PROJECT OVERVIEW

The Bay to Sea Trail is an approximately 40-mile developing multiuse trail project that seeks to connect neighborhoods, parks and natural areas on a route between the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean via East Palo Alto, Redwood City and Half Moon Bay. The east–west trail will also connect people to four popular north–south trails, providing regional connectivity within San Mateo and Santa Clara counties and to other destinations throughout the Bay Area.

The trail will provide new links between urban communities and open space along the Bay, mountains and coast, with a goal to celebrate and promote the region’s unique natural beauty, cultural history and diverse communities. A Bay to Sea Trail planning coalition comprising various organizations and agencies related to trails, transportation and the environment is working collaboratively to engage communities across the trail’s proposed alignment to plan, acquire, develop and manage the Bay to Sea Trail. Together, the coalition recognizes the opportunity to improve local ecology and habitat connectivity and create equitable access to nature.

The Bay to Sea Trail is one of 13 projects that the Bay Area Trails Collaborative has prioritized as critical to completing its 2,700-mile regional trail network. The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails-to-Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model regional trail networks that demonstrate the powerful impact trails have on communities.

PROJECT DATA

- Total Project Miles: 40
- Miles Completed to Date: 0
- Total Miles in Segment: ~10 miles
  (Redwood City Route: ~4 miles; Dumbarton Rail Corridor Route: ~6 miles)
- Total Estimated Cost for This Segment: N/A
- Funds Secured for This Segment: $0

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Regional Trail Connectivity: The Bay to Sea Trail will be the first east–west trail on the Peninsula connecting the San Francisco Bay and the Pacific Ocean and will integrate a network of regional trails, including the San Francisco Bay Trail, Crystal Springs Regional Trail, Bay Area Ridge Trail and California Coastal Trail.

Urban-to-Open Space Connections: The Bay to Sea Trail will bring open space experiences closer to home for urban communities via a multiuse trail suitable for people of all ages and abilities. The trail will also provide connections between community destinations such as transit hubs, schools and parks.

Health and Transportation Equity: The Dumbarton Rail Corridor trail route of the Bay to Sea Trail will provide a pedestrian- and bicycle-friendly transportation opportunity to support livable communities, improve health and wellness, and provide safe access to trails and urban destinations. It will also serve as a critical link to transit, goods and services, schools, jobs, open space and more.

PROJECT ACTION PLAN

- Secure $150K for consulting services to determine optimal Redwood City Route alignment and develop a trail wayfinding plan
- Perform BikeAble™ analysis of the Dumbarton Rail Corridor Route to assess low-stress connectivity outcomes and bolster support for the multiuse path
- Engage in SamTrans’ Dumbarton Rail Corridor Stakeholder Advisory Team and community-led efforts to ensure inclusion of a multiuse trail alongside future rail improvements
- Cultivate strong public/private leadership to champion the Bay to Sea Trail vision and build community support for the regional trail

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For information about the Bay Area Trails Collaborative, contact Laura Cohen: laura@railstotrails.org.
To learn more about BikeAble, a customizable tool for analyzing community connectivity and evaluating how improvements to the bicycle network can help residents reach key destinations safely by bike, visit railstotrails.org/bikeable.