

I am writing to urge council to vote for the retrofit alternative. I would like these comments to be added to the ongoing dialogue about saving iconic and placemaking structures. The Willow Glen Trestle is yet another example that makes San Jose unique, not United States of Generica.

Having attended various community meetings, it is clear to me that the Draft EIR contents do not support the Executive Summary conclusion. I am concerned that if staff and council only read the summary, they will come to the wrong decision. Demolition of this Rails-to-Trails trestle would be a travesty with irreversible effect.

Please review the Draft EIR and spot the inconsistencies as well as the flawed matrix that was used to support the Executive Summary. Ask yourself why certain elements earned similar scores while differing wildly. Was this an impartial review? Can you spot the bias? Just look at the scores and you will see the problems.

Specifically:

The retrofit solution is actually the cheaper alternative.

The retrofit solution is actually the faster alternative.

Surprisingly, the retrofit solution is actually the most fire safe choice—the draft omits evidence and does not adequately cover this. For this point, check public testimony from professionals in fire suppression.

Additionally, the existing structure poses no flood threat whatsoever, even in high water years with limbs gathered around the base. Check the measurements for yourself and you will find this to be true.

The entire process leading up to the flawed conclusion that the Willow Glen Trestle must be torn down is an embarrassment on many levels for our city. Just one example: The Historic Landmark Commission was circumvented until their meeting in March 2015. This advisory body came to the conclusion that there were many flaws in the Draft EIR and that the Willow Glen Trestle does qualify as historic according to at least 3 of the 5 filters they were limited to.

I urge you to visit [Bridgehunter.com](http://Bridgehunter.com), a nationwide database of historic and notable bridges across the U.S. Click on the California map, then click on the Santa Clara County map and you will see our Willow Glen Trestle.

Please. Choose the retrofit solution and keep a sense of place in Willow Glen. There is overwhelming public sentiment that will support and applaud this choice. Cheaper, Faster, Safer AND the right the thing to do.

Best regards,  
Heather Lerner