

# Richmond-San Rafael (RSR) Bridge Updates

BATA Oversight Committee Meeting

November 8, 2023



# Agenda



PHOTO COUTESEY CALTRANS

**What's the status of the RSR Access Improvement Pilot?**

**What are considerations for a 3rd lane on the bridge?**

**What are we doing now?**

# Pilot Designed for Two Purposes

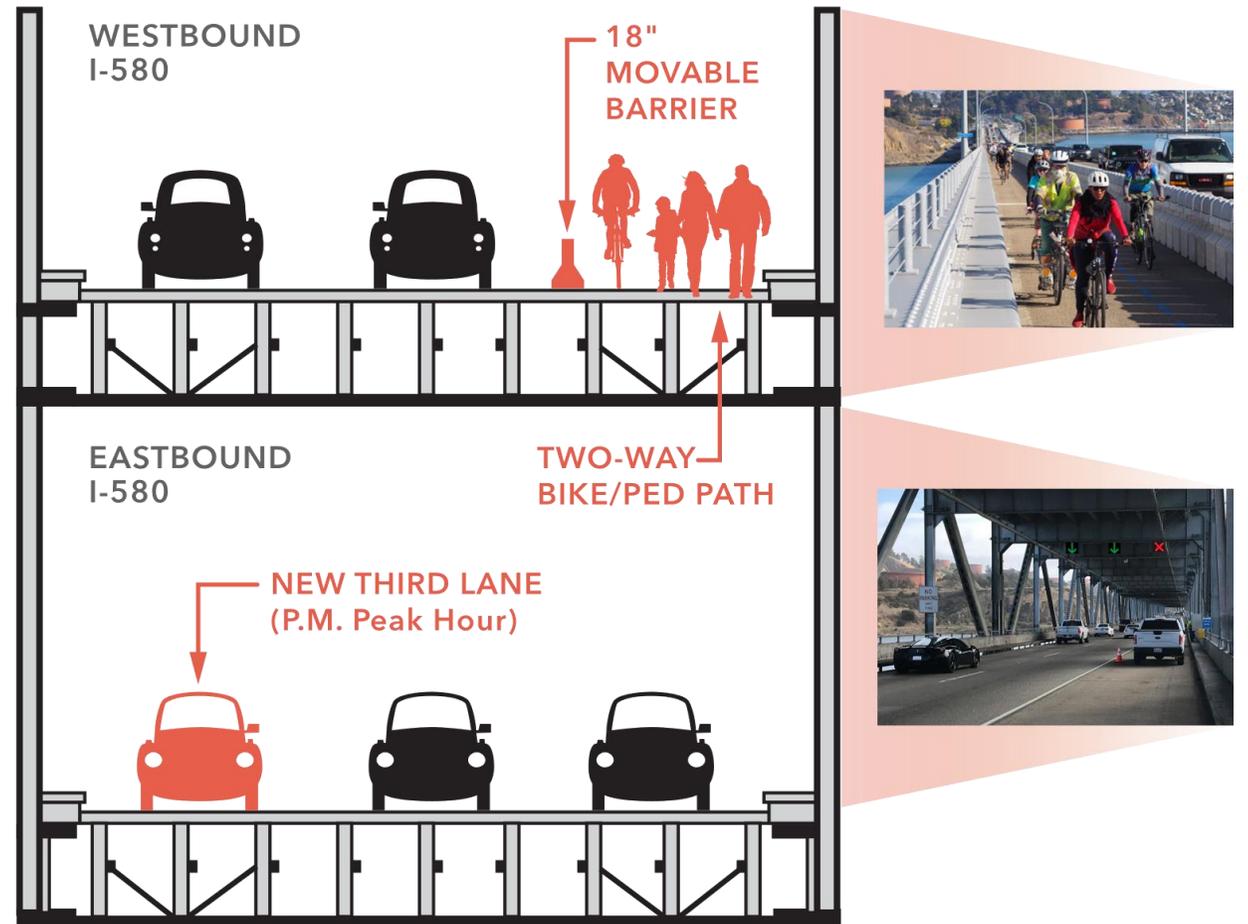
## Bicycle/Pedestrian Access:

- Bay Trail connection between East Bay and Marin
- Connections for Richmond and San Rafael

## Traffic Congestion and Delay:

- Eastbound Peak-Period Use Lane

Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Cross-Section (looking West)



# Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Usage

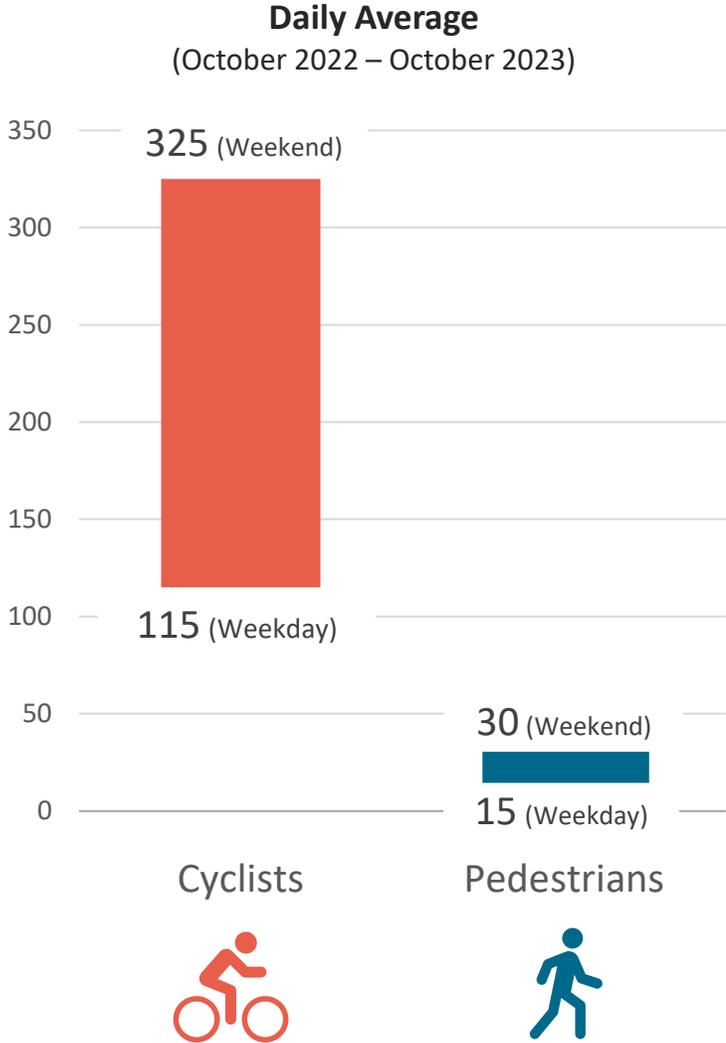


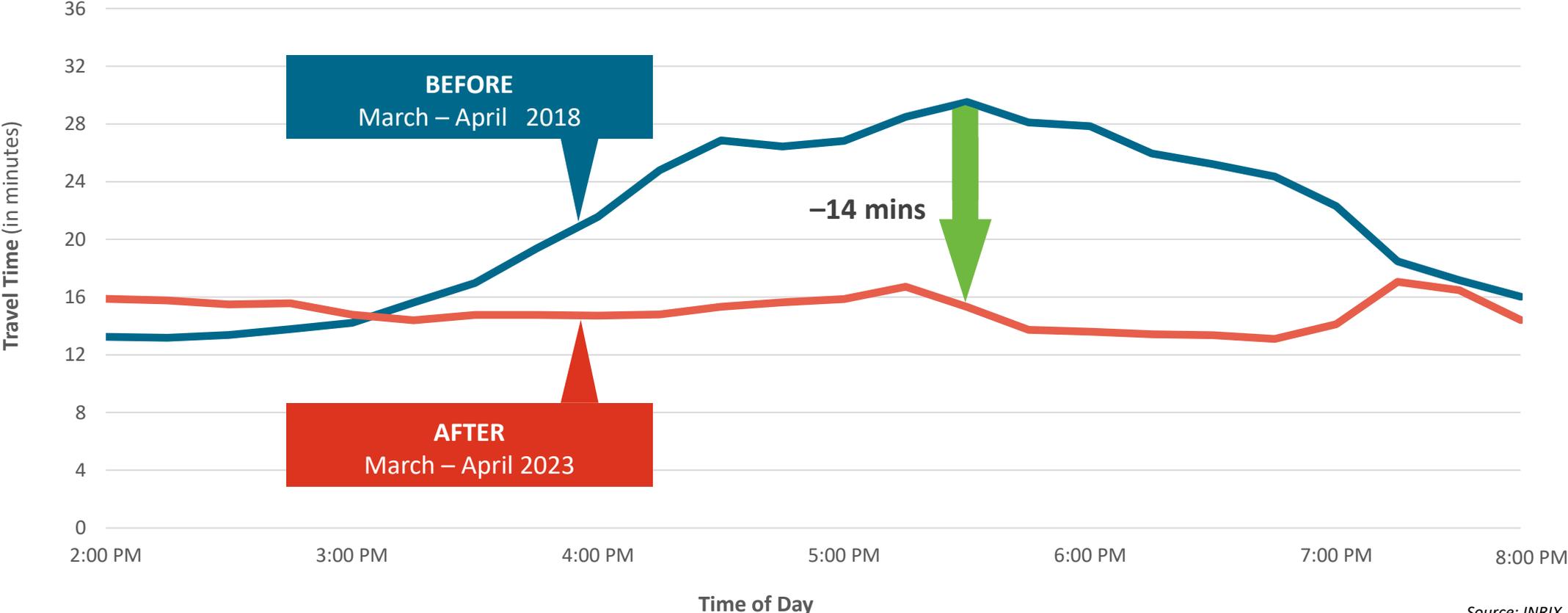
PHOTO: KARL NIELSEN

Source: MTC Eco-Counter



# Eastbound Home Run

Eliminated Congestion on I-580 Eastbound Travel with Time Savings of up to 14 minutes  
(peak period between I-80 and US 101)

