



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 Renee Golder, Candidate for Santa Cruz City Council, District 6

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 this and have expressed so publicly and with my votes during my current term on council and when serving as an alternate on the RTC.

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 have, as I said, supported all phases of this project during my current term and will continue to do so.

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 was honored to speak at the groundbreaking of our Coastal Rail Trail Segment 7/Phase II. As the Principal at Bay View Elementary School, a member of the Santa Cruz City Council, a neighborhood resident, and a parent, I am thrilled that this project will offer not only a safe and connected opportunity for our whole community to walk and bike, but also a brand new,

innovative education and encouragement program for all Bay View students. For the first time, an innovative “vertical” non-infrastructure program at Bay View Elementary School is being implemented by Ecology Action in partnership with the city, which means that kids in every single grade level will have gold standard walking and biking safety education and ongoing encouragement activities such as weekly walk and roll to school to reinforce what they learn. As a principal, a parent, former teacher, former SCCS student I love to see this level of collaboration between the city and our public schools. Bay View has been a Certified Green Business 2013 and the parents and the students and staff are all passionate about protecting the environment. One way we can all reduce carbon emissions and get exercise is to bike, walk, scooter or skateboard to school and work. Bay View students and staff use the newly constructed parts of the rail trail daily and I know I am speaking for everyone when I say we are thrilled to see this segment getting started to access more of our community safely. Many of our students live in the neighborhood that will now be reached by this segment and I am sure it will be well used before and after school. Thank you to the California Transportation Commission and Regional Transportation Commission for funding, to the Santa Cruz Public Works Department for working hard to deliver this project, and the entire community for believing in the vision of a future where everyone can walk and bike safely. My goal will be to collaborate across the community to expand this programming and continue my work to help people move safely around Santa Cruz.

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, endorsed the measure and to me it was clear that the community was not that divided after all.

**Find-out more about Renee Golder at their website:
<https://reneegolder.org>**