

**San Francisco Bay Trail  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
Bay Area Metro Center  
November 7, 2016**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

**Attendance**

Steering Committee

John Woodbury, *Chair*  
Brenda Buxton  
Ethan Lavine  
Steve McAdam  
Hanna Miller (*Alternate*)  
Juan Raigoza

Board

Bill Long

Bay Trail Staff

Ben Botkin  
Maureen Gaffney  
Lee Huo  
Laura Thompson

Guests

Miriam Chion, ABAG  
Ina Gerhard, Caltrans  
Janet McBride, Ridge Trail

**ACTION: Adoption of the 11/07/16 agenda and the 7/18/16 minutes: Raigoza moved, McAdam seconded.**

*Yes Votes:*

*John Woodbury  
Brenda Buxton  
Ethan Lavine*

*Steve McAdam  
Juan Raigoza*

*No Votes: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers**

None

**Staff Announcements**

-Thompson      Announced that the Restoration Authority Advisory Committee had its first meeting since the June approval of Measure AA funds and all current members have been asked to reapply. The Bay Trail is listed in the legislation as a primary stakeholder. PCA grant program is also getting started with an expected application program to begin in early 2017. Dedication ceremony for Cargill's donation of a restored historic Archimedes Screw at the Hayward Regional Shoreline was held on October 21, and Cargill wants to

create a smart phone tour with Canogle about the area. Momentum for additional smart phone tours is growing with the Cargill interest and Google grant for a new tour near the Google campus. Five new tours are wrapping up now and will be promoted later this year under the rebrand "Vizzit." *Migrations* is moving forward with upcoming meetings in Benicia and Oakland to support art proposals. Bay Trail and Water Trail staff will give a presentation to BCDC staff in December to highlight how the programs work and introduce our new Bay Trail Design Guidelines. San Mateo County applied for a Caltrans Sustainable Transportation Planning Grant to address the SFO gap with a feasibility study.

- Gaffney Informed the committee about her continued involvement in the planning process for a new Highway 37 causeway and Bay Trail alignment, 17 miles between Novato and Vallejo. Discussions are underway about a portion of the roadway potentially managed by a private entity with tolls that would help finance its construction.
  
- Huo The Contra Costa County Transportation Authority has placed Measure X on the November 2016 ballot to reauthorize the county transportation mechanism that includes 5% for bicycle/pedestrian projects. The Alameda County Transportation Commission has put out a call for Measure BB projects and 7 Bay Trail-related projects have applied, including the East Bay Regional Park District's request for trail maintenance funding of the Alameda Creek/Coyote Hills segments of trail. Announced that the Bay Bridge pathway had a "soft" opening to Yerba Buena Island with intermittent access while the remaining sections of the old bridge are dismantled. Announced his Bay Trail representation on the Caltrans District 4 Bicycle Plan Advisory Committee and plans to keep the steering committee updated. A flyer was distributed about the plan by Gerhard.
  
- Botkin Announced a new partnership with Youth Exploring Science (YES) to create videos and social media posts about sea level rise and the Water Trail targeting a young audience. Richmond has initiated the concept of a cultural heritage water trail encompassing points along the shoreline that could be part of the regional Water Trail. The East Bay Regional Park District completed their grant-funded Water Trail improvements to Ferry Point in Richmond.

### **ABAG-MTC Merger Discussion**

Thompson introduced the item and summarized the process, schedule and opportunities for ABAG Bay Trail and Water Trail staff integration into MTC. She outlined the benefits of feedback from the committee on Bay Trail structure, a regional trail program, active transportation and future needs. Chion informed the committee that as the contract for services is being developed, detailed assessments are underway, including legal and financial, for the integration of all staff and transfer of enterprise units, such as Bay Trail. There is an estimated \$2.6 million/year gap due to increased costs (salaries, retirement benefits) associated with all ABAG staff transferring over as MTC personnel.

With regards to the Bay Trail Project, the Committee made the following comments:

- emphasized the importance that the new organizational structure recognize the Bay Trail as a recreational resource and a catalyst for environmental education and natural resource protection in addition to its functionality as a transportation corridor
- dedicated staff is necessary to complete the Bay Trail and MTC should continue to fund staff
- there is a potential for the Bay Trail non-profit organization to function as a fundraising entity, but cautioned that the time spent fundraising takes away from project implementation
- Plan Bay Area should have a robust section on trails, parks and open space and the new regional agency should take the lead in comprehensive regional resource planning
- inquired whether moving to MTC would maintain the program’s autonomy and potentially relieve staff of some administrative functions (i.e., grant writing, marketing, communications)
- desire to see more MTC funds allocated for trails and natural resources, such as potential new RM3 funds, so Coastal Conservancy funds can be leveraged

Staff will continue to keep the Steering Committee informed of the merger process and will share the draft contract for services when available. The non-profit and other stakeholders were encouraged to weigh in on trails, parks, natural resources and open space as a component of the Plan Bay Area implementation actions at the November 17 ABAG Executive Board meeting. In spring 2017, the implementation actions will be developed by staff based on public input.

**Reflecting on 2016 and Looking Ahead to 2017**

Thompson provided an overview of Bay Trail and Water Trail accomplishments in 2016 and highlighted the proposed priority Bay Trail tasks for 2017. Woodbury made the point that marketing the program is critical and that social media efforts should be increased next year because that is the way to reach the most people. Huo mentioned the possibility of a “countdown to the finish” to put pressure on the remaining gaps and lift them towards completion.

**ACTION: Buxton moved, McAdam seconded the motion to adopt the 2017 Priority Bay Trail Tasks list. The vote was approved unanimously.**

*Yes Votes:*

*John Woodbury  
Brenda Buxton  
Ethan Lavine*

*Steve McAdam  
Juan Raigoza*

*No Votes: None*

*Abstentions: None*

**Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.