

## Candidate Positions on Transportation Matters

### Santa Cruz County Board of Supervisors District 1

**Question 1): The Watsonville City Council recently voted unanimously in favor of implementing passenger rail service connecting Watsonville with the City of Santa Cruz. What type of high capacity public transit do you support on our rail corridor?**

Candidate Name	Supports ... on Rail Corridor	Please explain your choice:
John Leopold	Rail	I believe that rail might be the most efficient, cost effective and provides the service reliability between Watsonville and Santa Cruz. I will review all the data in the RTC alternatives analysis and abide by the final decision of the RTC.
Manu Koenig	Bus	I support the most flexible use of the corridor possible. Using the transit vehicles we own today accomplishes this. It makes it easier to share time and space with bikes. It makes it easier to adapt the use of the corridor based on technology and demand.

**Question 2): The pandemic has adversely impacted METRO. How would you strengthen METRO services for our county?**

Candidate Name	How would you strengthen METRO services for our county?
John Leopold	METRO will need to continue to stress the public health safety of its vehicles and public transportation in general and engage in a marketing effort to bring riders back. As we realize the Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan, with increased density along our major transit corridors, we need to require transit passes as part of new construction to help provide additional revenue for METRO. We will also need to look at some of the new larger projects like the proposed Kaiser Medical Office Building and ensure that they are integrated into the METRO system.
Manu Koenig	From a service perspective, we need greater frequency and color coded bus lines with fun names. This has worked to great effect in places like Boulder, CO to increase ridership.

**Question 3): FORT has launched the Coast Connect vision to transform transportation in our county.**

**Would you support funding a more robust public transportation system, including safe streets for pedestrians, cyclists and other active transportation users? How would you support adding transportation funding?**

Candidate Name	Supports Funding	How would you support adding transportation funding?
John Leopold	Yes	Having played a leadership role in the Measure D campaign, I understand the importance of providing funds for a multi-modal transportation system. We need to review our Transportation Impact Fees, and road maintenance fund distribution formulas at the County to ensure that we are providing the funds necessary to support a multi-modal system in the urban core of our County.
Manu Koenig	Yes	I want to leave my kids a world that is safe and stable and that means addressing the climate crises. Sixty percent of our emissions in Santa Cruz come from transportation. Fixing this means changing land use. The number one thing we can do is eliminate minimum parking requirements and build housing and community space over parking lots. In return for less parking, this new housing should help pay for public transit through impact fees or transit funding districts.