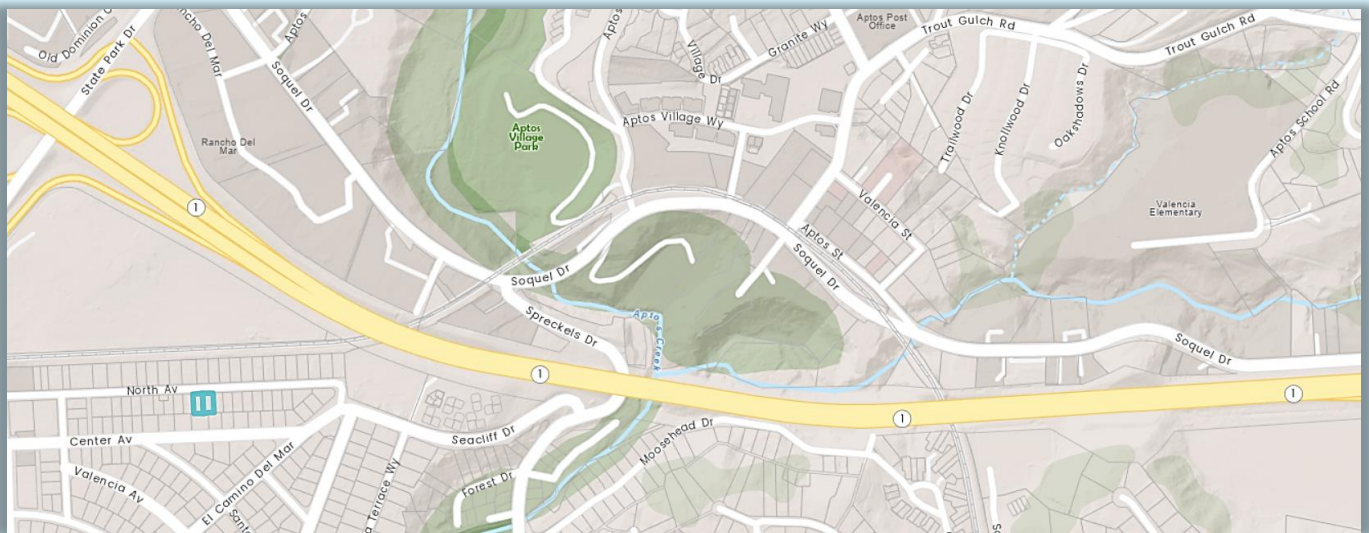


# 2024 Aptos Village Pedestrian Survey



**Conducted**  
**From June – August 2024**  
**by the**  
**Seacliff Improvement Association**  
**Aptos, California**

One of the tenets of the Seacliff Improvement Association is to work with local government agencies to improve infrastructure for our community. This includes safe passage throughout our Seacliff neighborhood and to the rest of Aptos.

This summer we conducted a survey of our members and other Aptos residents to determine the interest in and need for safe pedestrian passage to Aptos Village. This follows an identical survey we conducted in 2017 that prompted our community stroll to the newly installed Aptos Village Green in 2019. Our goal was to support new and existing village businesses, bring attention to the challenges of walking to Aptos Village from surrounding neighborhoods, and demonstrate the importance of creating safe passages for pedestrians throughout Aptos.

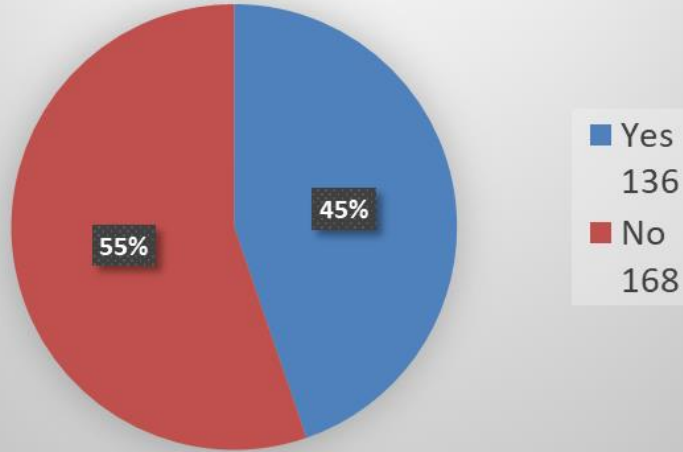
The Village has grown a lot since 2019 but not much has improved for pedestrians and, not surprisingly, respondents to our 2024 survey overwhelmingly expressed a desire to be able to walk and cycle safely from the surrounding areas to Aptos Village.

Of the 304 respondents, 45% stated they traveled on foot or on a bicycle, an increase of 5% from our 2017 survey. The main hazards they encountered are shown on the chart on page 4 and most can be remedied by road improvements to these routes. The other charts following this page show the survey results with some responses aggregated into similar categories for clarity.

