

## **BART Bicycle Advisory Task Force**

January 16, 2025

TO: Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC)  
Metro Center  
375 Beale Street, Board Room  
San Francisco, CA 94105

FROM: BART Bicycle Advisory Task Force

RE: Oppose Proposed Closure of Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Bicycle Path  
(BCDC Board, January 16 - Item 8 - RSR Bridge Permit Workshop)

The BART Bicycle Advisory Task Force (BBATF) strongly opposes MTC's proposal to replace the multi-use path on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge (RSR Bridge) with a westbound breakdown lane/shoulder. Instead, the BBATF urges the BCDC Board to:

- 1) *Not issue any permits that restrict bike and pedestrian access to the existing path;*
- 2) *Support a permanent RSR Bridge multi-use path that is open all day, every day (24/7/365) to walkers, bicyclists, and others;*
- 3) *Extend the RSR Bridge Multi-use Path Pilot Project until more sustainable congestion solutions are found.*

The Metropolitan Transportation Committee (MTC) has proposed replacing the RSR Bridge multi-use path with a westbound breakdown lane/shoulder lane every Monday through Thursday. *This leaves people who walk or ride bicycles without a safe and direct path between Marin County and the East Bay for four work days every week.* This is discriminatory.

Closing or restricting the path also runs counter to MTC's and BCDC's goals and policies to foster clean, green, and equitable transportation, particularly:

- BCDC Transportation Policies 1 and 4
- BCDC Public Access Policies 2, 5, and 8

The MTC and CalTrans proposal is auto-centric, inappropriate, and does not accurately respond to the data gathered during the pilot project (2019-2024):

- 1) The two-way bike-pedestrian path and associated bridge changes have not significantly affected traffic congestion, collision rates, or incident-related delays, per the After Study for the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, Phase I, Section 10.5 (2022) in Appendix B;

- 2) Thousands of bicyclists and pedestrians have crossed the RSR Bridge on both recreational and commute trips since the path opened in 2019 — far more than the number of people who used the infrequent and inadequate bike shuttle and buses that ran prior to the pilot project;
- 3) Restricting sustainable commute options such as walking and bicycling will drastically reduce carbon-free weekday transit options across the bridge, increasing both automotive pollution and greenhouse gas production;
- 4) Without costly, significant improvements to Marin County roadways that connect to the RSR Bridge, auto congestion — fueled by single-occupancy vehicles — will only increase, no matter how many westbound lanes are available on the bridge itself.

MTC's push to close the multi-use path during the work week seems to be driven by vocal claims from motorists and business groups. These claims, however, are not supported by the available traffic data from the Pilot Project and more sustainable solutions are available, such as building more affordable workforce housing close to jobs in Marin County.

Bicyclists, pedestrians, and users of e-bikes, scooters, wheelchairs, and other mobility devices need and deserve the 24/7/365 access to San Francisco Bay and the connectivity offered by the RSR Bridge multi-use path. The path should remain open permanently and BCDC should not issue permits to MTC and CalTrans that restrict access to the multi-use path.

Please support sustainable Bay access and the RSR Bridge's direct connection between Marin County, the East Bay, and BART for everyone. **Please do not issue permits to remove or restrict 24/7/365 access to the RSR Bridge bike and pedestrian path.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Jon

Jon Spangler, Chair  
BART Bicycle Advisory Task Force  
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**From:** [Heath Maddox](#)  
**To:** [Heath Maddox](#)  
**Subject:** Fwd: RSR Bridge Path - Jan 2025 update  
**Date:** Friday, January 10, 2025 3:06:09 PM

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----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Warren Wells** <[warren@marinbike.org](mailto:warren@marinbike.org)>  
Date: Fri, Jan 10, 2025 at 2:42 PM  
Subject: RSR Bridge Path - Jan 2025 update  
To: <[rsrbridge@marinbike.org](mailto:rsrbridge@marinbike.org)>

Hi all,

I'm going to be posting a piece to the MCBC blog shortly but I'm sending it out to this list first. Short story is that there will be meetings about the bridge path on 1/16 (next Thursday!) and 3/6. See the text from the post below and lmk if you have any questions!

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After months of waiting, we finally have details about when the future of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge path will be decided. Two meetings, on January 16th and March 6, will be the times to speak up for the path.

### **Background**

In early 2024, we learned that the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and Caltrans were proposing to reduce access for people riding and walking across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to just Fridays and weekends. MTC/Caltrans' proposal would return the bridge to its prior state, two westbound lanes and a shoulder, every Monday through Thursday. The multiuse pathway, which has been open 24/7 to this point, has served over 400,000 biking or walking trips, roughly 40% of which have taken place during a time that the path is proposed to be closed.

While MTC has committed to a shuttle in the near term, questions remain about what types of bikes can be accommodated and how long such a shuttle will be in operation (a shuttle that used to operate on this route in the early 2000s was discontinued due to low use).

MCBC and our partners at Bike East Bay, Rich City Rides, and the Trails for Richmond Action Committee (TRAC) have firmly pushed back against this proposal. [Click here to read our arguments against it](#), which was first outlined in summer of 2024.

To date, three East Bay cities (Richmond, Albany, and Berkeley) have passed formal resolutions in favor of a 24/7 pathway, as well as the West Contra Costa Transportation Commission (WCCTC). Over 3,000 individuals have signed a petition supporting a 24/7 pathway, and over 70+ environmental and advocacy orgs from across the Bay have [joined our letter](#).

### **The schedule going forward**

The ultimate decision on the fate of the pathway lies in the hands of an agency called the Bay Conservation and Development Commission (BCDC). There will be two upcoming meetings where they will consider MTC's proposal:

- Thursday, January 16th, 1 PM: Board "workshop" to review the proposal and ask questions of staff. No decision will be made at this date.
- Thursday, March 6th, 1 PM: Final board decision on whether to approve MTC's proposal.

### **How to support the pathway**

1. Sign the petition (if you haven't already) on the Bike East Bay website, [found here](#).
- 2.

If you represent a group and want to add that group's name and logo to the letter, email Robert Prinz at [robert@bikeeastbay.org](mailto:robert@bikeeastbay.org).

3.

Provide public comment at one of both of the upcoming meetings. If you have to pick one, the March 6th meeting will be more important. But comments on 1/16 are welcome. You can attend in person ([375 Beale St., San Francisco](#), Yerba Buena Room) or give comment via phone or on Zoom (link for [1/16 meeting](#) and [3/6 meeting](#)). Note that remote comment may get cut off depending on attendance.

### What to say

Here are some things to consider when writing your comment:

- Keep it brief. For spoken comments, the less time each person speaks, the more people will get to comment.
- Make it personal. Talk about how the RSR Bridge path has changed your travel habits, particularly if you've taken a job you wouldn't have or bought an e-bike to ride over the bridge
- Stay polite. As frustrating as this may be, do not be rude in your comments and instead focus on the benefits of what we have now or the consequences of changing it.

If there is one thing we should leave you with, it is that this decision is *very* much still up in the air. Your voice, and the voices from the bicycling community, have the power to maintain this critical pathway if we speak up for it.

If you have any questions, please reach out.



Warren J. Wells, AICP

Policy and Planning Director

Marin County Bicycle Coalition

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*We're creating a healthy, connected, and sustainable Marin by promoting bicycling for everyday transportation and recreation. Love to ride? [Join us today.](#)*

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