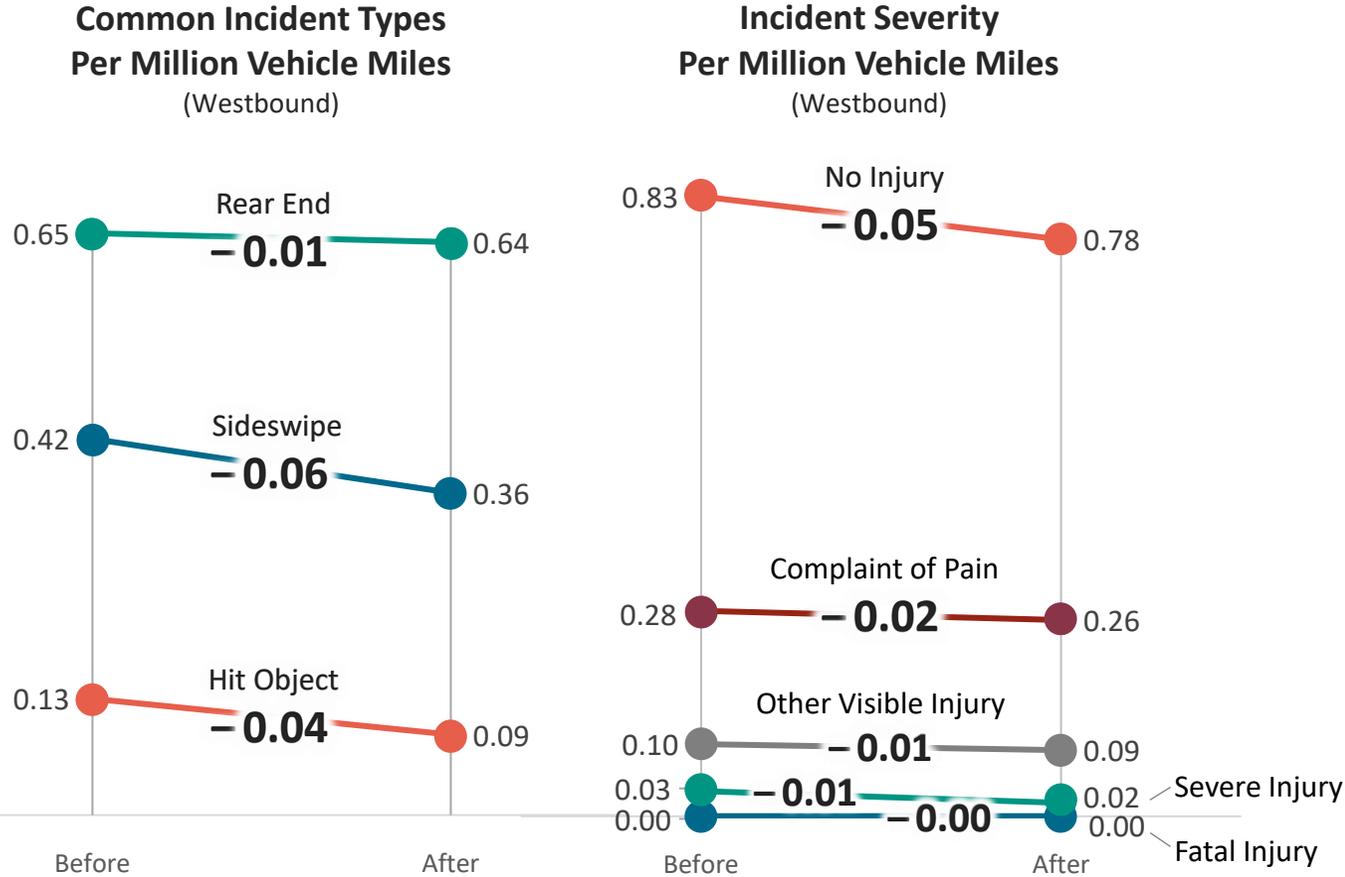


Source: INRIX



# Comparable Incident & Safety Response

## Incidents have not increased

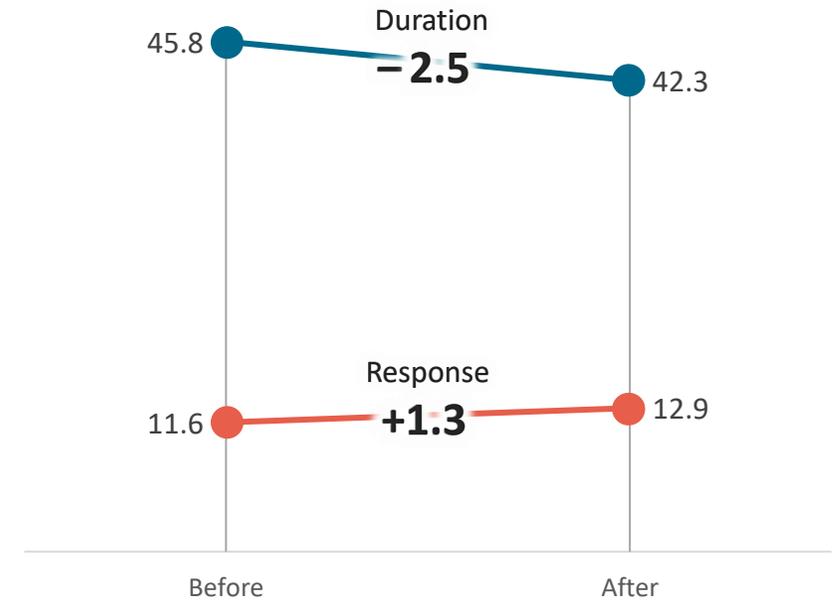


Graphs show average of quarterly incident types and severity per million vehicle miles traveled on bridge over 