



June 15, 2017

Senator Jim Beall
Capitol Office State Capitol
Room 2082
Sacramento, CA 95814

To Senator Beall:

On behalf of bike advocacy organizations throughout the nine-county Bay Area region, we are writing to express our strong support for programming Regional Measure 3 (RM3) funds towards San Francisco Bay Trail and Safe Routes to Transit projects.

The current bill under consideration, Senate Bill 595, will authorize a special election to increase bridge tolls that are under the jurisdiction of the Bay Area Toll Authority, bringing in much-needed revenue for our region's transportation infrastructure. As SB 595 states, the Bay Area continues to grow stronger, but this growth is placing a "tremendous burden on [our] aging transportation infrastructure."

Regional Measure 3 has potential to bring in billions of dollars to fund smart, sustainable transportation projects with a clear bridge nexus that increase regional prosperity and mobility. Our proposed programming category of "SF Bay Trail / Safe Routes to Transit" is directly in line with MTC's funding principles for RM3 and our regional collaboration ensures geographic equity across all nine counties.

Safe Routes to Transit was established by RM2 and programmed over \$20 million to directly address connections to transit hubs. The SF Bay Trail has an even longer history, having been created by Senate Bill 100 that was signed into state law in 1987, which directed the Association of Bay Area Governments (ABAG) to develop a regional trail system connecting nine Bay Area counties and 47 cities with a walking and biking path circling the entire San Francisco Bay. In short, a Bay Trail and Safe Routes to Transit programming category is an effective use of RM3 revenues that is fully consistent with MTC principles — projects connecting to and improving access on bridges and access to regional transit embody what bridge toll revenues should fund.

Therefore, we propose the following be included as part of the expenditure plan for RM3 and in addition to any other authorized expenditures of toll bridge revenues:

San Francisco Bay Trail/Safe Routes to Transit Bicycle and Pedestrian Connections, \$500 million

Construct bicycle and pedestrian safety and access improvements on and in close proximity to toll bridges and in close proximity to transit facilities serving regional trips. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission is the public agency co-sponsor for this project, which is jointly sponsored by San Francisco Bicycle Coalition, Bike East Bay (formerly East Bay Bicycle Coalition), Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition, Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Napa County Bicycle Coalition, and Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition. This project will be administered as a competitive program under the existing Safe Routes to Transit framework of Regional Measure 2 (SB 916: 2004).

Example projects that may be funded from this project are:

- Bicycle and pedestrian paths on toll bridges, such as the Bay Bridge West Span bicycle and pedestrian path and improved shoulders on Antioch Bridge;
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities connecting to toll bridges, such as pathway connections to Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and Dumbarton Bridge;
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities connecting to transit, such as safe bikeways connecting to BART, Caltrain, Amtrak, SMART, water transit, regional bus facilities and other transit hubs; and
- Bicycle and pedestrian facilities within congested regional commute corridors, which have a demonstrable effect to reduce congestion on toll bridges, such as an estuary crossing bridge between Alameda and Oakland.

We appreciate your attention to this letter and look forward to continuing to work with you on Regional Measure 3.

Sincerely,

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cc:
Assemblymember Jim Frazier
Assemblymember Phil Ting
Steve Heminger, MTC Executive Director

ATTACHMENT

The following are example projects that the “SF Bay Trail / Safe Routes to Transit” programming category could fund. This list is not exhaustive but demonstrates that there are numerous projects throughout the region that would immediately benefit from additional funding.

SF Bay Trail / Safe Routes to Transit

- Across all counties
 - BART Station Access and Bike Parking Improvements
 - Caltrain Station Access and Bike Parking Improvements
- Alameda
 - Emeryville Bay Trail Connection to Bay Bridge Path
 - Gateway Park
 - Alameda Estuary Bridge
- Contra Costa
 - Rodeo to Crockett Bay Trail Pathway
 - Benecia Martinez Bridge Access
 - Antioch Bridge Access
- Marin
 - San Rafael Transit Center Access Improvements
- Napa
 - Vine Trail - Napa to American Canyon
 - Hwy 29 corridor safety improvements
 - Hwy 37 - Bike/Ped accessibility (Hwy 29 to Hwy 12)
- San Francisco
 - Bay Bridge West Span bicycle, pedestrian and maintenance path
 - Embarcadero Enhancement Project
- San Mateo
 - Dumbarton Corridor Trail (from bridge to Redwood City)
 - Bay Trail Gap between Bair Island Rd. and Marsh Rd. (Redwood City) to Dumbarton Bridge
 - Bay Trail Gap near San Carlos Airport (Pico Blvd.)
- Santa Clara
 - Bay Trail Reach 9B
 - VTA BART improvements
- Solano
 - Highway 29/37 & Mare Island Improvements
- Sonoma
 - Completion of SMART Multi-Use Pathway
 - Petaluma-Sebastopol Trail
 - Santa Rosa Community Connector (bike/ped bridge over Hwy 101)
 - Windsor Connector Bridge (bike/ped bridge over Hwy 101)