

Chris Cobb's answers to People Power Questionnaire

1. A. The county has expressed its support for a Rail Trail along the railway from Santa Cruz to Watsonville. Do you support this trail? **Yes.**

If you support this trail, how do you envision creating it as soon as possible? **By moving forward with a firm negotiation/proposal to purchase the rights. Then presenting it for open approval with the City behind the massive benefits this will bring to the town as a whole. We can't let people be myopic.**

How much do you think it will cost? **~\$20,000,000**

Where will we get the money? **Coastal Conservancy monies. Possible other transportation grants.**

How long will it take? **Which part? To get the whole thing up and running? Approx 4 years I would guess.**

B. Do you support passenger train service between Santa Cruz and Pajaro? **Yes.**

If yes, what kind of service do you envision and what will you do to make it happen? **Open to proposals, haven't put much thought into it at this point. I would be a strong advocate on the council pushing train service as a public service we need to provide.**

2. A. Do you support plans to widen Highway 1 between Santa Cruz and Watsonville? **Absolutely not.**

What effect do you think widening the Highway would have on county land use and development? **Very little. The area would hardly change, other than the land beside the Highway looking worse.**

Would it reduce traffic congestion? **No. Not at all.**

If so, for how long? **N/A**

B. Do you support the auxiliary lane project which would extend the current merge lane project out to Soquel? **No.**

If not, what will you do to defeat this or other attempts to widen Highway 1? **Anything in my power.**

3. For almost a decade now the city has planned to put in a bicycle connection from Broadway to Brommer. Do you support the city's latest plan for this connection? **Yes.**

4. City residents are worried about more cars and more car trips generated by a potentially expanding University. What will you do to insure that there is not an exponential increase of cars and car trips related to University expansion? **I continue to be a strong opponent to University expansion. I am also a proponent of Personal Rapid Transit being brought to the town and surrounding areas.**

5. Do you support bicycle boulevards as a traffic calming/bicycle advocacy measure? (To make a bicycle boulevard, automobile traffic is blocked at strategic points while allowing bicycle and pedestrian traffic to go through—a good example is Bryant Street in Palo Alto.) Would you support creating bicycle boulevards on Pine, King, or Cayuga Streets? **Probably so, although I need more information to make an informed decision.**

6. The city council has given staff direction to extend the river levee under Highway 1 to the Tannery Project. The bicycle portion of this project doesn't appear to be progressing quickly. What do you know about the current status of this project? **The ground breaking on the living units is being prepared as the clean up is being completed. Then the decision on what else and what scope the other components will take must be made, and where the money will come from. I understand those decisions need to be made first before the connection to the bike path takes priority.**

If you are on city council, how would you work with staff to make sure that this and other projects are implemented in a timely manner? **Again, I am in understanding of the current situation, but once a full project scope is approved, the bike/pedestrian path connection under the freeway must be part of the priority.**

7. The parking of private vehicles on public and residential arterial streets is considered a right by many drivers and business owners. Parked cars often compete with bicyclists for road space and the opening of a car door into a bicyclist's path can result in a serious and common traffic accident. Would you support the removal of on-street parking where it will facilitate a safer space for cyclists? **Touch question to answer at this point. Many things would need to be approved and benefits to all need to be considered.**

8. What steps would you take to promote bicycling and bicyclist's safety? **I will continue to advocate a bike friendly town, and place priorities on bike traffic and safety above considering traffic issues when applicable.**

What improvements are you prepared to champion? **Bike path through Frederick St Park.**

How? **Any way I can.**

9. How will people transport themselves in Santa Cruz twenty years from now in light of global warming and depletion of oil supplies (peak oil)? **Electric cars, PRT systems, Rail systems, bikes. We need to bring services to a community level so people do not need to travel so far to live life.**

What policies and actions would you support to help the community face the consequences of climate change and decreased availability of fossil fuels? **PRT. Bringing services, jobs, entertainment to a community environment.**

10. How do you transport yourself? For long trips I drive a 1999 Honda Civic that gets 36 mpg. Next step is a VW TDI running biodiesel/recycled veg oil – within the year. I use my bike and Burley with the kids around town.