3 years before and after installation of pathway.

Source: TASAS

## Incident duration and response times have changed slightly

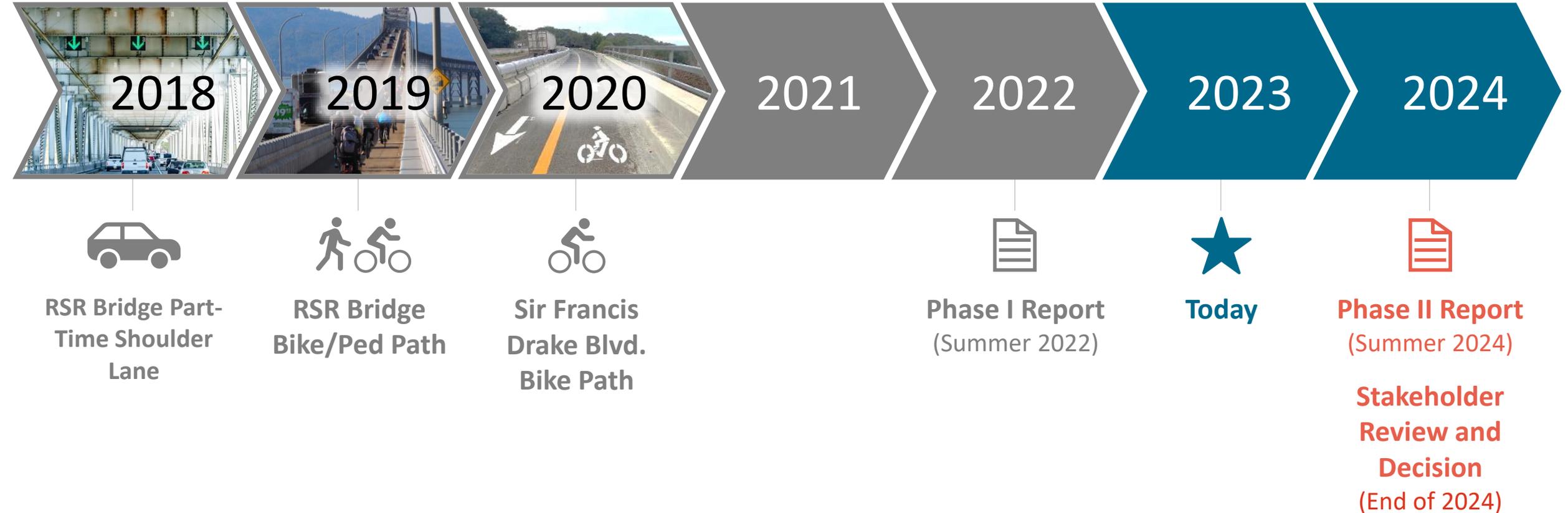
### Average Times for Incident Duration & Response Before & After Pathway Installed (3yr averages, in minutes)



