
From: Aaron Beardsley
Sent: Monday, July 20, 2015 1:01 PM
To: MTC Info
Subject: bicycle and pedestrian access on Richmond/San Rafael Bridge

Dear Ms Nguyen,

Please help address a short sighted mistake made years ago by the designers of the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge when they failed to include a bicycle and pedestrian path or right of way on this very important bridge. I am a life long cyclist and a native of San Francisco. I've spent many thousands of days riding my bicycle over the Golden Gate Bridge from SF to Marin to ride on Mt Tam and beautiful Marin and Sonoma counties. Now as resident of Berkeley I am disgusted that I must drive a car in order to ride to the same roads and trails I could access by bike from SF. I ride all over the Bay Area and know from experience that where you make it possible for people to ride instead of drive, many will do so and everyone benefits. Please make this important connection possible for the many residents of Marin and the East Bay to visit each other by bike rather than car or bus.

Please include the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project in Plan Bay Area and the 2015 Transportation Improvement Plan. This project will close major gaps in the San Francisco Bay Trail, i.e. a key section of the Point Molate Trail in Richmond, as well as the planned Bay Trail between Contra Costa and Marin Counties.

The Project is especially critical in providing pedestrian and safe bicyclist access to Point Molate Beach Park and the rest of the City of Richmond's Point Molate shoreline. Currently, the I-580 corridor blocks pedestrian access to the northern side of I-580, and bicycle access is possible only by riding on the shoulders and sharply curving exit ramps of the freeway where a motorist killed one bicyclist and left another paralyzed. The project's Point Molate Bay Trail section between Marine Street and the Stenmark Drive exit on the northern side of the I-580 corridor will eliminate this dangerous situation.

However, please modify the project description to extend the bi-directional bicycle/pedestrian path to Castro Street in Contra Costa County, rather than terminating it at Marine Street. This will provide an important connection with the combined AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit bus stop at Castro Street and Tewksbury Avenue.

Sincerely,

Aaron Beardsley

Berkeley CA