PROJECT OVERVIEW

The South Vallejo Riverwalk and Bay Trail is a proposed 1.5-mile multiuse trail in the historic City of Vallejo that will serve as an important active transportation and recreation asset for both residents and visitors, while providing sweeping views of the Napa River, Carquinez Strait and San Francisco Bay. The trail will travel along or nearby Vallejo’s southern waterfront—a narrow section of bay once known as the Silver Gate due to the way the sun hits the water and the role the area played in the 19th-century silver mining frenzy. A potential future segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail, the riverwalk will help form a continuous 500-mile walking and bicycling trail encircling the entire Bay and connecting 47 cities and nine counties. The 1.5-mile trail will also help connect other major trails in the Bay Area, including the Bay Area Ridge Trail and the Napa Valley Vine Trail, closing a small but significant gap essential to regional connectivity.

The 1.5-mile trail gap between the Al Zampa Memorial Bridge and Curtola Parkway (south of Downtown Vallejo) exists due to a number of factors, including the steep terrain of the Carquinez cliff and the long-standing presence of industry, rail tracks and private residences along the waterfront. In accordance with Vallejo’s General Plan 2040, the South Vallejo Riverwalk project will restore waterfront access, improve access to open space in a historically disadvantaged community, and establish a new, low-stress option for bicycle and pedestrian travel in the area.

The South Vallejo Riverwalk is one of 13 projects that the Bay Area Trails Collaborative has prioritized as critical to completing its 2,700-mile regional trail network connecting the San Francisco Bay Area and potentially serving more than 7 million people. The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails-to-Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model trail networks and ultimately connect the country by trail.

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Connecting Communities: This transportation and recreational trail will have a transformative impact on its surrounding communities, providing walking and bicycling access to shoreline areas previously cut off by rail and industrial activity. The trail will also create cross-county links by connecting the South Vallejo community to the Bay Trail and Napa Valley Vine Trail in the north, and the Bay Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail to the south and east, via the Al Zampa Memorial Bridge and the future Vallejo Bluff Trail.

Safe Routes to Transit, Jobs and Healthy Recreation: The South Vallejo Riverwalk will provide residents and visitors with walking and bicycling access to the Vallejo Ferry, Vallejo City Hall, Mare Island, the California Maritime Academy and downtown Vallejo.

Public Open Space Access and Opportunities for Physical Activity: The City of Vallejo is a historically disadvantaged community with limited access to parks and high rates of asthma and obesity. The South Vallejo neighborhood has the highest poverty rate in Solano County. Establishing a bicycle and pedestrian trail along the waterfront will provide the community with access to the health benefits of exercise, public open space and fresh air along the waterfront.

PROJECT ACTION PLAN

- Prepare a trail alignment feasibility study with community, stakeholder, landowner and city input
- Secure funding for:
  - Alignment feasibility study
  - Preliminary engineering, environmental and right-of-way studies
  - Engineering/environmental work
  - Easements
  - Project construction

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For information about the Bay Area Trails Collaborative, contact Laura Cohen: laura@railstotrails.org.