Source: CHP CAD



# What's Next for the Pilot?



# What About Westbound Traffic?

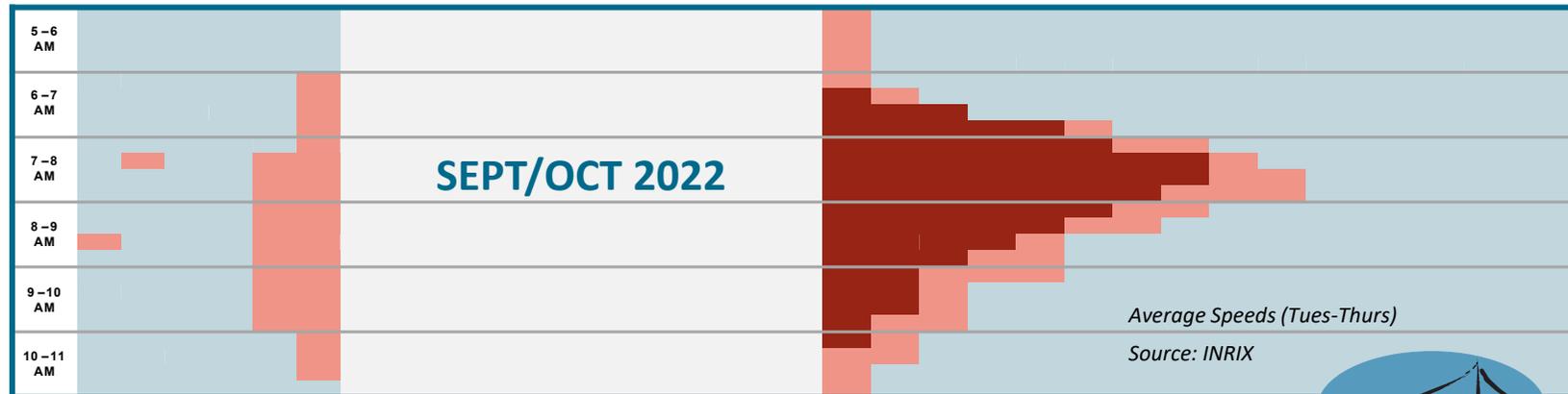
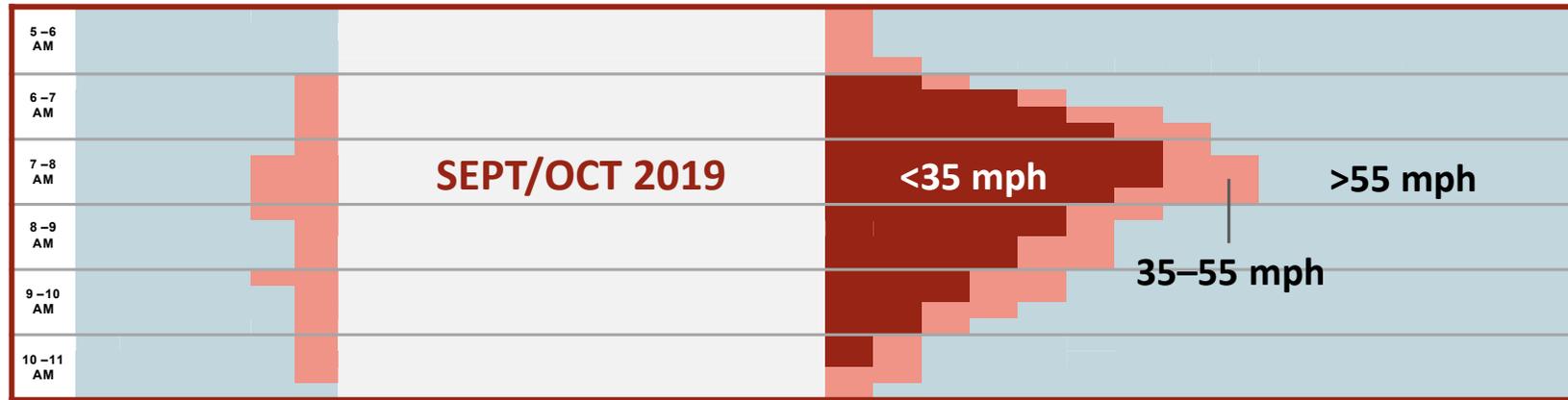
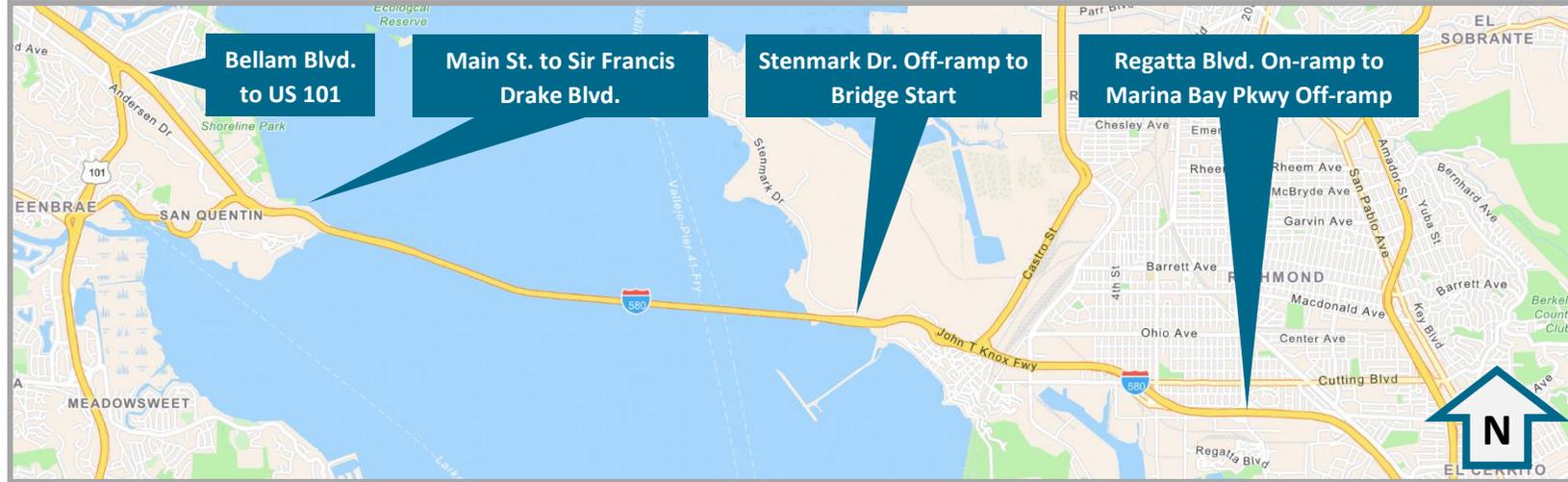


