

▶ A Banner Year for the Bay Trail in Richmond! ▶

🌟 NEW YEAR 2020 REPORT 🌟

This 21st New Year report by TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, celebrates 2019 as a year that brought extraordinary new transportation and recreation opportunities to Richmond. Ferry service was launched to San Francisco, and the Richmond-San Rafael (RSR) Bridge Trail opened for bicycling, jogging, and walking between the East Bay and Marin County. These new opportunities for healthy, active transportation and recreation will reduce traffic congestion, air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

The RSR Bridge Trail opened on November 16 along with trail extensions to Castro Street in Point Richmond, the Richmond Greenway and Richmond BART station. Heading north from the bridge, grants of \$2 million were awarded to extend the Bay Trail along the shoreline through the City of Richmond's Point Molate property. Recognizing the new role of Richmond as a regional hub for active transportation, Caltrans awarded a \$276K grant to the City for planning Bay Trail improvements between the RSR Bridge, Richmond-San Francisco Ferry Terminal and the Richmond Greenway. Moreover, the Superior Court ruled on November 12 in favor of East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) that BNSF had no right to extend rail switching operations along the shoreline of Miller/Knox Regional Shoreline park.

Richmond's 36 miles of Bay Trail represents more than 10% of the completed 354 miles of this planned 500-mile walking and cycling path encircling San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. Richmond has become the "Bay Trail City" with the trail playing an ever-increasing recreation and transportation role in the lives of those residing and working in Richmond and nearby communities, as well as Marin, Alameda and San Francisco counties.

Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Trail



Over 1,000 cyclists and pedestrians turned out on November 16 to celebrate opening of the 4.4-mile RSR Bridge Trail and to be the first in history to bike, jog and walk between Contra Costa and Marin counties. Only the west span of the Bay Bridge and the San Mateo Bridge now lack Bay Trail linkages.

Kudos to the Bay Area Toll Authority and Caltrans for completing this project, as well as a new 1.1-mile Bay Trail section linking the bridge trail with Castro Street & Tewksbury Avenue in Point Richmond

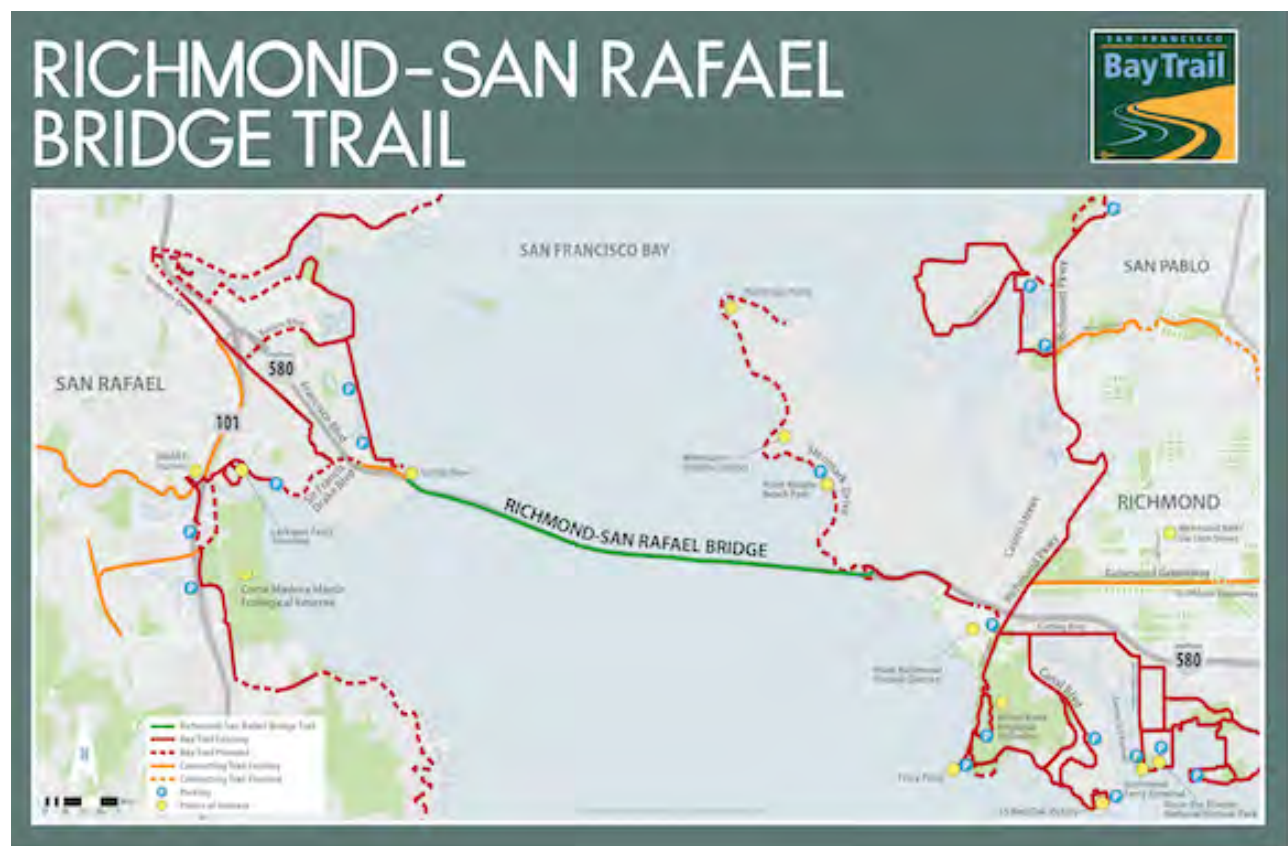
where there is a bus stop for both Golden Gate Transit and AC Transit. These are ten-foot wide, two-way, multi-use trails with a 42" high wall separating pedestrians and bicyclists from the roadway.

The trail between Castro St. and the bridge is permanent whereas the bridge trail is a four-year pilot project. Trail use will be pivotal in determining whether the trail will endure. Despite many rainy days, magnetic



counters showed that cyclists made about 12,000 single trips across the bridge during the four weeks since opening day, ranging from 500 to 1,200 trips on clear weekend days down to about 50 trips on rainy days. Pedestrians seem to represent about 10% of users so far, although counters aren't operating yet.

[CLICK HERE](http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/pointsanpablo.htm) for maps and other information on this project (<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/pointsanpablo.htm>).



Point Molate Trail

Almost five of the 6.4 miles of Richmond's incomplete Bay Trail lie on the Point San Pablo Peninsula between the RSR Bridge and the Point San Pablo Harbor, as shown by the map on the last page of this report,



EBRPD and the City each are seeking grant funds to construct 2.5 miles of Bay Trail along the shoreline from the RSR Bridge to the northern border of the City's Point Molate property. This includes one mile of trail on a shoreline easement donated by Chevron and 1.5 miles on the City's Point Molate property. EBRPD has completed a preliminary design, approved a Mitigated Negative Declaration under CEQA and filed permit applications. Plan Bay Area Priority Conservation Area grants of \$2.0 million have been approved, and applications have been filed for another \$2.2 million in grants from the Proposition 68 Recreational Trails and Greenway program. The 2.5-mile Point Molate Trail might be completed as early as mid-year 2021 if all goes well. [Click Here](http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/pointsanpablo.htm) for more information (<http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/pointsanpablo.htm>).

Linkages Between Bridge, Ferry & Greenway

Thanks to funding from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Contra Costa Transportation Authority, the City of Richmond installed 1.2 miles of new protected bikeways (cycle tracks), way finding signs and other improvements to make bicycling and walking safer and more attractive between the Richmond Greenway and the RSR Bridge Bay Trail. Donations allowed TRAC to fund fabrication of 20 updated "You Are Here" orientation map panels, which the City installed along the Bay Trail between Marina Bay and North Richmond.

Protected bikeways are needed where port and industrial facilities necessitate inland detours of the Bay Trail, e.g. along Cutting and Hoffman Blvds., Harbour Way South and Marina Way South. The City is assembling funds for installation of cycle tracks on Harbour Way and Hoffman, and planning is underway for other complete streets improvements using a \$276K grant under Caltrans Sustainable Communities Transportation Planning program.



TRAC thanks Whitney Dotson for his 11 years of service as EBRPD Director for Ward 1 as he transitions to Emeritus status on TRAC Steering Committee.

Thank you for supporting completion of the Bay Trail in Richmond. Please share this report with your friends and neighbors, encouraging them to join the Richmond Bay Trail Network at no cost by e-mailing tracbaytrail@earthlink.net. For maps, a calendar of events and other information about the Bay Trail in Richmond, visit <http://pointrichmond.com/baytrail/>.

TRAC Steering Committee: Top row - Donald Bastin, Nancy Strauch, Chair Bruce Beyaert & Vice Chair Bruce Brubaker.

Bottom row - Andrew Butt, Claudia Garcia & Michelle Hook. Photo by Don Gosney.

- Bay Trail**
- Complete
- - - Incomplete
- Connector Trail**
- Complete
- - - Incomplete
- Water Trail site
- Water Trail site (planned)
- Parks/Open Space
- Water Bodies



Welcome to Richmond

Over 35 miles of Bay Trail linking a necklace of 12 shoreline parks

December 19, 2019

