
From: Craig Reubens
Sent: Friday, July 17, 2015 6:18 PM
To: MTC Info
Cc:
Subject: (Personalized) Support for Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Nguyen,

I suspect you've already received the "form letter" below, a number of times. I'd like to add a little originality to this email by including a few personal details.

My name's Craig Reubens and I've lived at the same San Pablo address since 1972. In that very same year I paid \$600 for a used Tour Easy *Easy Rider* recumbent bicycle (which retailed new for over two thousand), at the Pedaler bike shop on San Pablo Dam Road, and have been riding it ever since. As I'm 71 now, my reflexes are not as good as they used to be, and my heart aches every time I read about yet another and another motorist vs. bicyclist collision, where the bicyclist ALWAYS loses -- and often dies. Consequently, I do nearly all of my bike riding on the San Francisco Bay Trail. What I love most about riding there is "NO CARS ALLOWED!" Oh, the exquisite beauty of the route, and the high caliber of the people I meet on the trail (and its lack of hills, to be brutally honest) all are additional factors I very much appreciate -- but the huge increase in safety, and in peaceful ambience, are what I most like about the trail.

B-u-t, there are those darn GAPS! (I do hope you'll do the right thing...)

Thank you,

from Craig Reubens (Taxpayer, Voter, Poll Worker, Veteran, Bicyclist)
San Pablo, CA

Please include 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, i.e. a key section of the Point Molate Trail in Richmond, as well as the planned Bay Trail between Contra Costa and Marin Counties.

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.

Sincerely,

"Craig" (Reubens)