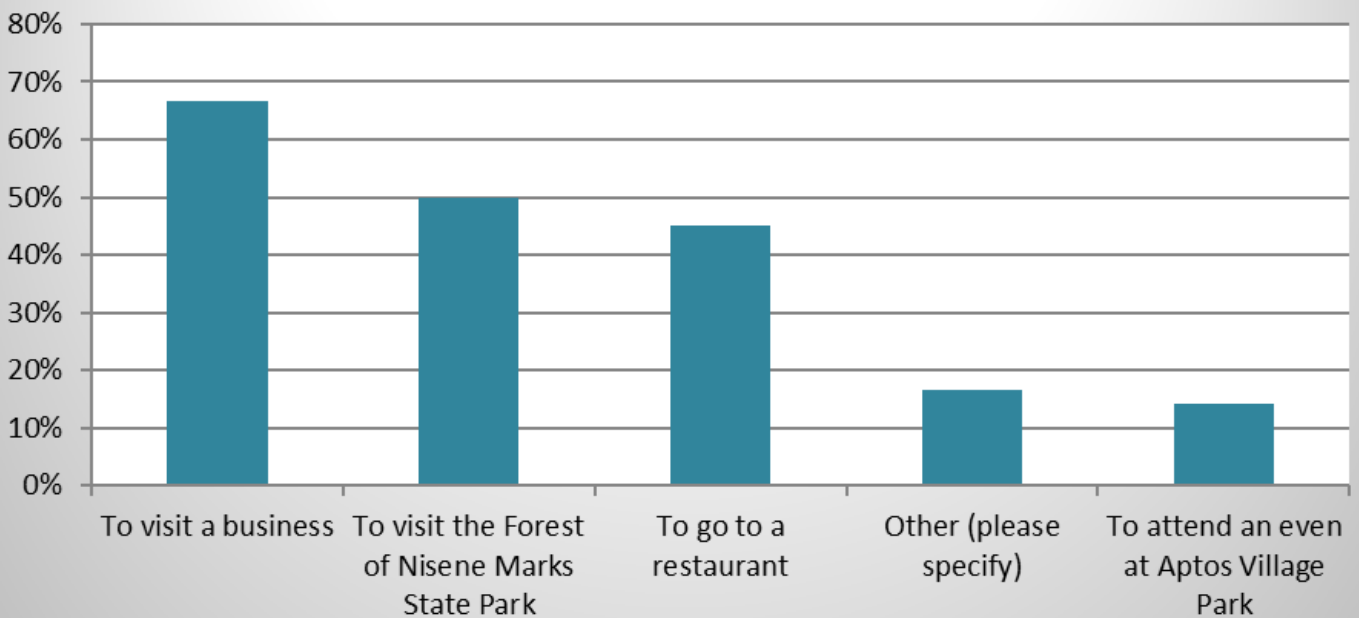
The completion of the Aptos Village Project, adding businesses, restaurants, housing and services, will only increase the need for alternatives to driving. Those who have attempted to walk, ride a bike, use a stroller, a walker or a wheelchair anywhere along Soquel Drive to reach Aptos Village, have likely experienced the stress and challenge of navigating to their destination. This narrow, long neglected segment of Soquel Drive carries part of the daily commute through Aptos, often in standstill traffic, along with children on foot, bikes and skateboards traveling to Valencia Elementary, Aptos Junior High, and on to Aptos High School. Aptos Village was developed to encourage the use of nearby transit and, with expanded and more frequent METRO service now running along this corridor, providing safer routes to transit stops will encourage more residents to ride the bus.

Aptos residents have been very patient over the years as studies and plans were developed. Regional and County long-range plans for Aptos have included the Monterey Bay Sanctuary Scenic Trail Network, the Aptos Village Plan, the Sustainable Santa Cruz County Plan, the Unified Corridor Investment Study, and, most recently, the Watsonville-Santa Cruz Multimodal Corridor Program. All are important and construction of Segment 12 of the Scenic Trail will bring more people to the area requiring commensurate safety infrastructure to accommodate them. The village businesses depend on the ability of customers to reach them. People walking, using wheelchairs, and cycling need much less space than vehicles and should receive the same safety measures as those who drive. Drivers need roadways clearly marked and separated from everyone else where possible so they can better navigate through this congested area safely. The sooner these are installed, the safer Aptos will be for all of us.

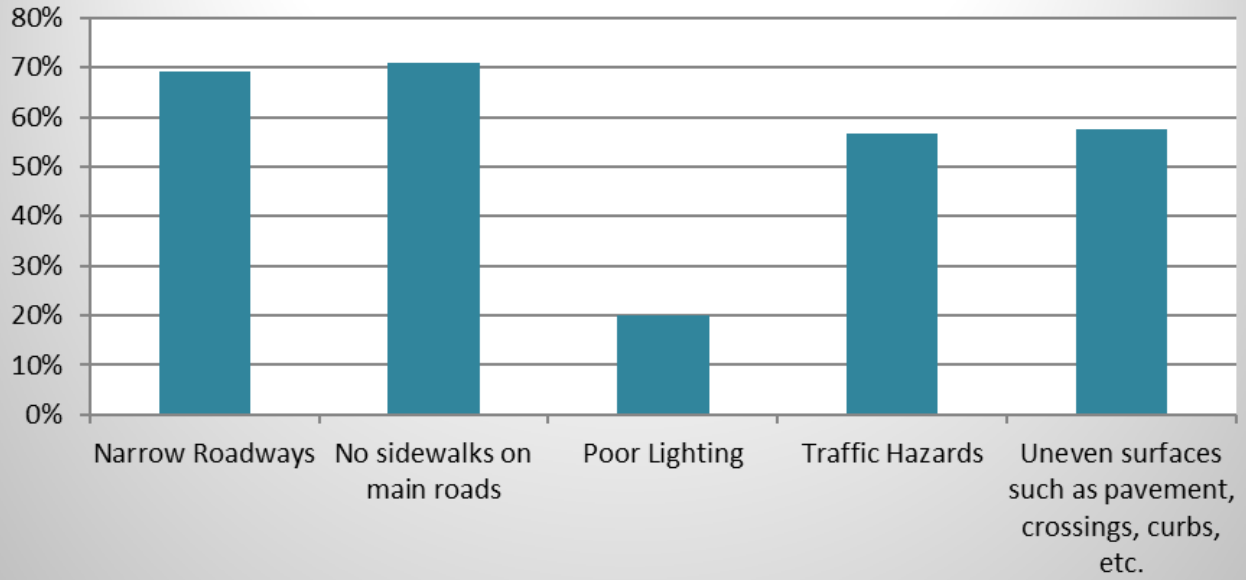
Did you travel on foot/bike to Aptos Village within the last month? 304 Responses:



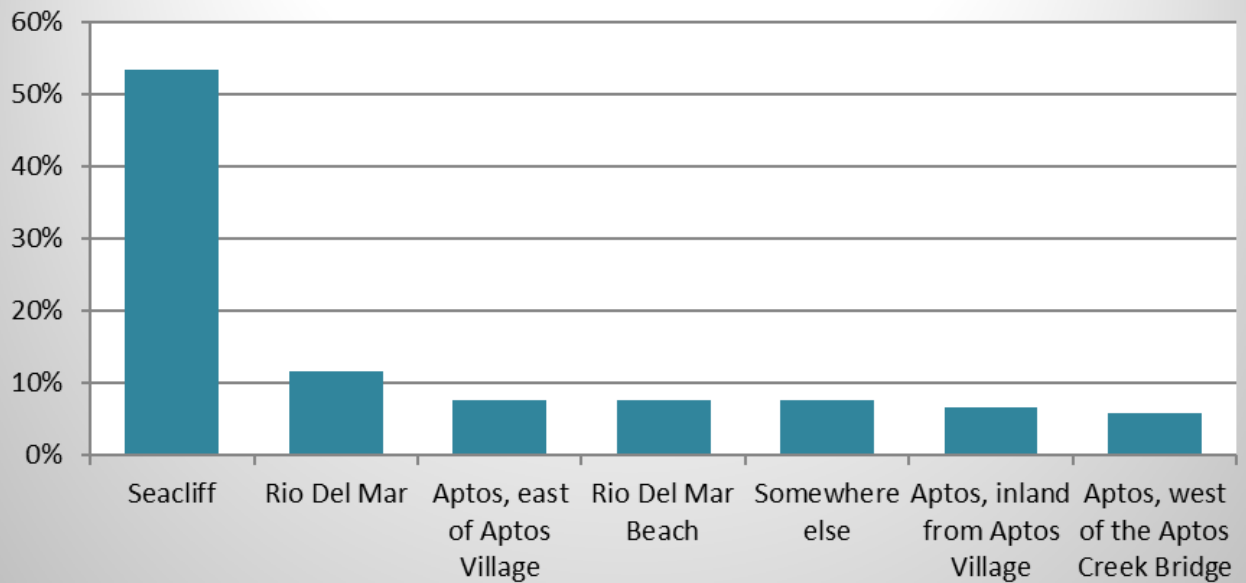
If you did travel, why did you go to Aptos Village (choose as many as apply):



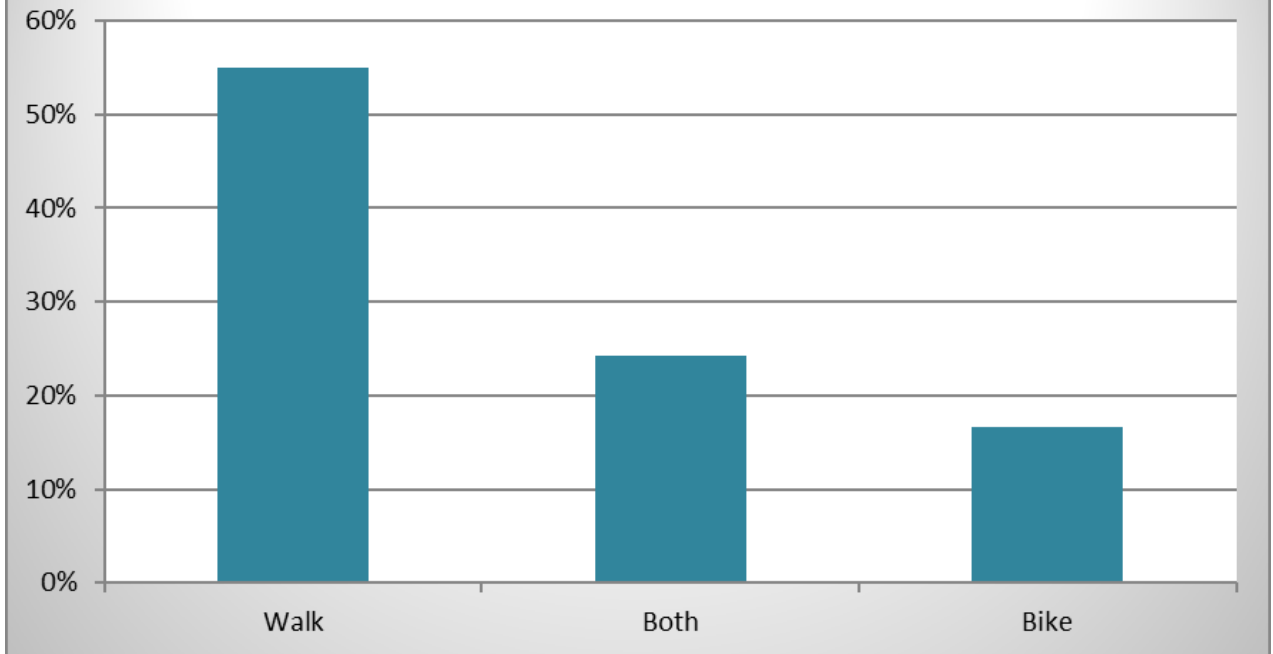
## As you traveled to Aptos Village, what did you experience? Check all that apply.