PHOTO: MTC STAFF FIELD VISIT

# No Increase in Westbound Congestion

- Duration of AM (Tues–Thurs) congestion is 30 mins shorter in Sept/Oct 2022.
- Max. Queue Length is 0.2 mi. longer in Sept/Oct 2022.

Note: traffic volumes are 90% of pre-pandemic levels



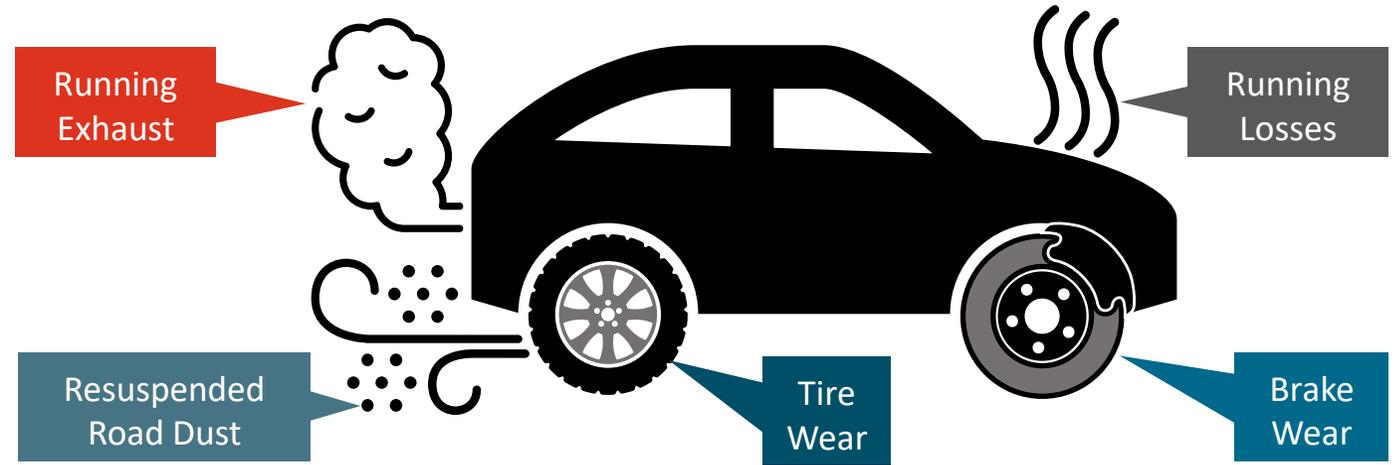
Average Speeds (Tues-Thurs)

