



September 11, 2020

Board of Supervisors
3501 Civic Center Drive, Suite 329
San Rafael, CA 94903

Dear Supervisors:

Marin County Bicycle Coalition, San Francisco Bay Trail, and Rails-to-Trails Conservancy respectfully request your support in prioritizing and taking steps to complete a key gap in Marin's bicycle/pedestrian network and the San Francisco Bay Trail along Sir Francis Drake Boulevard between Remillard Park in Larkspur and Andersen Drive in San Rafael.

This .7 mile section will soon be the last remaining gap in an otherwise continuous car-free route between several of Central Marin's most popular bike routes and the East Bay via the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. It has been identified by the Bay Area Trails Collaborative--a group of more than three dozen organizations, agencies, and businesses working to develop a 2,700-mile regional trail network that will connect the San Francisco Bay Area--as one of 13 priority projects, demonstrating its regional significance.

As you know, the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge multi-use pathway opened in November 2019 to incredible fanfare. Ridership has steadily increased since its opening, with a new monthly high of 11,967 bicycle trips logged in May in spite of the fact that many connections to and from the bridge in Marin involve riding on roads with high-speed traffic. This is in stark contrast to what people experience on the East Bay side, where the bridge has been seamlessly integrated into the bicycle/pedestrian network via safe, continuous, and intuitive multi-use pathways.

Fortunately, the situation in Marin is improving. Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) and Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) are seeking funding to complete a multi-use pathway from the bridge to Grange Avenue in San Rafael, where people will be able to access a soon-to-be-completed protected bikeway that leads to the intersection of Andersen Drive and Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

From there, however, people travelling to/from Larkspur must choose to either take a 1.2 mile detour via Andersen Drive/Cal Park Hill Tunnel or ride on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard with 40+ MPH traffic and no bicycle or pedestrian facilities.



See Attachment 1 for full size map

Recognizing the need for this connection, the County studied possible alternatives in 2011 and included this pathway as a proposed project in its 2018 Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan.¹ Many of the improvements identified in the 2011 study have since been or will soon be completed by BATA in partnership with TAM, Caltrans, and the City of San Rafael, but to our knowledge, the County has not advanced or revisited the improvements proposed on its right-of-way along East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard.

We anticipate several promising grant funding opportunities in the near future, including the state's Active Transportation Program and Regional Measure 3's Safe Routes to Transit/Bay Trail funds. **In order to bring this project to “shovel-ready” status, which would position it favorably to receive grant funding, we respectfully request the following:**

- 1. Update the scope of work and planning-level cost estimates provided in the *San Quentin Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Study* for a multi-use pathway from the existing Bay Trail terminus at Remillard Park in Larkspur to the Andersen Drive/Sir Francis Drake Boulevard intersection, as well as an undercrossing to the newly-built protected bikeway on the Sir Francis Drake/I-580 flyover. Consider a phased approach and investigate opportunities for near-term improvements, such as Class IV protected bike lanes, until full funding is secured.**
- 2. Advance or seek funding for 30% design and environmental clearance.**

In the interim, we would appreciate consideration of “quick-build” improvements that make this stretch safer for people on bikes.

¹ [San Quentin Area Bicycle and Pedestrian Access Study](#)

Our organizations stand ready to support the County's efforts to move this project forward, including through support letters for grant applications.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

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Marin County Bicycle Coalition

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cc:

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