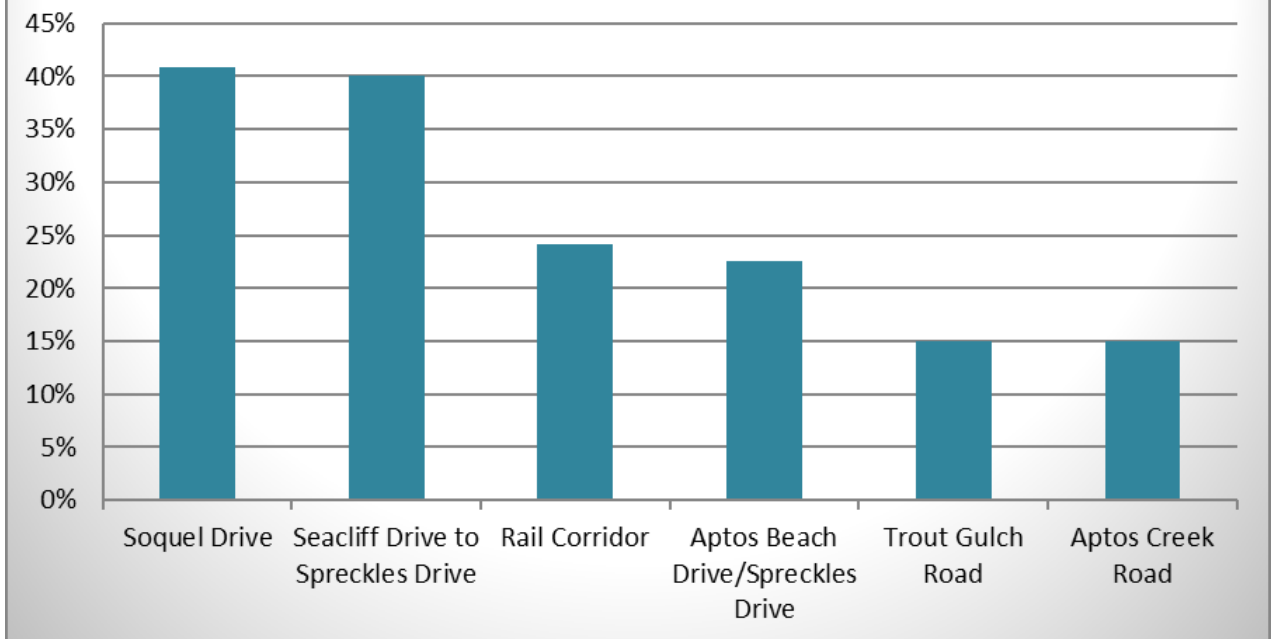
## From where did you travel to Aptos Village? 120 Responses

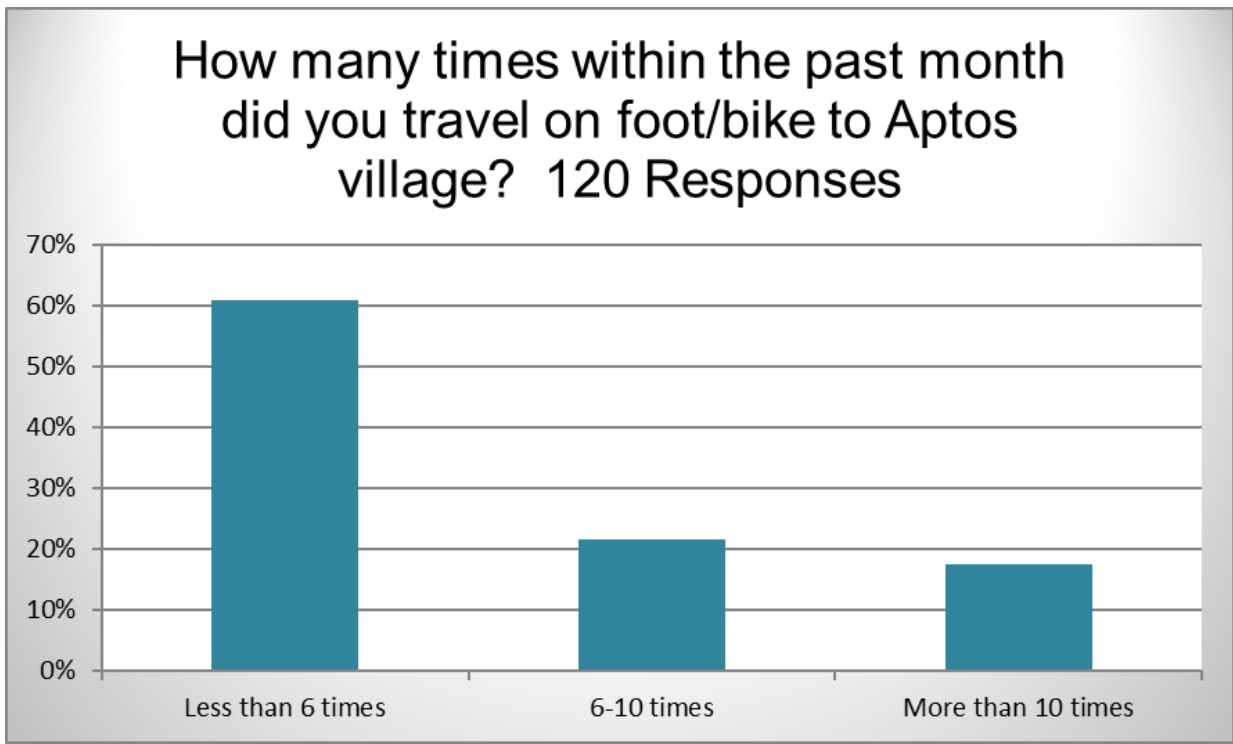
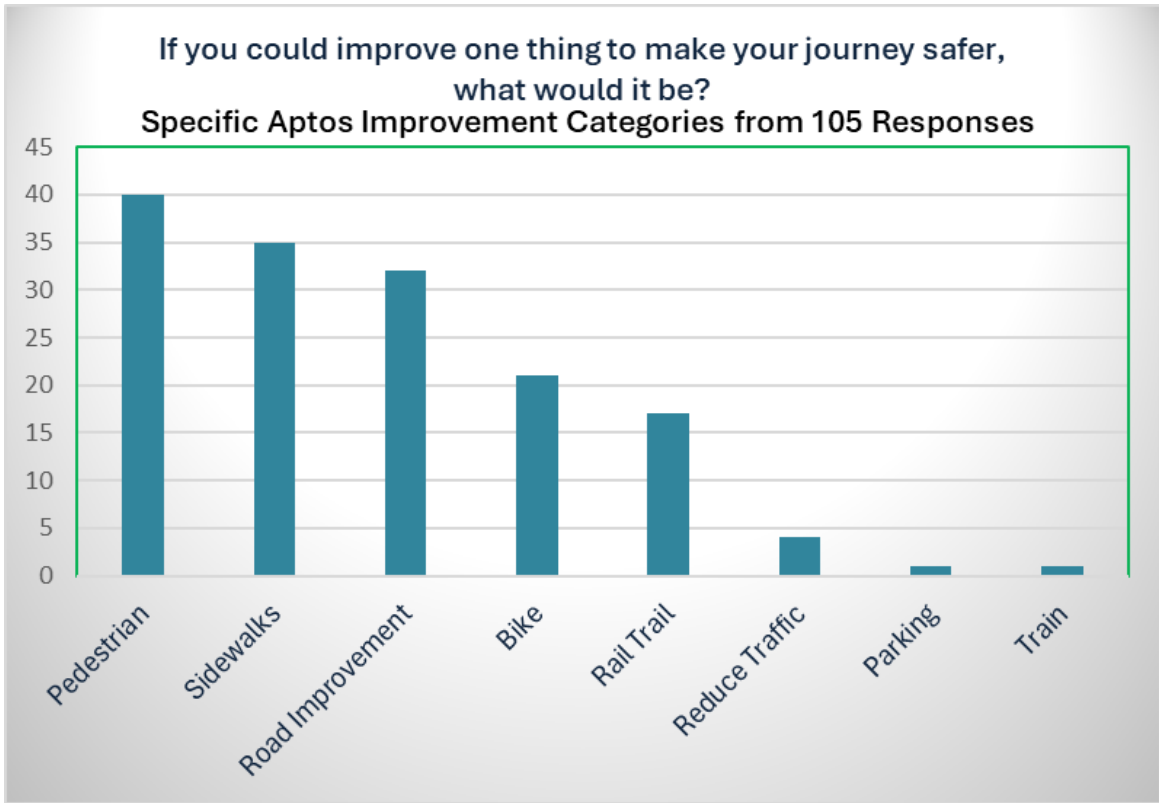


