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August 3, 2015

Ashley Nguyen
Project Manager
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
101 Eighth Street
Oakland, CA 94607

Subject: Support for Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Nguyen:

I am writing to support the inclusion of the Richmond/San Rafael (RSR) Bridge Access Improvement Project in Plan Bay Area and the 2015 Transportation Improvement Plan. This project will close a major gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail, which is consistent with the goals of both Plan Bay Area and Measure J. The project would also open up a major regional crossing of San Francisco Bay to pedestrian and bicycle access, connecting Contra Costa and Marin Counties for those users for the first time.

This project is locally important because it would provide safe pedestrian and bicycle access to Point Molate Beach Park and the Pointe Molate Shoreline. Currently, I-580 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.

CCTA also supports Richmond Mayor Tom Butt's request to modify the project description to extend the bi-directional bicycle/pedestrian path to Castro Street in Contra Costa County, rather than it terminating at Marine Street.

In summary, this project would provide significant non-motorized mobility and safety benefits to the local community as well as the region as a whole, while completing a major segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail. We appreciate your time and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Julie K. Pierce
Chair

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