Funding has been secured to proceed with plans for closing the mile-long San Francisco Bay Trail gap between the bus stop at Castro St. & Tewksbury Ave. and the existing trail under the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge. On March 23, the West Contra Costa Transportation Advisory Committee (WCCTAC) Board of Directors approved a $200,000 award to the City of Richmond for funding participation by Caltrans from whom encroachment permits are needed.

This project has been in the works since TRAC was formed over 12 years ago, and we’ve been delighted to see the excellent progress that the City of Richmond has made recently with active support by Chevron and ABAG’s San Francisco Bay Trail Project. The City of Richmond has committed $1.6 million for project planning, environmental review and preparation of construction documents. Conceptual designs have been completed and an alignment selected following public meetings expressing strong support. WCCTAC’s $200,000 award will allow the project to proceed. Funding was made possible by Contra Costa County voters approving Measure J in 2004 extending the 0.5% sales tax for transportation expenditures.

Referring to the map below, this planned trail connection will provide safe, convenient, and inviting access for bicyclists and pedestrians to Point Molate and ultimately the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge. Currently, there is no pedestrian access to the Point Molate area, and the only bicycle access is a demonstrably dangerous route along the shoulders and exit ramps of I-580.
As permit approvals and design work proceed, the City of Richmond and its partners will be seeking an estimated $18 million to build this new Bay Trail section. The result will be replacement of the current dangerous bicycle route with a safe, multi-use Class I Bay Trail section providing both pedestrian and bicyclist access to the Point San Pablo Peninsula and, ultimately, to Marin County.

For more background, see http://www.pointrichmond.com/baytrail/pointsanpablo.htm. TRAC appreciates your continuing support.