## Did you walk or ride a bike?

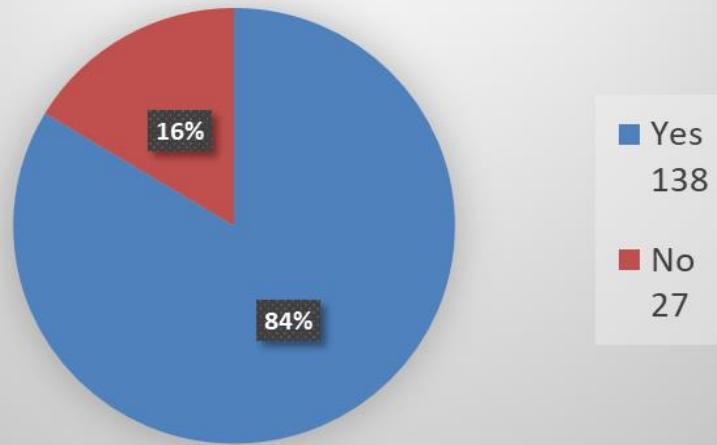


## What route/path did you use on your visit to reach Aptos Village? Check all that apply.

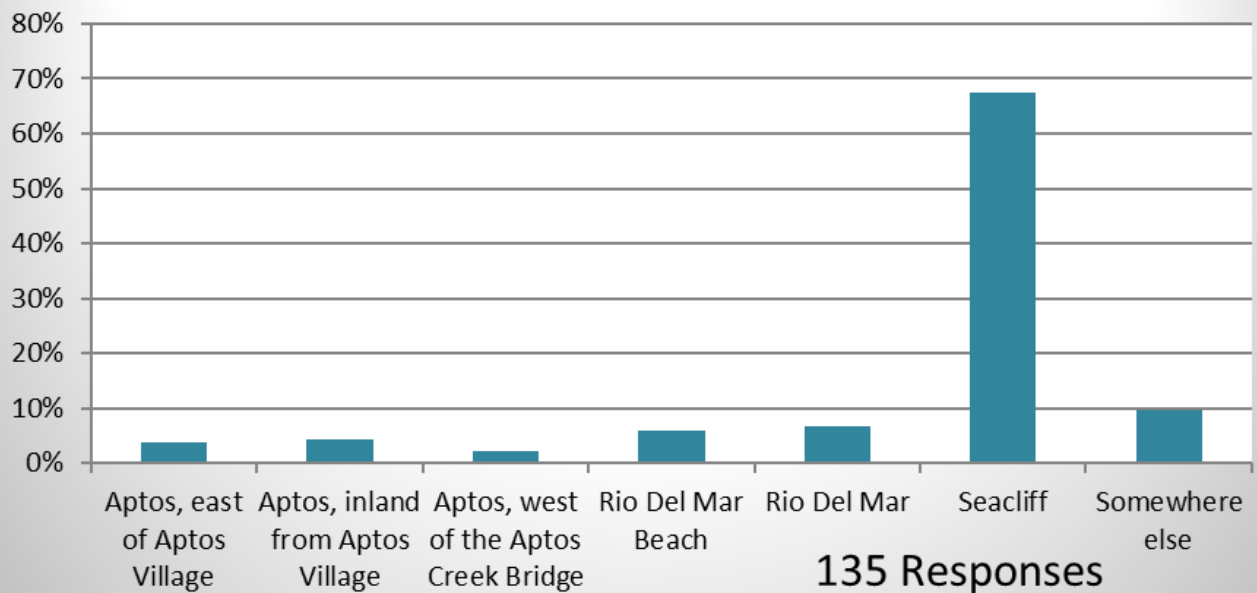




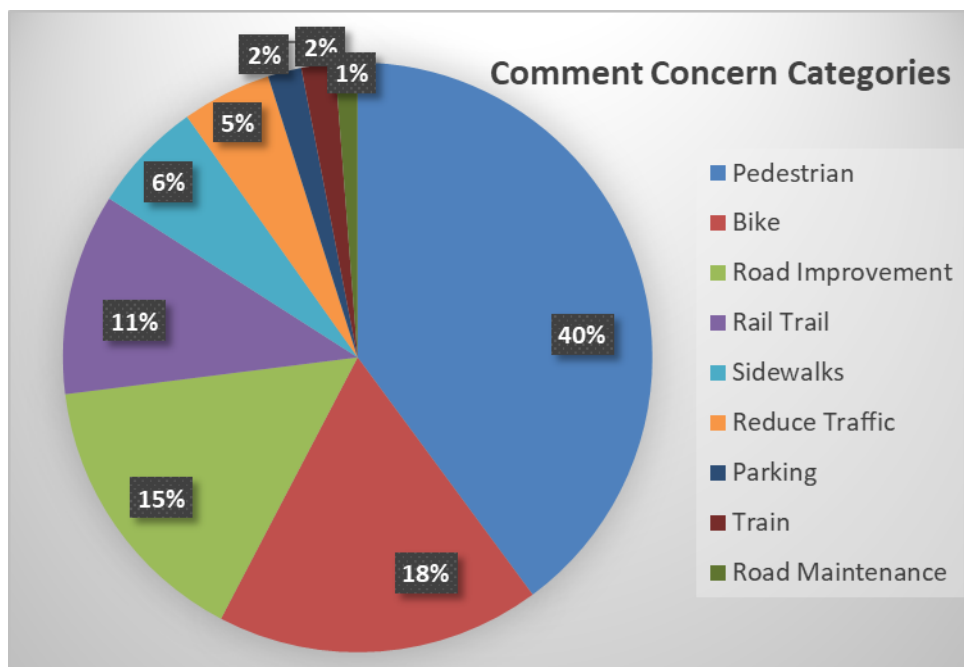
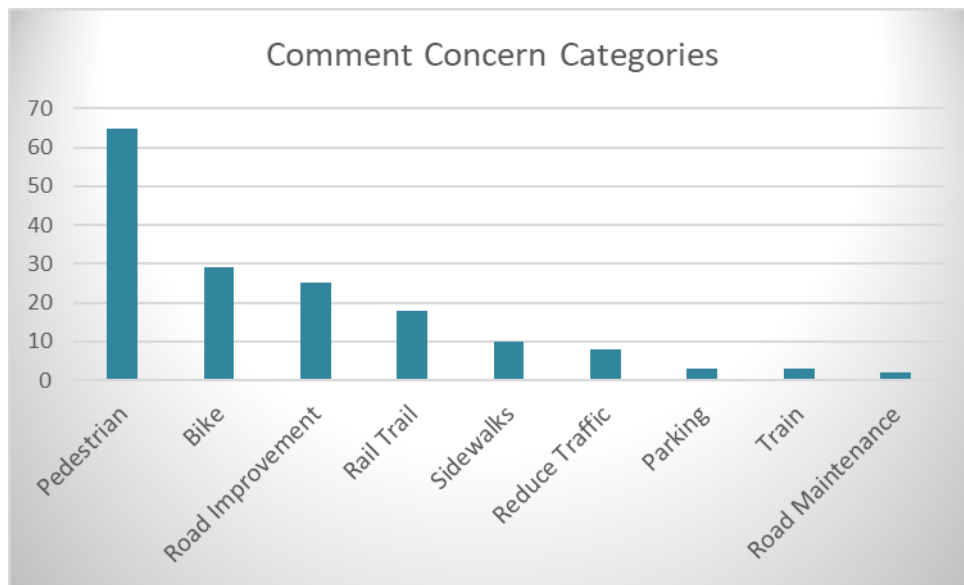
Would you walk or bike to Aptos Village if it were safer for you to do so? 165 Responses:



If you did not walk or cycle, from where would you travel to Aptos Village?



All respondents were asked to provide general comments. These were combined into categories followed by the individual answers.





### Individual Comments:

1	Although there is no sidewalk along the aptos creek end of center street, I still walk along center to the Seacliff village. But the lack of sidewalks on Spreckels and the typical traffic speed makes it too dangerous to walk to aptos village.
2	All this building and not one bit of consideration to safe walking
3	A trail following the railroad tracks would be ideal. Away from cars and less road noise.
4	Aptos desperately needs better multi-modal transportation access and support.
5	Aptos Village's layout and amount of traffic does not make walking there enticing. Neither does the amount of trash on the streets along my walk. It would be GREAT if it was more pleasant (visually and safety) to walk there!
6	At a minimum brush and debris could be removed to make it safer for pedestrians
7	Build the rail trail
8	Building a trail with some outlets along the railroad corridor would be very SAFE.
9	Car speed is a huge issue. Why are cars allowed to exit and enter at Caroline's?, off trout gulch Really dangerous. So many issues with Aptos village. We walk everyday around here.
10	Concerned about parking space availability in Village once construction finished. Already people are parking cars on Aptos Creek Road past the Soquel Creek Water District area making it difficult for residents and/or visitors to drive on narrow road. Also. Safety issue as first responders, including fire trucks, might not have enough space to drive through.
11	Crossing Aptos Creek Bridge by cycle is very tricky. I'm comfortable with doing it, but not everybody is, autos need to be educated about the pavement sign of allowing bicycles in the full lane not sure there's much you can do in terms of physical plants/structures to improve transit across the bridge for pedestrian /cyclist.
12	Crossing Highway 1 on foot is frightening
13	Don't feel the need for sidewalks but think bike lanes would be good
14	Help!? I'd like to be able to do more errands by walking, but especially with a child or 2 along it's too hazardous
15	Hoping and wishing, maybe even praying for a bike path
16	How can we deter mountain lions and coyotes from coming into our housing communities?
17	I also walk Seacliff to Rancho Del Mar on State Parks over the freeway. Almost was run over by a car that ran a red light and ignored pedestrian crossing.
18	I am not sure that the current design on the pedestrian bridge at Mar Vista will actually help with this problem. The ramps are very long making the walk long. There is no options to use stairs instead of walking the long ramps. It takes to you a road that is biased away from Aptos Village. Who comes up with these brilliant ideas?
19	I am not sure what you mean by safer. To me, safer means no toxic exhaust car fumes from any roads. So if this whole area were immune to that, I would walk more. It's a truly wonderful area where so many things are close by so I wish that could be so but seems unrealistic.
20	I can't wait for this project to get completed. Currently, there is no safe way to travel to Aptos Village by foot or bike.

### Individual Comments:

21	I definitely wish Aptos had a severe walking/biking trail or route. It seems like the natural environment to foster that kind of community activity, but the safety issues hamper it.
22	I go to the Village every single day, but I usually drive because it is just not safe to walk or ride the 1/2 mile from my home.
23	I have been out of town but I walk and bike in Seacliff all the time and bike to Aptos. I find it quite safe, although Soquel drive is quite busy.
24	I have mobility issues otherwise I would walk or bike
25	I live in Seacliff and the village is too far away to walk to.
26	I live on Sea Ridge road and I typically visit businesses towards the west on foot or bike because they feel safer, however it is more limited. With the walking trail, my family and I would be much more inclined to visit Aptos Village on foot or bike if it felt safer.
27	I live too far to walk/bike but would love to have safe options to do so if I were to move closer. Thanks!
28	I love walking and love this village
29	I love walking. I'd love a nice wide walking and biking coastal trail that was wide and safe and available now. Thanks.
30	I only walk to Aptos village now but would love to be able to walk and ride my bike on a car free path. Right now, I only ride my bike in Seacliff due to traffic on State Park bridge and Soquel Drive.
31	I sometimes go via Sea Terrace Way, Seacliff, Santa Clara, Center, State Park Drive, Soquel Dr. much longer but maybe safer.
32	I tried walking several different ways. I was almost hit by a car on the State Park overpass and had two close calls walking on Spreckels.
33	I want the rail trail so I can take the trail to Aptos Village and even catch a commuter train to my job in Santa Cruz. No more cars!!
34	I would be there regularly if they got rid of that idiotic train idea and turned the corridor into a trail. Why do we have to waste hundreds of millions of dollars on a trail that prioritizes a train that first exist and at best, may exist 4 decades from now. I will not be here and most of the businesses that need our support won't be here by then but right now it is simply too difficult to use a car in the village and too deadly to get there by foot or by bike.
35	I would take a train on the rail/trail to Aptos.
36	I would walk to Aptos Village more frequently if more safety measures are put in place along Trout Gulch to safely cross this road. Thank you for conducting the survey.
37	I'm in a wheelchair and find it almost impossible to go down center avenue. The steep pitch of the road, cars parked, (my neighbor running a used car lot), cars speeding and rocks along the side of the street make it difficult for my health care aid to take me for a walk. I've almost been dumped out of my chair a few times.
38	I'd love to be able to walk down by what used to be a pathway beside the beach at Rio Del Mar. I used to park my car in the Rio del Mar parking lot & walk along the pathway that leads toward New Brighton Beach a few times a week. Sadly, with all the storm damage, that's no longer possible & may not be for some time. Unlike Capitola, Aptos isn't a city & SC County has many other disasters areas to contend with, so I expect there won't be a pathway any time soon. Onward ... we do what we can.

### Individual Comments:

39	I'd walk the rail trail if there were one... but I doubt that will happen in my lifetime! what a disappointment
40	If bike lanes were safe on Trout Gulch more would walk or bike. There are too many blind curves with no bike lane.
41	If it was safer and there was a dedicated path I would definitely bike and walk more. Especially to the beach or to Nisene, New Leaf areas. Be especially nice to bike to the boardwalk or Natural Bridges from Aptos safely.. thank you
42	If there was a safer way to get to the village, I would add it to the list of my runs. The connection to Nisene marks is amazing (not to mention new leaf for drinks and snacks).
43	I'm grateful for the attention to building a more walkable & bike-able Aptos!
44	I'm super sorry that there looks like there will be even less parking once the new condos are inhabited. Seems like underground parking would have been good.
45	Include a "none of the above" option
46	Is there any way to create a walking path along the creek from the beach at Rio del Mar to Aptos Village Park? Likewise, could a path travel along the creek from Aptos Village to the Polo Grounds Park?
47	It is difficult to cross over State Park Drive to get to Soquel and dangerous with all the various freeway exits and entrances.
48	It would be nice to have sidewalks out of Rio Del Mar up Center St. accessing Seacliff entrance and up Spreckels to access Nisene and Aptos village.
49	It would be nice to walk along the old RR corridor but the homeless and drug users are too unpredictable and we don't feel safe.
50	It would help to add "Share the Road" signs, flashing lights, etc. Thank you.
51	It's such a mess in the Village anymore. It's so unattractive with the cluster of high density box housing. I'll bet most of those units are for vacation rentals anyway. I like New Leaf for grocery shopping but the "Village" is no longer a village. Looks & feels like any other cookie cutter development in San Jose. No reason to walk, bike or drive there other than to go grocery shopping
52	It's hard to believe a survey is needed for those in charge to understand how terrible the access to Aptos Village is on foot, bike or car. It has been mismanaged and miss-designed since day one and never should have been approved in this configuration.
53	It's time for the county to narrow auto traffic lanes and reclaim the street right of way from property parcels so that sidewalks and bike lanes can be provided. Expedite work on Segment 12 of the Coastal Rail Trail, too.
54	Love that you're looking into this!
55	Many Seacliff neighbors are not provided with On Street parking. They're allowing their bushes and hedges to grow onto the 40 foot road right away, preventing people to walk, ride their bikes, walk their dogs, and children, safely. Public works has sent letters to many of the Seacliff neighbors reminding them that this is a public right away for people. Many of the neighbors ignore this and continue to use this public right away for their own private yards and use.
56	Many thanks to those who have a passion for improving our local walking & hiking experiences. My wife & I would really prefer that the Rio Del Mar & Seacliff Beach path get fixed - we take 3-4 beach walks each week in the summer.

