

*Thank you to everyone who came out today.*

*I'm Tarrell Kullaway, Executive Director for Marin County Bicycle Coalition. I'm honored to have been invited and to represent the large share of Marinites who walk and bike for transportation and recreation - (and those who would if they had safer places to ride like this)*

Getting to today's ribbon cutting was far from easy. The completion of this **section of the** North-South Greenway is a true testament to what we can accomplish when advocates, agencies, and elected officials work together. Thank you to TAM, to Caltrans, MTC, our friends at WTB Tam, the construction workers, and the many tireless individuals who worked together to make this day possible.

Every gap closed in our North-South Greenway is another step toward making walking and bicycling a safe and convenient option for people of all ages and abilities. In a time when we're striving to provide cheap, safe and easy ways to get around - to improve our communities' happiness and health, and of course, fight the climate crisis, this is exactly what's needed.

**But a bike/ped route is only as strong as its weakest link.**

**This is one of the remaining gap closures required to complete the North/South Greenway**

So while we celebrate today, tomorrow we will get back to work to complete Marin's vision of a safe and car-free route from

- the Golden Gate Bridge
- through the Alto tunnel
- across Corte Madera Creek
- through Cal Park Hill
- past Gallinas Marsh and Hamilton to San Marin and into Sonoma County.

This bridge will connect the gateway of the Great Redwood trail, letting people travel by bike all the way to Humboldt Bay

According to TAM's own research, half of Marin adults who currently drive want to ride bikes more for transportation and errands. Those are the people we're stuck behind in traffic - people who **want** to ride but don't feel safe. This bridge represents another step toward a safer, connected bike network of Marin, where a grandfather can ride with his granddaughter from their home in Corte Madera to the ferry without fear.

This bridge shows that we can correct the mistakes of the past, planning only for people driving at the expense of those walking and biking, and that we can build a better future here in Marin.

Thank you.