

richmond-san rafael bridge-marin connections

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a planned 500-mile trail circumnavigating the San Francisco Bay, running through nine counties and 47 cities, and across seven toll bridges. This multiuse trail—which is approximately 70% complete—is enjoyed by cyclists, pedestrians, birders, runners and families, among others looking to experience the majesty of the Bay. The Bay Trail connects neighborhoods, schools, parks and transit centers, providing unique active transportation options for the region's nearly 8 million residents.

Project Overview

The Richmond-San Rafael Bridge-Marin Connections project involves two roadways: East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard (between Remillard Park and the I-580 flyover) and Andersen Drive (between Central Marin Sanitation Agency and East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard). These critical gaps represent a high-stress corridor for cyclists due to high traffic volumes and speeds, and both lack pedestrian facilities. Bay Trail users can currently cross the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Friday–Sunday (a free shuttle is available Monday–Thursday), and cyclists can utilize a protected bikeway to cross over I-580. Both Andersen Drive and the I-580 flyover are considered Bay Trail gaps due to the lack of pedestrian facilities.

Marin County is developing a conceptual design for East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard within existing constraints. Possible designs include a Class I multiuse path and potentially a tunnel or cantilevered path where the existing cyclist-only I-580 flyover meets Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to allow pedestrian use. The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) has approved funding for a quick-build protected shoulder along a portion of East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard to address safety in the near term.

Project Data

- **Total Project Miles:** 1.8
- **Continuous Bay Trail Miles Linked by Gap Closure:** 10
- **Estimated Project Cost:** \$9.5 million
- **Project Status:** Preliminary planning, design and community engagement underway



Transformative Impact

When complete, the projects on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard and Anderson Drive will link over 10 miles of continuous, separated pathways extending into San Rafael, Corte Madera, Larkspur, Point Richmond and beyond to Treasure Island and the Contra Costa shoreline. Five major transportation hubs—including the Larkspur and San Rafael Sonoma-Marin Area Rail Transit (SMART) stations, San Rafael Transit Center, Larkspur's Golden Gate Ferry terminal and the SMART Pathway/Great Redwood Trail—will be made easily accessible by foot or wheel when this gap is closed, reducing congestion and vehicle miles traveled and providing viable car-free options for thousands of people. This project links millions of dollars of recent investments in the project vicinity and will provide seamless connections within Marin and beyond.

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Project Action Plan

The Marin County Department of Public Works has \$700,000 for a design and community engagement process for the East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard gap that commenced in Fall 2025. Updates to the City of San Rafael's Citywide Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan in Fall 2025 may include recommendations for improvements to Anderson Drive. Advocacy around each of these processes (meeting attendance, letter-writing, contacting elected officials) will be essential to closing these important gaps.

Project Leads

- County of Marin
- City of San Rafael

Primary Stakeholders

- Caltrans
- City of Larkspur
- Transportation Authority of Marin
- California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations
- Marin County Bicycle Coalition
- Marin Airporter
- Central Marin Sanitation District
- Bay Area Trails Collaborative

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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.