### Individual Comments:

57	Modern townships must make pedestrian and bike paths a priority. All over California towns and small cities have already accomplished that. Starting now the bike path on Soquel Drive could be widened and protected and completed long before the rail trail is finished or simply runs out of funds
58	More sidewalks for pedestrians only
59	Need wheelchair accessibility
60	No thank you.
61	Not a very good survey.
62	Parked cars in front of houses on Seacliff near Park Drive create unsafe walking conditions.
63	Pedestrian safety concerns around freeway off/on ramps
64	Please build the trail!
65	Please put in a bike path
66	Please rebuild our Seacliff Beach as it used to be but stronger with seawall
67	Please work to make our streets much more pedestrian and bicycle-safe. Thanks
68	Rail/Trail is useless for this. Not worth the money
69	Sidewalks on Seacliff/Center St. and along Spreckels would be great.
70	Sidewalks throughout Seacliff are cracked. Drainage needs upgrading; repair the ditch that. We don't need enormous train on tracks. Bring back The Daisy on RR = cute; easy to add ADD affordable,
71	Since the majority of vacation rentals are in the flats and along Beach Drive, tourists would be more likely to walk to the Aptos Village if there were a sidewalk and lighting under the highway overpass from Spreckels/Treasure Island up to Soquel. Right now it's too dangerous for walkers and bikers.
72	State Park Drive from Seacliff to Safeway is so hard to walk that I drive the mile instead.
73	Take out the tracks. Put in a walking/bike path.
74	Thank you for hosting this. I would walk to the beach too if it was safer.
75	Thank you for looking to improve the ped/bike safety in this area
76	Thanks for all your efforts...
77	Thanks for your work in this issue!
78	The last time I walked from my house to Seacliff Village I was almost hit by a car and fell up onto the high sidewalk on the bridge. I haven't tried walking there since then and would love to have a safer way to walk.
79	The off and on ramps at Hwy 1 are the most dangerous and need lights or signals of some sort.
80	The path from Seacliff to the village via Soquel is fine. The path from Seacliff through speckles is scary and nonexistent really
81	The rail corridor is the safest route from Seacliff to Aptos Village. I wish there were more access points on the corridor.
82	The Spreckels Seacliff intersection is a death waiting to happen
83	There aren't really any viable options to walk to Aptos Village unless you already live fairly close. Especially coming in from the south side. Nor should there be.

### Individual Comments:

84	There needs to be a pedestrian-activated crosswalk light on Trout Gulch at Valencia Street crosswalk. There should be a sidewalk on Spreckels Drive to provide a safe pathway to this area from the beach.
85	There needs to be a safe way to travel from Spreckels to the village
86	this questionnaire is biased...
87	This walk needs to have some shade elements. Also benches in pleasant spots to rest with shade.
88	This will only get more hazardous when Phase 2 is built and occupied.
89	Traffic around the village makes travel difficult.
90	Traffic is bad. I went to Aptos haircuts and nearly got hit crossing from parking lot across street. There should be lights, similar to Soquel.
91	Trout Gulch needs a walkway/bikeway. So many would visit on foot from there.
92	very dangerous to walk or ride to Aptos Village. And traffic can be backed up. Need a trail on the rail line sooner rather than later. A train stopping in Aptos Village would be a nightmare clogging the already impacted roads through the village.
93	Walkability from Rio del mar to Aptos village (via the freeway underpass area) is greatly needed. There's so much within walking distance, but it's an unsafe walk currently.
94	Walking and biking from the State Park area to the Village is not an enjoyable experience. As a pedestrian, I don't feel insulated from traffic. Biking this route, there are many "pinch points" that make a biker feel vulnerable to autos.
95	Walking from Rolling Green Estate to the village there is little sidewalk on a busy road
96	Walking in Seacliff; say, from Mar Vista to State Park and down to Manuel's, is almost impossible. Add in the rude children on e-bikes and you have a disaster waiting to happen.
97	Walking there is OK for food, small things or 'hanging out'. But if you shop how do you get things home again?
98	Walking to Aptos Village on Spreckels isn't safe. The State Park Drive bridge is very narrow and close to cars. The intersection of Spreckels and Soquel isn't safe for pedestrians. The Aptos Creek Bridge is too narrow for strollers and wheelchairs. Walking on the bridge is scary because the sidewalk is too narrow and close to cars.
99	Want access to trail via North Ave & townhouses near Seacliff Dr & Center. Also be able to get off trail at Aptos Beach Drive into UPS shopping area.
100	We are an active couple in our 70's and could easily bike to Aptos Village via the RR tracks if only the rails were filled in to eliminate the bumps of the ties. It's a shame that it just sits unused and gets messed up with trash, broken glass and graffiti. We don't need fancy - just something away from the cars since there are sooooo many that drive too fast and don't even stop at stop signs.
101	We do enjoy walking and would love to be able to walk to Aptos Village 😊
102	We do need safer roads for bikers and walkers
103	We need more pedestrian and bike trails away from road traffic.
104	We need paths and roads with sidewalks it's not safe
105	We really need a safer way to walk or bike to the village.

### Individual Comments:

106	We think it's currently not so bad from Seacliff, aside from the Spreckels intersection under the tracks which can be a bit blind / scary.
107	We use the railroad ROW to enter the Village now. Hope to use the trail when completed.
108	We would love a safe trail to ride bikes on or walk! Thank you!
109	When I drive to Aptos Village for shopping, I typically park my car in one spot and walk around the village to complete my errands. the end of construction in the village has the potential to provide more retail shops for more local shopping. A strategy to encourage more walking in the village should be implemented so shoppers won't drive their vehicles from one store/cafe to the next.
110	while waiting for construction of the rail trail create a path for pedestrians and cyclists alongside tracks from Seacliff to aptos village . also open the fence at Seacliff and center.
111	While waiting to turn left down speckled on an ebike (yielding to oncoming traffic) I was almost run over from behind by a driver continuing straight
112	Wider bike paths on Soquel between Trout Gulch and RDM Blvd, please!
113	Would like to see improvements and sidewalks on Mar Vista. A very busy walking area.
114	Would love a better way to get to Aptos village from Rio Del Mar other than walking up Spreckels with the blind corners/next to traffic. Have walked along the railroad starting near RDM Blvd and Aptos beach Dr, was better but not convenient
115	Would love to see the restoration of the railroad bridge at Mangels Gulch entering Nisene Marks as a bike/ped access bridge, ideally with a continuous pathway from the Village suitable for disabled access (resulting in a disabled route from the Village to Jerry's overlook). Continuing a pathway to the beach would make it even better!
116	YES.I do not understand why we don't have a safe bike trail and walking trail for locals. This is not going to happen in my lifetime. I've lived in SC county for over 50 years and mostly in the Aptos area. Instead of building new libraries, which are wonderful but the old ones were adequate...we should spend the money on safe biking and walking trails.