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**From:** Rick Rickard  
**Sent:** Sunday, July 12, 2015 4:18 PM  
**To:** MTC Info  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** Support for Richmond/San Rafael Bridge Access Improvement Project

Dear Ms. Nguyen,

As a regular bicyclist and a member of the Board of Bike East Bay, I am well aware of the importance of closing gaps in the Bay Trail. Thus I am writing to ask that you 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, including 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, I urge you 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 will provide an important connection with the combined AC Transit and Golden Gate Transit bus stop at Castro Street and Tewksbury Avenue.

Sincerely,

Rick Rickard  
Oakland  
Board Member, Bike East Bay  
Member, EBRPD Park Advisory Committee