Source: INRIX

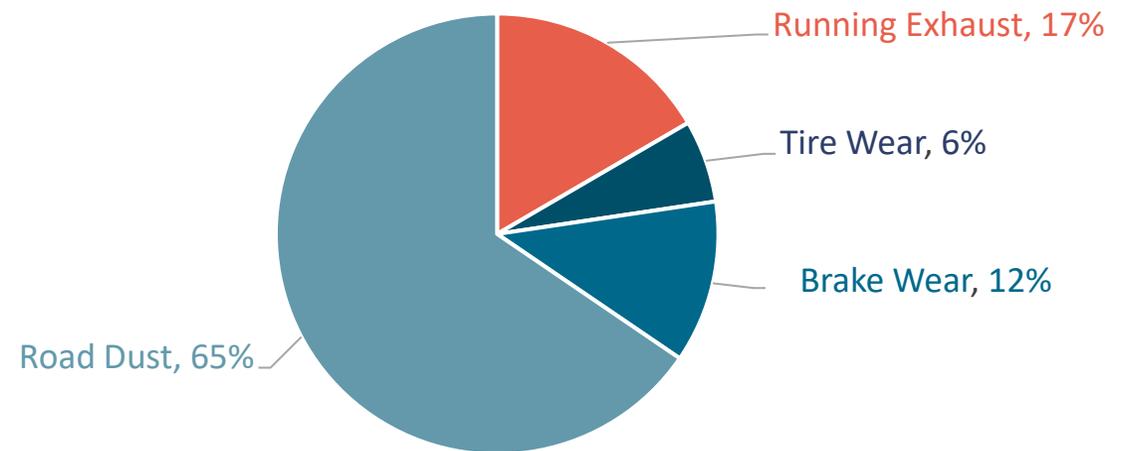


# 3rd Lane Won't Address Air Quality Health Concerns

- Contributors to City of Richmond air quality concerns include traffic on I-580, I-80 and local refineries
- Health impacts are largely affected by Vehicle Miles Traveled (**non-exhaust**) not traffic congestion (**exhaust**)

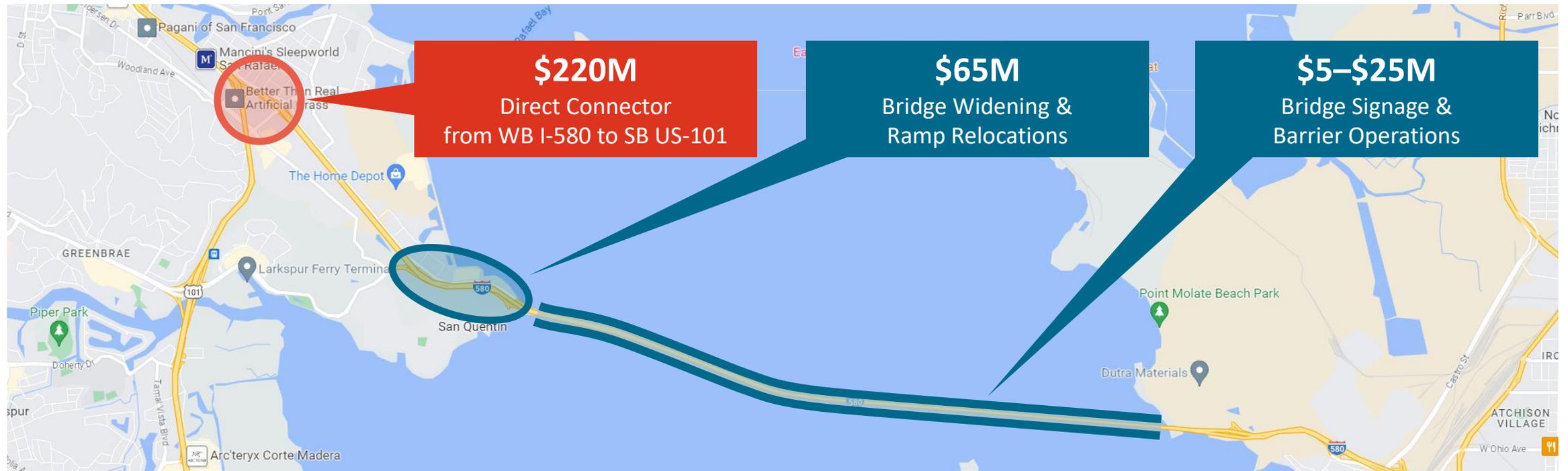


Path to Clean Air Richmond/San Pablo Community  
2019 PM2.5 Emissions from On-Road Mobile Sources



Source: BAAQMD AB 617 Community Assessment

# 3rd Lane Requires \$70M to \$310M Improvements



## Notes:

- **BLUE (\$70–90M)** = travel time benefits only to Northbound US-101.
- **BLUE + RED (\$290–310M)** = travel time benefits to both Northbound and Southbound US-101.
- Source from Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) 2020 Study.
- No funding identified for the projects.
- Costs do not include any potential bridge strengthening requirements.

