



CITY of BELVEDERE

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October 10, 2022

Tony Tavares, Director
California Department of Transportation (CalTrans)
P.O. Box 942873
Sacramento, CA 94273-001

Therese McMillan, Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Commission
Bay Area Metro Center
375 Beale Street, Suite 800
San Francisco, CA 94105-2066

SUBJECT: Highway 37 “interim (B)” solutions

Dear Director Taveres and Executive Director McMillan,

As members of the Belvedere City Council, we write to share our views about the “interim (B)” project for Highway 37, which constitutes a critical transportation corridor for residents, families, friends, visitors, city staff and workforce of our community in Southern Marin. It also transects a critical ecosystem that makes Marin and the entire San Francisco Bay region a healthy and vibrant place to live.

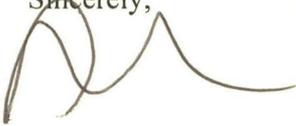
We support the ultimate vision of an elevated causeway that will permanently address regular traffic congestion and guard against episodic flooding, while protecting one of the largest tidal wetlands complexes on the West Coast. We understand that your agencies also support this final goal, wisely recognizing that the immediate traffic challenges also offer opportunities for addressing climate adaptation. As your agencies consider the possible solutions before you, we hope the process will avoid short-term mistakes that defeat the long-term solution around which years of stakeholder input has built a strong consensus.

Our main concern is that build-out of the interim plan should not (1) exhaust funds that could be better used to phase the ultimate solution, and should not (2) be structurally incompatible with the ultimate design. To these ends, we urge you to consider a truly “interim” (i.e., temporary) project that can be developed and built efficiently, more cheaply, and with less impact on the land than

one which just adds more fill to widen the current roadway. We urge you to consider the feasibility of accelerating the ultimate causeway in a phased approach to both funding and construction. Meanwhile, installing a movable barrier with occasional turnouts can bring traffic relief relatively soon.

We are deeply grateful for the hard work your agencies are doing to address this problem which involves competing issues of current traffic congestion as well as environmental impacts of climate change. It is clear that a solution to the Highway 37 problem is clearly needed; it is equally clear that doing it once is the only way to do it right.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Sally Wilkinson', written in a cursive style.

Sally Wilkinson, Mayor, City of Belvedere

Belvedere City Council