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**From:** Gail MacGowan  
**Sent:** Friday, July 10, 2015 9:23 AM  
**To:** MTC Info  
**Cc:** Bruce and Sandra Beyaert  
**Subject:** Support for Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project

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Dear Ms. Nguyen,

I am writing to express my overwhelming support to including the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project in Plan Bay Area and the 2015 Transportation Improvement Plan.

Now is our chance to close major gaps in the San Francisco Bay Trail. It is vitally important for current and future generations that we make accessible a key section of the Point Molate Trail in Richmond, as well as the planned Bay Trail between Contra Costa and Marin Counties.

Bicycle ridership is booming, and as auto traffic gets more and more crowded, we should do all we can to support and encourage it. Growing numbers of hikers, too, are getting out of towns and cities to discover the treasures of the Bay Area countryside. 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.

Thank you so much!

Sincerely,  
Gail MacGowan  
San Francisco, CA