
From: Caitlin Harvey
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 2:56 PM
To: MTC Info
Cc:
Subject: Support for Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Nguyen,

As a resident of Point Richmond and an avid long-distance cyclist, who enjoys riding routes in both Marin County and the East Bay, I would like to voice my support for the new Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement project. This connection across the Bay is the one element missing from an otherwise ideal cycling locale. Currently, I have to put my bike in my car and drive it to Marin County to ride and take part in the many cycling activities happening there, which is obviously absurd. A bridge connection would let bikes function as the practical vehicles they were meant to be, reduce traffic and pollution, and save many people money and frustration while increasing their enjoyment of our area.

With this in mind, please include the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project in Plan Bay Area and the 2015 Transportation Improvement Plan. 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.

One suggestion for improvement of the current strategy would be to 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 would provide an important connection with the combined AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit bus stop at Castro Street and Tewksbury Avenue.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Harvey

Richmond, CA