

**San Francisco Bay Trail  
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes  
ABAG Metro Center  
December 9, 2008**

**Call to Order**

Meeting was called to order at 1:30 PM.

**Attendance**

Steering Committee

Rick Parmer, Chair  
Joe LaClair  
Julie Bondurant  
Cathy Woodbury  
Moirra McEnespy  
Leo DuBose  
Brian Wiese

Bay Trail Staff

Laura Thompson  
Maureen Gaffney  
Lee Huo

Board

Betty Moose  
Bill Long

**ACTION Adoption of 12/09/08 agenda and approval of 08/14/08 minutes.**

Woodbury moved, DuBose seconded adoption of agenda and approval of minutes.

**Announcements by Chair and Boardmembers**

- McEnespy Announced Coastal Conservancy authorization of a second \$3 million grant to the Bay Trail Project at their meeting on December 4.
- DuBose Informed the Committee that the East Bay Bicycle Coalition is expanding its membership and building increased support for improved bicycle facilities in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The EBBC holiday party will be held on December 18.

**Staff Announcements**

- Thompson Provided an update on the Chevron Long Wharf Lease renewal considered by the State Lands Commission on December 3. After receiving numerous public comments in support of the Bay Trail, the Commission continued the item to the January 29 meeting and asked stakeholders to collaborate on a funding package for the Bay Trail.

Reported that the Bair Island Restoration Project celebrated the “groundbreaking” of this collaborative restoration effort. The Bay Trail will contribute funds to the public access component of the project through the Prop. 84 grant program.

Announced that BCDC will hear an update from Caltrans on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge pathway proposal in January. Caltrans and MTC are discussing a possible demonstration project to open the third lane to bicyclists on a short-term basis.

-Huo Reported that the City of Alameda Public Works Department selected three alternatives in the Alameda Estuary crossing study: retrofitting of Posey Tube, a water taxi system and a bicycle/pedestrian bridge. City Council will consider these options in January.

The City of Oakland is pursuing options for Bay Trail connections around the High Street Bridge using the abutment walkways as a test case. Coordination with the U.S. Coastal Guard is underway.

Announced that the *Bay Trail Rider* newsletter will be sent soon.

### **Alameda County 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation**

-Huo Presented the Alameda County Campaign for Active Transportation initiated by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy and the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority. The initiative strives to double federal funding for walking, bicycling and trails in the next federal transportation bill and identify \$50 million for this funding to Alameda County. The Bay Trail is a selling point for this program.

**ACTION LaCLair moved, Wiese seconded the motion to support the Alameda County 2010 Campaign for Active Transportation. The item was unanimously approved.**

### **Grant Scoring Criteria Revisions**

-Thompson Provided an overview of the revisions to the grant scoring criteria. The Committee discussed the need to address climate change in future criteria revisions and the timing of environmental review in relation to grant awards. The Conservancy expressed an interest in commenting on environmental documents for projects prior to receiving Bay Trail funds. Bay Trail staff agreed to coordinate with the Conservancy more closely when reviewing CEQA documents for potential grant projects.

**ACTION** Wiese moved, LaCLair seconded the motion to support the grant scoring criteria including environmental review coordination with the Coastal Conservancy. The item was unanimously approved.

### **Bay Trail Alignment in Novato**

-Gaffney Described the City of Novato's feasibility study to identify a preferred Bay Trail alignment between the Hamilton/Bel Marin Keys trail and the County border at the Petaluma River Bridge. The Committee was presented with a map depicting the alternatives and an overview of public input received at project workshops. The Committee provided the following comments:

- Concern that the full range of stakeholders did not provide feedback about the alignment options
- Workshop response seemed to be limited to a small sector of the community
- Alignment A is preferred, qualitatively, although community opposition is recognized as a fundamental issue
- Alignment D presents safety concerns along Olive and Atherton Avenues
- Alignment D presents policy concerns due to restriction of bicycles at Deer Island Open Space Preserve
- Alignment D does not provide through access for bicyclists or pedestrians
- Consider alternatives that provide shoreline access for the community located north of Highway 37 and preserve alignment along Highway 37 for future Caltrans road widening.

The Committee requested that staff bring this item back for further review after discussion with City staff and consultants.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 PM.