

# Grand Bayway

San Francisco Bay Trail: From Marsh Drive in Novato to Wilson Avenue in Vallejo



BAY AREA TRAILS  
COLLABORATIVE

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

When complete, the Grand Bayway will span four counties and 23.7 miles along the northern shore of the San Pablo Bay. A key segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail, the Grand Bayway currently contains 8.4 miles of completed trail and 15.3 miles of trail gaps yet to be completed. Closing these gaps will increase walking and bicycling options for both commuting and recreation in the region by establishing an important east-west connection between Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Contra Costa counties where other active transportation facilities don't currently exist. The trail will also establish important connections between other regionally significant trails, including the SMART Pathway, the Napa Valley Vine Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Through the [Resilient 37 Program](#), the Metropolitan Transportation Commission has integrated multimodal mobility, wetland conservation, sea-level rise adaptation, and social and economic equity into its vision for a future transportation corridor in the San Pablo Bay. Several improvements are being considered, including both interim and permanent plans for the San Francisco Bay Trail. This is due to strong local support for the completion of the trail; in a 2018 survey conducted by the Sonoma County Transportation Authority, 40% of Highway 37 users responded that they use the existing Bay Trail for recreation, and an additional 23% said they would bicycle along the corridor if the trail facility were improved.<sup>1</sup> These results emphasize the need for a safe, attractive and inviting bicycle and pedestrian facility that also provides opportunities to access and engage with the surrounding natural marshland via boardwalks, overlooks, interpretive displays and water trail launches.

The Grand Bayway is a segment of the San Francisco Bay Trail, which, once complete, will be a continuous 500-mile bicycling and walking path around the entire San Francisco Bay. It will pass through 47 cities, all nine Bay Area counties and seven toll bridges. More than half the length of the shoreline Bay Trail has been developed, connecting neighborhoods, schools, parks and transit centers, and providing a unique alternative commuting corridor.

The Grand Bayway is one of 13 projects that the Bay Area Trails Collaborative has prioritized as critical to completing its 2,500-miles-plus regional trail network. The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails-to-Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model trail networks that demonstrate the powerful impact trails have on communities.

## PROJECT DATA

- **Total Project Miles:** 23.7
- **Miles Completed to Date:** 8.4
- **Total Miles in This Segment:** 15.3
- **Total Estimated Cost for This Segment:** \$37.8 million
- **Funds Secured for This Segment:** Funding is anticipated to be secured from a variety of regional, state, federal and philanthropic sources in addition to the Resilient State Route 37 Project.



Rendering of proposed bike trails and bird tower along SR37 | Courtesy TLS Landscape Architecture

## TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

**Safe routes to jobs:** Growing housing demand in the North Bay requires many area residents to travel long distances between home and work. This jobs/housing imbalance is one of the leading causes of congestion in the Bay Area and by far the most significant cause of congestion along Highway 37, increasing average travel time from 20 minutes off peak to as much as 100 minutes during prime commute hours.<sup>2</sup> The Grand Bayway will help to alleviate traffic congestion while also providing safe routes to jobs in the North Bay and Solano County.<sup>3</sup>

**Serving a diverse community:** The Grand Bayway will serve Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Contra Costa counties, which have a combined population of 2.4 million+ people.<sup>4</sup> The proposed gap closure project will connect trail and active transportation alignments through communities designated as both disadvantaged ([SB 535](#)) and low-income ([AB 1550](#)), including parts of Vallejo, American Canyon and Novato.

**Increasing local access to open space:** The Grand Bayway will provide access to almost 6,000 acres of parks and open space within a half-mile of these trail segments, including Cullinan Ranch, Dickson Ranch/Sears Point, River Park and Skaggs Island.

<sup>1</sup> "SR 37 Survey & Focus Groups: Overview of Results," Sonoma County Transportation Authority, last modified March 1, 2018, [https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/05.D\\_SR-37-SurveyandFocusGroup-Results-Corrected.pdf](https://scta.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/05.D_SR-37-SurveyandFocusGroup-Results-Corrected.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> Matt Brown, "Major Fixes for Addressing Traffic, Sea Level Rise on Highway 37 Identified," *Petaluma Argus Courier*, February 11, 2019, <https://www.northbaybusinessjournal.com/northbay/sonomacounty/9272266-181/california-highway-37-construction>.

<sup>3</sup> "Highway 37," Sonoma County Transportation Authority, accessed July 13, 2021, <https://scta.ca.gov/projects/highway37/>.

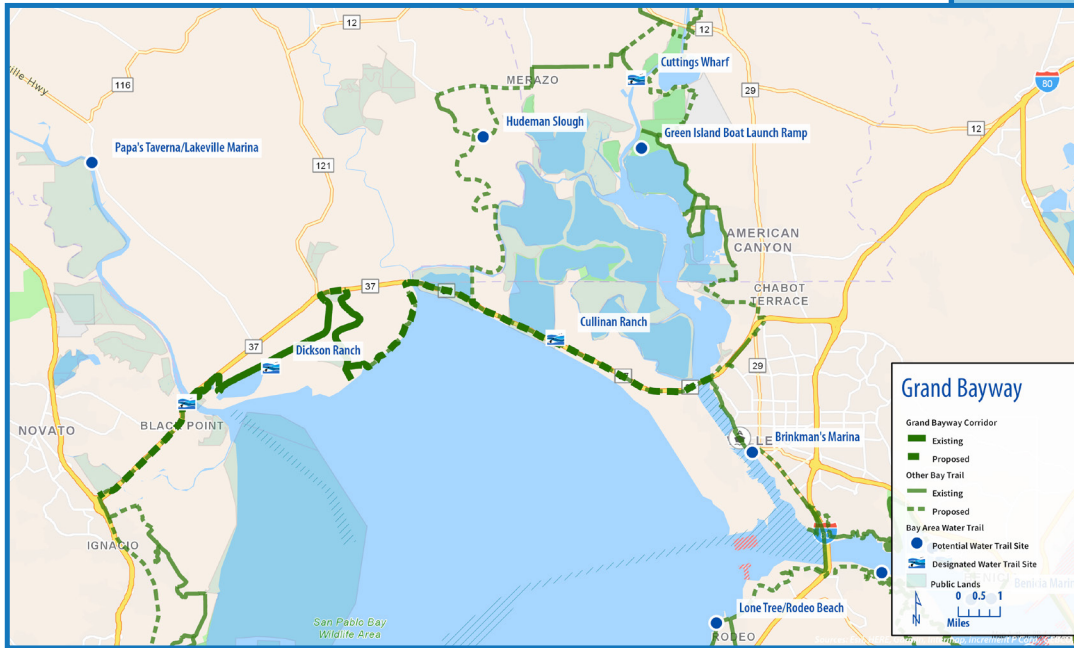
<sup>4</sup> "Highway 37," Sonoma County Transportation Authority, accessed July 13, 2021, <https://scta.ca.gov/projects/highway37/>.

## PROJECT ACTION PLAN

- Approximately \$500,000 is needed to fund the conceptual design of the project's recreation and alternative transportation components.
- The highest-priority trail segment is the connection between Sears Point/Eliot Trail and the Tubbs Tolley trailhead, which would establish 8 continuous miles of high-quality Bay Trail from the Petaluma River at the Port Sonoma Marina to a unique stretch of shoreline at the southern end of Tubbs Island.

## PROJECT LEAD

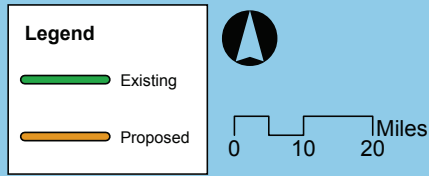
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## BAY AREA TRAILS COLLABORATIVE



## PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS



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