RE: Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI)

Recently the Santa Cruz County Regional Transportation Commission (RTC) rejected a business plan for the design, construction and operation of a passenger rail line and trail along the 32-mile existing line from Davenport to Watsonville.

The vote on this multi-modal transportation plan spotlights the difficulty communities have in developing new and innovative means of transportation in the face of special interest groups and regional political action.

This is a textbook example of how localized planning for transportation disproportionately affects low-income communities, disabled and aging communities, and other populations facing inequities.

Abandoning the long sought out goal of a multi-modal public rail and trail system as the state transitions to zero emission vehicles will disproportionally impact low-income residents ability to access jobs, education, and other opportunities in Santa Cruz County.

I ask that the Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure (CAPTI) address the ability for localized political interests to block transit plans that will directly reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Erik Hansen
Santa Cruz County Resident