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**From:** Nick Despota  
**Sent:** Monday, July 13, 2015 4:36 PM  
**To:** MTC Info  
**Subject:** Support for Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Nguyen,

My wife and I frequently ride our bikes from East Richmond (east of I-80, near Barrett Ave.) to the Bay Trail. Once there, we pedal south or north to enjoy the stunning views of the bay. But what's more significant is that on any given ride, we will encounter dozens of other cyclists. With every passing year, the numbers increase. For this reason, I ask you to include the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project in Plan Bay Area and the 2015 Transportation Improvement Plan. This project will not only close major gaps in the San Francisco Bay Trail, including a section of the Point Molate Trail in Richmond, but it will also be an important step in forging the link between Contra Costa and Marin Counties.

Of course, safety is a key concern for both pedestrians and cyclists. 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.

Following the advice of specialists from TRAC in Richmond, I further ask that you 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,

Nick Despota  
Richmond CA