrians need to "Stop, look and listen!" before crossing. With more electric vehicles, there is more silence. Pedestrians need to look for vehicles instead of talking on their phones and stepping off the curb. Crosswalks need to be utilized. We need a massive pedestrian safety campaign. . . a public safety campaign in the schools about pedestrian safety would be beneficial.

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 think the outcome of Measure D indicated people do want a train, an efficient electric train, that can improve traffic conditions and options. All we have is Highway 1 and it is much too crowded. Expansions do not appear to improve the flow of traffic as auxiliary lanes are for buses. Since more lanes are not being provided for vehicles, we need to look at a scenic ride on the electric train. I supported keeping the tracks based on the research I read, once tracks are removed, they are gone forever. Now the rail needs to be constructed and funding grants obtained! Costs are prohibitive, but this needs to be a community focus and we will meet with success.

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Find-out more about **Nancy Bilicich** by contacting them at:  
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