



**DATE:** January 25, 2018

**TO:** Transportation Authority of Marin Board of Commissioners

**FROM:** Dianne Steinhauser, Executive Director

**SUBJECT:** Letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Bay Area Toll Authority Regarding the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge (Action) – Agenda Item 13

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Authorize the TAM Chair to send the attached letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Bay Area Toll Authority regarding the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge multi-use path.

### **DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS**

The Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) is nearing completion of a third traffic lane operating during the commute periods and on weekends going eastbound on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. This third lane will result in a substantial reduction in delay for traffic in Marin crossing the Bridge in the afternoon peak travel period. TAM has been working closely with BATA and Caltrans for years in support of this effort. Note that the TAM / City of Larkspur improvements on East Sir Francis Drake Blvd. should be completed prior to this third lane opening in April.

Along with the third lane eastbound, BATA has pursued an upper deck multi-use path westbound. This multi-use path is strongly supported by East Bay bicycle advocates. The path is part of a larger Bay Trail system of pathways across all of the Bay Area's toll bridges.

Along with substantial congestion going eastbound in the afternoon peak travel period, there exists substantial congestion going westbound in the morning peak travel period. This congestion has come to the attention of Contra Costa who raised the issue during the early design phases for the upper deck multi-use path. In response, BATA is investing in a moveable traffic barrier, in lieu of a fixed traffic barrier, that could eventually enable the upper deck shoulder to be used as both a multi-use path and a traffic lane with separate hours of operation. This option is not part of the current project scope and additional work would need to be done, including traffic impacts when this westbound third lane ends on the Marin side, as well as environmental clearance and permits which would need to be changed.

TAM has always supported consideration of relieving congestion coming westbound into Marin. In that regard, staff propose the attached letter.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

A: Draft Letter to the Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Bay Area Toll Authority

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900 Fifth Avenue  
Suite 100  
San Rafael  
California 94901

Phone: 415/226-0815  
Fax: 415/226-0816

www.tam.ca.gov

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January 26, 2018

The Honorable Jake Mackenzie, Chair  
Bay Area Toll Authority  
375 Beale Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Chair Mackenzie:

The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) supports the Contra Costa Transportation Authority in our joint request for the Bay Area Toll Authority to consider implementing a traffic lane on the westbound upper deck of the Richmond San Rafael Bridge. While TAM recognizes the multi-use path, currently being implemented, is an important link in the Bay Trail system, TAM requests that consideration be given to addressing traffic congestion in Contra Costa caused by motorists trying to enter Marin. In that regard, the moveable barrier system being placed on the upper deck could allow the shoulder area to be operated as a barrier-protected multi-use path or a third lane for traffic during the peak periods.

TAM supports consideration of this joint system of traffic management and bike/pedestrian access. We will continue to work with the partners who have successfully delivered the lower deck third lane to make this upper deck congestion relieving project a reality.

Supervisor Damon Connolly, our Metropolitan Transportation Commission/Bay Area Toll Authority Commissioner, and I are available to discuss this further with the BATA leadership and assist in moving this idea forward.

Sincerely,

Stephanie Moulton-Peters  
Chair

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