
From: David Loeb
Sent: Monday, July 13, 2015 10:58 AM
To: MTC Info
Cc:
Subject: Support for Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project

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Dear Ms. Nguyen,

I am writing to support inclusion of 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, specifically a key section of the Point Molate Trail in Richmond.

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. As publisher of Bay Nature magazine, which covers the natural world of the San Francisco Bay Area, I have had the opportunity to visit the beautiful Point Molate Shoreline. Given the access issues, the area remains a "potential" open space and outdoor recreation resource for the people of Richmond, the East Bay, and the whole Bay Area. It would be a wonderful contribution to the region's open space legacy to provide safer and clearer access to the area. 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. 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.

Finally, I would like to suggest that the project description be modified to include extension of 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,
David Loeb, Publisher

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David Loeb
Publisher/Executive Director
BAY NATURE
"Exploring the Natural World of the San Francisco Bay Area"

Berkeley, CA