

August 15th, 2016

Dear Candidate for Capitola City Council,

Bike Santa Cruz County promotes bicycling through advocacy, education and community building. To allow our membership and the bicycling community at large to make informed decisions in the November election, we are distributing this questionnaire to you and your fellow candidates, and request that you respond by **Tuesday, September 6th** by email to director@bikesantacruzcounty.org. We sincerely thank you for taking time to respond.

The Bike Santa Cruz board will determine our candidate endorsements based on responses to the questionnaires that we receive by the deadline. We may also consider other factors, such as voting records in office and achievements or community service that advance bicycling. We may endorse any number of candidates for any particular office, as our endorsement simply means that, in our opinion, a candidate will help improve conditions for people who ride bicycles.

Regardless of whether we endorse your candidacy, we will provide thousands of readers of our newsletter, website, online social media feeds, and membership emails with an analysis of your positions on transportation issues. We will publicize our endorsements through these channels as well as inform the press. If we endorse your candidacy, we will accept your campaign sign for display in our downtown office storefront window, and inform our members on how to help with your campaign.

**1. Do you currently ride a bicycle or use any other form of alternative transportation?**

I bike whenever I can.

**2. What specific accomplishments and qualifications demonstrate your capacity to improve the transportation system in your community/district?**

Specific Accomplishments - Previous to entering the Council race or even considering it, I met with a representative of the Santa Cruz Metro Service to discuss how to improve service. I felt the large buses, for most routes were a waste of money and resources. I was told that the fleet of large buses could not be replaced in the near future. My solution there would be smaller perhaps half size vehicles that could run more frequently and could be deployed for effectively in demanding routes, and less frequently in less demanding routes. I had taken two weeks to do my own personal study, which without question showed a significant lack of use with the current public bus transportation in many routes.

**3. The City of Capitola Bicycle Transportation Plan has goals that include increasing bicycle ridership and replacing motor vehicle trips with bicycle trips. The plan sets a goal for 5% of all trips and 20% of work trips to be made by bicycle by 2020. What steps would you take to ensure that the goals of the Bike Plan are met or exceeded?**

City Plan -I would take whatever steps are necessary to advocate implementation of the City of Capitola Transportation Plan. Recommendations from your organization would be a primary source of directives. This weekend of the Art and Wine festival I was quite impressed with the bike parking lot on Capitola Ave. and Stockton. I think small well located bike lots scattered about would be an interesting concept to increase bike use.

**4. Planning is underway for the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail, a multi-use path along the rail line from Davenport to Pajaro. If you support this trail, how do you envision building the sections in the City as soon as possible?**

Scenic Trail implementation – This is fantastic. What a potential great opportunity to advance no vehicle use. Plus it provides a very safe route for bicycle transportation. I think Capitola should set the example of what can be done with the old rail system. It doesn’t seem that creating a bike thoroughfare would be that difficult and I would make this a high priority.  Easy access to the path, or exits would be an important factor.

**5. Do you support a train or other public transportation along the rail line as part of a rail with trail facility?**

Train on the railway – Yes I support this. Anything to get people out of their autos and using an alternative form of transportation is my goal. The current traffic that compounds and clogs Capitola on a daily basis is not only unsustainable but growing. I have not seen any studies showing where these daily drivers are coming from or their destinations, however such a study should be done immediately and the results used best to coincide with a rail transportation abilities.

**6. Do you support parking removal on one side of Monterey Avenue, in order to create new bike lanes and a safe route to New Brighton Middle School?**

Special Monterey Bike Lane – Yes of course I support elimination of parking on Monterey for a bike lane to the Middle School. Anything to enhance bike use and safety would be a priority. I would like to see a similar concept on Park Ave.

**7. Implementing innovative bike treatments like** [**protected bikeways**](http://nacto.org/publication/urban-bikeway-design-guide/cycle-tracks/one-way-protected-cycle-tracks/) **has been shown to dramatically increase bike ridership in cities across the U.S. Do you consider these facilities to be of value? If so, how would you propose to implement them in your district?**

Protected Bike Lanes – Frankly, I would like to see Capitola Ave. in the Village area turned into a one way traffic route, using the former other lane as a bike path. In regards to Protected Bike Lanes, the advance of alternative transportation like bikes, cannot be accomplished without safety. Where applicable and feasible, the safety barriers designs are needed.

**8. Santa Cruz County is consistently ranked #1 or #2 in the state for cyclist injuries and fatalities. What steps would you take to improve safety for people on bikes?**

Safety and further steps – I would like to study what has been done in other bike friendly cities. Why re-invent the wheel.  Somehow, sometime, the DMV has to become more involved with bike transportation. A certain responsibility also has to lie on bicyclists. Who polices bicyclists? Some can be just as irresponsible as auto drivers. I think the best solution for

implementing safety is to install live video cams in recognized trouble areas, and openly alert both bicyclists and auto drivers that the area is under monitored with cameras. That is only fair to both parties. The thought here is not to divide the two, but bring them together for mutual benefit, all the while, encouraging people to leave their car at home and ride their bike instead.  But without safety people will not by and large opt for this.

**9. What else would you like our members to know about you? Please include how your campaign can be contacted, such as your website, email, telephone, Facebook page, or other methods you want to share.**

9. More on my thoughts – Something must be done to halt the continued proliferation of vehicles in our City and County.  Someone recently asked me how I would alleviate congestion on Highway 1. My answer was, “Simple. Six lanes in both directions’. In other words, the course we are on is absurd and dysfunctional. Let’s not evolve to having a Santa Monica freeway in our backyard. Steps must be taken immediately to develop and encourage alternate transportation means be it bikes, bus or rail transportation, electric carts , ride share, whatever. People have fallen in love with their vehicles, and SUV’s and trucks keep getting ridiculously larger.  Why not ban certain large pick-ups and SUV’s on the Capitola Esplanade? This may sound far-fetched, but am will be pushing for a vehicle free Esplanade, and I would like to see motions set in pace for a vehicle free Village. Having bikes as an alternative to  auto transportation has other related benefits. 1. Reduction in Pollution 2. Physical fitness, a much needed category among our population. 3. Reduction in traffic congestion. There is no magic pill for the ever growing number of vehicles, but biking can offer an option  along with other modes of transportation. But all these need full support of governmental bodies. Crime. How many drive by shootings would occur in a bike emphasized area? Probably none. Finally, it was n the 1980’s that Capitola hosted a bike race. Spped skater turned bike racer Olympian Eric Heiden was in the race. Events like this cast bike riding in the spotlight and create an exciting awareness. I would like to see Capitola host an annual bike race with international racers.

More information can be found at my website:  [www.BobforCapitola.com](http://www.bobforcapitola.com/%22%20%5Ct%20%22_blank)