



Bay Area Bicycle Coalition
of the San Francisco Bay Area

P.O. Box 2214, Novato, CA 94948
510.250.0909
Fax 510.250.0906
www.bayareabikes.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Corinne Winter

Chair

Deb Hubsmith

Vice Chair

Mark Birnbaum

Treasurer

Tom Ayres

Secretary

Alameda County

Robert Raburn

East Bay Bicycle Coalition

Contra Costa County

Tom Ayres

East Bay Bicycle Coalition

Marin County

Deb Hubsmith

Marin County Bicycle Coalition

Napa County

Wendy Hilberman

Napa County Bicycle Coalition

San Francisco County

Andy Thornley

San Francisco Bicycle Coalition

San Mateo County

Caryl Gay

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Santa Clara County

Corinne Winter

Silicon Valley Bicycle Coalition

Solano County

J.B. Davis

Bicycle Advisory Committee

Sonoma County

Christine Culver

Sonoma County Bicycle Coalition

At Large Directors

David Burch

Mark Birnbaum

Carol Levine

Sabrina Merlo

STAFF

Andrew Casteel

Executive Director

March 9, 2009

Bijan Sartipi
District 4 Director
Department of Transportation
PO Box 23660
Oakland, CA 94623-0660

RE: Request for solid barrier separation of bicycle shoulder access on I-580 in Richmond

Dear Director Sartipi:

The Bay Area Bicycle Coalition (BABC), the umbrella organization of bicycle advocacy groups in the nine-county San Francisco Bay Area urge Caltrans improve to improve bicycle safety on the I-580 shoulders near Point Molate. We request that solid barriers be added to protect the freeway shoulder on the westbound approach to the Western Drive off-ramp. This short segment is particularly dangerous as it curves, and motorists may be distracted as they approach the exit ramp or hunt for toll money.

Bicyclists currently travel on a combination of paths and shoulders of I-580 between the Marina St/Castro St interchanges and Western Drive. Our request represents an extremely low-cost solution to the hazards on this short section of freeway. It will also improve public access to the San Francisco Bay shoreline of Point Molate.

On September 24, 2006 a westbound motorist approaching the toll plaza hit two bicyclists, killing Daniel Weinstein and causing serious injury to Daniel Doellstedt. This tragic crash focused our attention on the ongoing efforts to develop a separated non-motorized facility through the Chevron Long Wharf land area as part of the 30-year lease from the State Lands Commission.

We were disappointed by the recent State actions to neither pursue development of a separate Bay Trail path through the Chevron Long Wharf area (SLC 1/29/09), nor to implement non-motorized access on--and to--the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge in the near term (BCDC 2/5/09). As a consequence of these decisions, we are left without a plan to improve the existing non-motorized access and safety between Point Richmond and the Point Molate peninsula. We urge Caltrans to improve the safety of this route by installing solid barriers as soon as possible.

I look forward to hearing back from you, and would be happy to meet to discuss this need in further detail.

Sincerely

Andrew Casteel
Executive Director
Bay Area Bicycle Coalition



Bay Area Bicycle Coalition
of the San Francisco Bay Area

Cc: Will Travis, Executive Director, Bay Conservation & Development Commission

State Senator Loni Hancock

State Senator Mark Leno

Assembly Member Nancy Skinner

Assembly Member Mark Desaulnier

Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia

Marin Supervisor Steve Kinsey

Richmond Mayor Gayle McLaughlin