



BAY TRAIL RICHMOND

NEW YEAR 2025 REPORT



*“There is an inherent legacy in trails – one that honors the past, enriches the present and provides a gift to the future.”
– Keith Laughlin, Rails-to-Trails Conservancy*

TRAC, the Trails for Richmond Action Committee, celebrated its 25th anniversary last summer. During this period, the San Francisco Bay Trail completed in Richmond tripled from 12 miles to 36 miles as a result of partnerships with the City, East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD), the private sector and numerous government agencies.

This 26th New Year report summarizes Bay Trail progress in the City, which is blessed with more than 10% of the existing 355 miles of the planned 500-mile walking, jogging and cycling route encircling San Francisco and San Pablo Bays. Six miles of Bay Trail remain to be completed in Richmond as shown by dotted lines on the map at the end of this report.

POINT MOLATE BAY TRAIL

High bids led to rejection of all bids submitted to build 2.5 miles of Bay Trail along the shoreline north from the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to Point Molate Beach Park and the Winehaven Historic District. The City and EBRPD are seeking additional grant funds and hope to rebid the project in the first quarter of this year. Meanwhile, this scenic, historic stretch of San Francisco Bay shoreline remains closed to public access other than at Point Molate Beach Park.

RICHMOND-SAN RAFAEL BRIDGE TRAIL

Bicyclists and pedestrians have enjoyed over 430,000 trips across the [Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Trail](#) since it opened in November 2019 as a four-year pilot project by Caltrans and the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA). Bicyclist usage is the highest of BATA’s six State-owned toll bridges, including the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge multi-use Bay Trail. The Bay Conservation & Development Commission (BCDC) will decide in early 2025 whether to grant Caltrans’ request to close the trail Monday through Thursday in order to provide an automobile breakdown lane (not a general traffic lane).

Caltrans proposal to shut down this key section of San Francisco Bay Trail linking the East Bay and North Bay is opposed by resolutions adopted by unanimous vote of the Richmond, Albany and Berkeley City Councils three cities along I-580 and the Bay Trail. The closure proposal also is opposed by the West Contra Costa Transportation



Sat., Nov. 16, 2024 bike ride to celebrate the fifth anniversary of the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge bike lane.

Commission representing all five cities in western Contra Costa County, the San Francisco Bay Trail Project Board of Directors and [over 70 local, regional and national organizations](#). Local organizations opposing include Rich City Rides, Pogo Parks & TRAC. Regional and National organizations include Save The Bay, Sierra Club, Greenbelt Alliance and Trust for Public Land (TPL).

Caltrans’ proposal conflicts with BCDC’s legislative mandate to provide “maximum feasible access” to the Bay and its shoreline. A breakdown lane was present before the RSR Bridge Trail opened, and UC Berkeley’s Partners for Advanced Transportation Technology group’s [“After Study”](#) concluded that the trail did not significantly increase traffic congestion, crashes on the bridge or crash clearance times. Traffic normally flows smoothly on the bridge, because it is the site of only one incident from Monday to Friday



during the morning commute period. This one motor vehicle incident per week could be running out of fuel, a flat tire, side swipe or collision. Caltrans' proposal amounts to shutting down the RSR Bridge Trail four days/week because a motorist may neglect refueling on one of those days.

The routine morning commute delays on westbound I-580 result from conditions on approaches to the bridge and related traffic incidents. BATA is addressing these problems by installing open road tolling to eliminate toll plaza structures and reconfiguring the Garrard Blvd./Castro Street on ramp.

RICHMOND WELLNESS TRAIL

The City contracted with TPL to lead implementation of Phase 2 of the [Richmond Wellness Trail](#) along Marina Way South between Cutting Blvd. and the shoreline of Lucretia Edwards Park.



Community site visits were conducted to provide design input. Consultant Placeworks completed a 30% design and cost estimate. The project is funded by the [Richmond Rising Transformative Climate Communities](#) grant from the California Strategic Growth Council.

ADAPTATION FOR SEA LEVEL RISE

The San Francisco Bay Trail is on the front line in need for resiliency and adaptation to rising sea level. The November 2023 [North Richmond Collaborative Shoreline Adaptation Plan](#) prepared by West County Wastewater District with Mithun as lead consultant demonstrates how adaptation for sea level rise can improve the Bay Trail and close gaps in the trail.

In 2023, the California State Legislature passed SB 272 requiring local governments along the San Francisco Bay shoreline to develop Subregional Shoreline Adaptation Plans following guidelines developed by BCDC. Projects and strategies contained within approved plans will be prioritized for State funding.

BCDC adopted the [Regional Shoreline Adaptation Plan \(RSAP\)](#) on Dec. 5, 2024 to guide local governments in preparing for rising sea levels. Plans are required to improve connected regional shoreline access networks and protect the San Francisco Bay trail, as well as bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure. Local governments will have until Jan 1, 2034 to develop Subregional Plans that comply with RSAP Guidelines.

The City of Richmond with 32 miles of shoreline is ahead of the curve in moving to meet the requirements of SB 272 and hopes to be among the first in line for State funding. On June 25, the City Council approved a contract with Mithun as lead consultant for the development of its RSAP. [CLICK HERE](#) to learn more.

COMMUNITY BIKE SHARE - TRY IT OUT!

In partnership with Today, the City of Richmond has introduced a new, sustainable mode of transportation: electric bikeshare. Bikes are strategically placed at 14 key locations throughout Richmond and available for use from 6 AM to 1 AM. [CLICK HERE](#) for details and to try it out.



See you out on the Bay Trail!

TRAC Steering Committee
Bruce Beyart-Chair, Bruce Brubaker -Vice Chair,
Andrew Butt, Claudia Garcia, Aimee Flynn-Curran
& Michelle Lorenz



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 baytrailtrac@gmail.com.



Bay Trail

- Complete
- Incomplete

Connector Trail

- Complete
- Incomplete

- Water Trail site
- Water Trail site (planned)
- Parks/Open Space
- Water Bodies



Welcome to Richmond

Over 36 miles of Bay Trail linking a necklace of 12 shoreline parks

January 2025

