

Bay Area Toll Authority

Oversight Committee

January 8, 2025

Agenda Item 4b-24-1170

BATA Resolution No. 180. Addendum to the 2023 Mitigated Negative Declaration, Revised West Oakland Link (Link) Project Approval and Revised Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Subject:

A request to refer Resolution No. 180 to the Authority for approval to adopt an Addendum to the 2023 Mitigated Negative Declaration for the West Oakland Link Project and approve the related design changes and revised Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP).

Background:

The West Oakland Link Project would construct a new bicycle/pedestrian connection between West Oakland and the bike path leading to the East Span of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge in Oakland. The Link would connect pedestrians and cyclists in the West Oakland neighborhood to the regional San Francisco Bay Trail, the Bay Bridge East Span Path, the Port of Oakland, and the Justice John Sutter Regional Shoreline.

To meet requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Authority adopted the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), approved the Project, and adopted the MMRP for the West Oakland Link Project on January 25, 2023 via BATA Resolution No. 161.

Since then, the project design has been revised based on recommendations from a value engineering study and additional public input, and to simplify the right-of-way acquisition process. The design modifications will enhance access and safety as well as minimize impacts to existing utilities. Environmental review of the design changes did not identify any new significant or substantially more severe impacts of the revised project compared with those identified and evaluated in the previously adopted 2023 MND. As such, none of the circumstances that would trigger the need to prepare a subsequent MND have arisen, and staff recommend BATA adopt the Addendum and revised MMRP and revise the project to cover the following modifications (which are described in more detail in the Addendum and summarized as follows):

- Changes to improve safety and provide additional space for active transportation users were made to the intersection of Mandela Parkway and West Grand Avenue;
- Changes to the protected bike lane along West Grand Avenue, and changes on Campbell Street between Mandela Parkway and Wood Street to separate path users from vehicles;
- At-grade sidewalk, bike lane, and placemaking improvements in the Wood Street area;
- Additional loop ramp, stairs, and future elevator to connect from Wood Street to west of Frontage Road (avoiding at-grade crossing);
- Minor alignment changes to the proposed West Oakland Link aerial structure;

- Addition of Avoidance and Minimization Measure for a Railway Construction Disruption Control Plan to minimize disruption during future bridge construction over the railroad (as reflected in the revised MMRP);
- Additional bridge structure from Frontage Road to the east of Admiral Toney Way;
- Realignment of the proposed Maritime Street ramp and elimination of the west side ramp;
- Additional touchdown ramps along Burma Road at the western end of the Link; and
- Elimination of surface parking lot on Wood Street.

Issues:

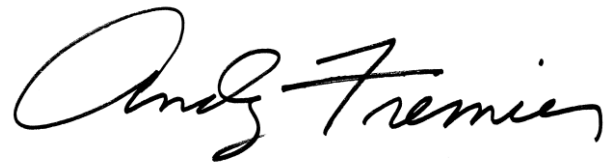
None identified.

Recommendations:

Staff recommends that the Committee refer Resolution No. 180 to the Authority for approval to adopt the Addendum to the 2023 Mitigated Negative Declaration for the West Oakland Link Project, approve the Project changes, and approve the revised MMRP.

Attachments:

- Attachment A: West Oakland Link Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum
- Attachment B: Revised Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the West Oakland Link
- BATA Resolution No. 180
- BATA Resolution No. 161



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