

## Global Warming and Transportation

Given that transportation causes 43% of global warming gases, how do you think recent state legislation on global warming should effect major transportation improvements at the state level? What will you do to make that happen, if elected? When?

**Any effective response to global warming must include major transportation changes. Funding must be tied to carbon reduction or in some cases neutrality.**

**I've learned that the one thing it's easy to get consensus on is changing the behavior of someone else, preferably in the future! We don't have time for that kind of incremental change. We've got to stop talking about moving cars and start talking about moving people. There is no single solution; it requires constant vigilance and making sure that each piece of legislation looks at the consequences vis a vis alternative transportation.**

**One of the reasons I am running for Assembly is because I want a seat at the table as we decide how to implement AB32. Transportation issues are what first got me involved in local politics.**

How will the above effect the local jurisdictions? And Santa Cruz in particular? When?

**The above will affect all of the 27<sup>th</sup> district. There will not be money available for big car-centric projects. I firmly believe that we must look to a combination of transportation solutions; keeping existing roads well-maintained, funding public transit and funding alternative transportation strategies as well.**

How do you feel about Attorney General Brown's attempts to sue local jurisdictions with regard to their transportation plans? Are you supportive? Is it effective?

**I talked to AG Brown last Spring at the Democratic Convention in San Diego, congratulating him for his lawsuit against San Bernadino. He assured me that he would continue to work to create a system that requires an element addressing global warming in the General Plans of California cities. I was Mayor at the time and invited him to come to Santa Cruz to see what we were up to. Although Jerry hasn't visited yet, I'm happy to see him continuing to pursue this and look forward to working on this legislation in the Assembly.**

Do you support SB375. When do you think it should take effect? If passed in its current form what impact would it have on major transportation plans for Santa Cruz County?

**I support SB375. All of our land use decisions must include the reality of global warming. Its passage would change the way we spend our transportation dollars in Santa Cruz County, limiting sprawl and supporting smart growth development that includes alternatives to the sov.**

## Highways

Do you support plans to widen Highway One between Santa Cruz and Watsonville? What effect do you think widening the Highway would have on the social and physical geography of the county?

**I do not support plans to widen Highway One. The project is too expensive for a county our size, leaving no money for a balanced approach that includes funding for alternatives to the SOV. The implementation of AB32 is going to preclude big expensive highway projects in favor of solutions that are carbon neutral.**

**We can't widen our way out of congestion. Projects that are completely car-centric lead to urban sprawl and create a self-fulfilling prophecy where people have to drive. Statistics show that people will get out of their cars when they have a safe and easy to get around without one.**

If you don't think widening the Highway is a good idea, what are some of your strategies for stopping it, given that it is currently the Regional Transportation Commission's top priority?

**As your Assemblymember, my job is to represent the will of the people and the people of Santa Cruz County have said emphatically that they do not want this highway widened. If asked I will help create solutions and if the community arrives at a solution I will memorialize it with legislation. My experience in local government has shown me that although we all wish there were a simple answer to the problem of congestion, it is complicated and there is no one magic answer. I favor spending transportation dollars on alternatives to the SOV, on public transit, on purchasing and improving the rail right of way.**

How would you answer those who believe that widening the highway would solve problems with congestion?

**I have talked about this frequently. I understand the desire to think that just widening the road will fix everything. It's frustrating to be stuck in traffic and for some people it's hard to believe that the alternatives will work. We have subsidized the car for so long in this country that many people think it really is the only practical and pleasant way to get around. I ask those people to help me get the other people off the road, the people who would commute another way if they had an option. That would free up space on our existing highway for those who have to drive.**

What do you think of the Attorney General's efforts to reign in freeway widening projects in San Bernardino and elsewhere?

**As I mentioned earlier I'm supportive the AG's efforts to include global warming solutions in land use and transportation planning.**

### Trains

Do you support buying the Union Pacific Rail Corridor from Davenport to Watsonville? If so, how can you help complete the purchase?

**Yes. I have been working for many years to achieve this and I believe it will actually happen before I would take office in January of 2009.**

Do you support a trail along the rail corridor from Davenport to Watsonville. If so, what is your plan for its completion? How long will it take?

**I will work to find money to fund the project. It will take years and be complicated because of row and privacy issues. I'm experienced at being patient. Small steps are ok as long as they are steps in the right direction.**

Could we run a passenger train along the corridor? If so, tell us what the service might be like in 10 years. What would you do to get it on track?

**Again, expensive and there will be issues of privacy and property rights. That's ok. It's the right thing to do and will be an important part of a sustainable response to climate change.**

What do you think about proposals for high-speed rail in California? Which alignment do you prefer?

Will you support the project if it goes over Pacheco Pass?

**I prefer the Altamont alignment. I have concerns about the Pacheco Pass alignment being growth inducing. I have seen no evidence to date that suggests the Pacheco pass alignment is something I would support.**

### Bicycling and Walking

What will you do to make bicycling and walking more pleasant, safer, and more socially accepted in the State of California? How about walking?

**As a founding member of Mission Pedestrian in 1998, I believe that we need to be willing to think out of the box when we talk about how we move around. We need to move people, not cars. People will use alternatives when they are safe and practical.**

Several bills that effect cyclists will be seen by the Legislature next year. What is your opinion on:

AB 1358      The Complete Streets Act

**It just makes sense that the state craft legislation that will help communities offer options for travel. We had to struggle during the Mission Street Widening project to make sure that we didn't end up with less access and safety for cyclists and pedestrians.**

AB 163              Bicycle Facilities Improvement Act of 2007

**I support this kind of legislation. On the city council it has been challenging to build projects with consistent options for alternative modes of transportation.**

AB 211 (formerly AB 437) Local Health Officers

**I believe this bill would allow local health officers to provide assistance to cities and counties with regard to public health issues as they relate to local land use planning and transportation planning processes. I support this.**

AB 1472      California Healthy Places Act of 2008

**I like this bill. It requires several state agencies to support childhood development by providing resources for public health assessments of land use and transportation system planning. It would also establish a program within the State Department of Public Health to support cities and counties in conducting the assessments. I like that because all too often cities are given unfunded mandates; they're unfair and like 'no child left behind' they don't work.**

### Caltrans

The Santa Cruz City Council recently voted to ask Caltrans to put vertical and horizontal signs on Mission Street informing drivers to allow cyclists full use of the right lane. So far, Caltrans has refused to do so. How would you work with Caltrans to get them to support the City Council in making changes to Mission Street?

**I have relationships with many people in Caltrans, beginning with my work on the Mission Street Widening Project. I am currently trying to persuade Rich Krumholz and have put in a call to Greg Albright as well, even though he is no longer with district 5.**

### One for the Road

How do you get around? What form(s) of transportation do you use on a regular basis? How will you get to work if elected? To Sacramento?

**My favorite form of transportation is walking. When time constraints make that impractical I take the bus or more often drive my hybrid car. I am currently researching the best way to commute to Sacramento. I would like to take the train and look forward to catching it at the Pajaro Station, which is why I voted to spend Santa Cruz dollars to fund it even though it is in Monterey County.**