

From: Rick Weiss [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, January 20, 2024 8:37:46 PM
To: James Go <jgo@bayareametro.gov>
Subject: Richmond-San Rafael Bike Lane - opposed to renewal

External Email

Dear Mr. Go,

I am opposed to the continuation of the Richmond-San Raphael bridge upper deck bicycle lane taking up the needed third lane during 580 west commute hours.

I heard in the news of a meeting coming up to evaluate the continued approval/disapproval of the "experimental bike lane" but could find no mention of it on the MTC web page or who to contact in your organization. Please forward my objections and comments to the appropriate members and inform me of any meetings on this subject.

The use of the third lane exclusively for bicycles causes a major traffic jam Monday through Friday mornings holding up many thousands of commuters, truckers, and working people for 2 to 3 hours every morning, dangerously backing up traffic for 1 to 3 miles on West 580, and wasting hundreds of thousands of commercial dollars, fuel, plus terrible exhaust pollution from idling cars, in order to allow a couple of dozen or so cyclists a recreational excursion across the bridge. The bicycle lane in short is an environmental and funding disaster!

If the recreational cyclers need to cross the bridge during commute hours they should be charged \$20 to \$50 a crossing to fund a special recreational cyclers' lane suspended under or cantilevered off the bridge.

The third lane on the upper deck could otherwise be opened for motor vehicles during the 4 to 5 hour morning commute time in a similar manner as the lower deck third lane is now opened to commuter traffic in the other direction from 2 pm to 7 pm. If there are worries about traffic hitting cyclists on the upper deck, a movable barrier, similar to the Golden Gate bridge could be funded by the cyclers.

In the news program I heard, an MTC engineer complained that if the cycle lane were opened during commute hours, the slug of commute traffic would simply move from the Richmond end to the San Raphael end of the bridge, moving the traffic jam to the 2 miles north of the bridge.

In that case the solution is to simply widen the stretch between the bridge and 580 north and has nothing to do with the terrible waste of a lane on the bridge for recreational cyclists during commute hours.

I have been an architect and engineering project manager for over 50 years on \$multi-billions of hospital & heavy industrial projects and commuted on the Richmond/San Raphael bridge to work in Marin and Sonoma counties for over 22 years in the 1980's and 90's when there was a good flow of traffic. Nothing much has been done since then to help the flow of commute traffic north -- except electronic toll collection.

Prior to that, in the 1970's, I commuted to and worked by bicycle a mile a day on my job then as City Architect of Albany CA. I'm no stranger to cycling to work or for recreation. However, I find the use of the third lane on the bridge for bicycle recreation during commute hours an appalling, thoughtless, waste of resources, energy, funding allocation and and major cause of air pollution.

I appreciate your taking time out to consider my email letter and forwarding it to the responsible authorities.

Regards,

- Richard G. Weiss, AIA

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]