



# 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 Scott Newsome, Candidate for Santa Cruz City Council District

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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?

Yes, I support these policies, especially the construction of a zero emission light rail that connects Santa Cruz to surrounding areas. Finding cleaner and effective solutions to helping people commute to and from Santa Cruz and their place of employment that are not based around cars is something I support. As a representative of District 4, I will support any efforts to build clean alternative transportation options between Santa Cruz and surrounding areas.

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 trail planned for the rail corridor. As a representative of District 4, I will look for ways to address this issue and help move construction on this aspect of the trail forward.

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?

Those who use alternative transportation options should feel safe on our streets. Additionally, as a father to two young children who will soon be biking, I want to ensure that our streets are safe for children to use. As a representative of district 4, I will support looking into ways to ensure our streets are safe for everyone who uses them, especially those who use non-emission transportation options such as bicycles. I will also work collaboratively with other members of the council and community stakeholders to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, such as looking into ways to increase the number of and improve existing protected bike lanes in Santa Cruz and increase dedicated bus lanes.

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?

The public overwhelmingly voted down Measure D in June 2022. I was against Measure D. I interpreted the outcome of this vote as the public rejecting the idea of tearing up the tracks on the rail trail and the idea of not supporting a greener and more equitable transportation system that connects surrounding areas to Santa Cruz.

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Find-out more about Scott Newsome at their website:  
<https://scott4santacruz.com>