# Additional 3rd Lane Considerations

- Some part-time path concepts may not be practical
- Vehicle Miles Traveled impact analysis and mitigation cost
- Project development cost and schedule



PHOTO: DAN BREKKE

# Richmond-San Rafael Forward Is Coming



**Open Road  
Tolling  
(Winter 2026)**

+

**HOV Lane  
Extension  
(Winter 2026)**



**Richmond Parkway  
Improvements  
(Spring 2026)**



**Transit  
Improvements  
(Ongoing)**

# Where Do We Stand?

## RSR Bridge Pilot:

- Keep pilot in place through Caltrans' Pilot After Study Final Report in Summer 2024 and decision to follow by end of 2024.
- Continue coordination with Caltrans to understand bridge strengthening needs, should the barrier become permanent.

## Westbound Traffic:

- Prioritize RSR Forward projects to improve freeway operations, including transit priority in the City of Richmond.
- Staff does not recommend BATA initiate a 3<sup>rd</sup> lane project.

## Air Quality:

- Continue MTC and Air District's initiatives on Air Quality in the City of Richmond.

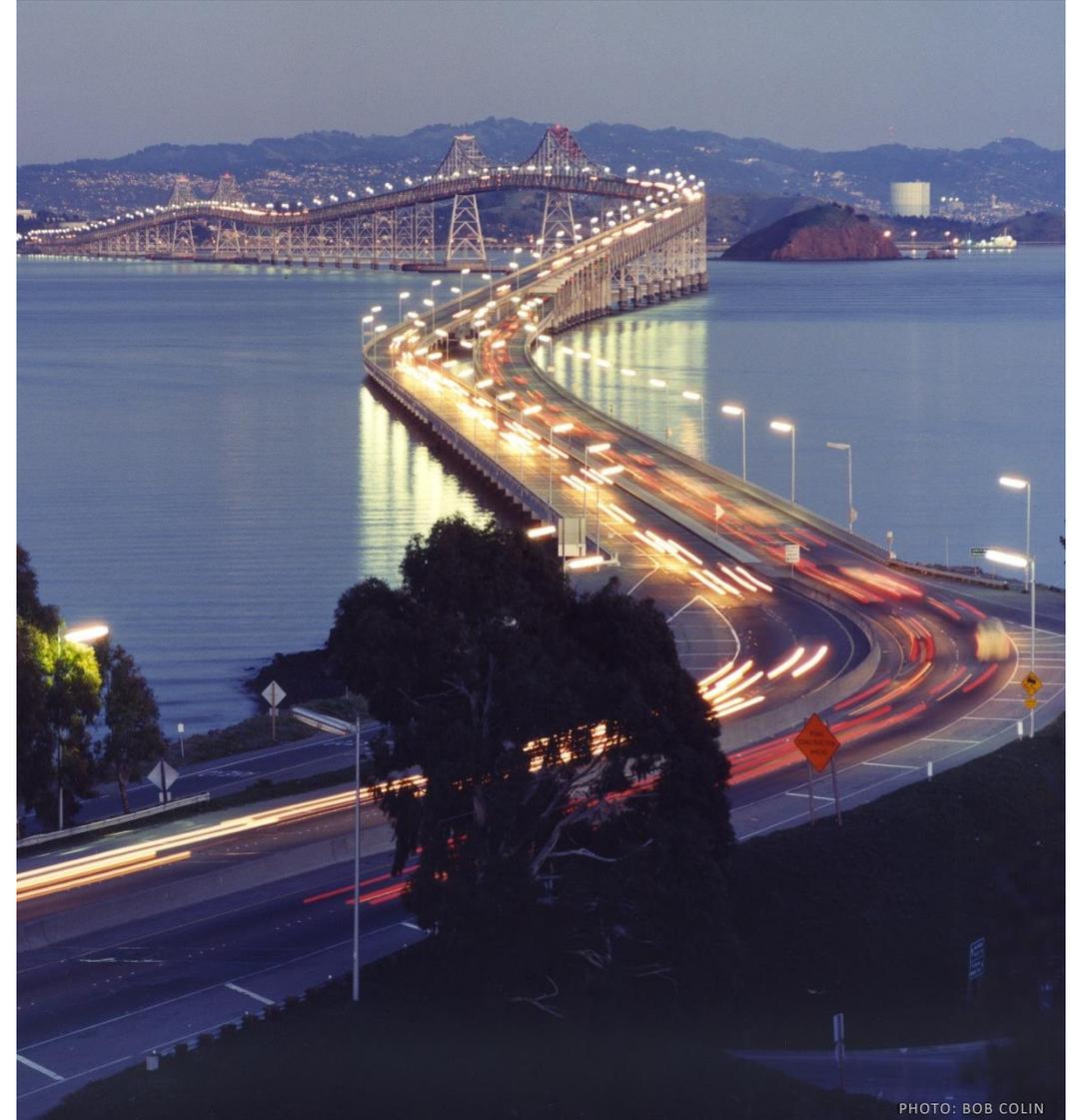


PHOTO: BOB COLIN

# Thank You

PHOTO: TOM PAIVA

BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY

