

**San Francisco Bay Trail
Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Bay Area Metro Center
November 19, 2020**

1. Call to Order / Confirm Quorum

Meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m.

Steering Committee

John Woodbury, *Chair*
Julie Bondurant
Brenda Buxton
Leo DuBose
Steve McAdam
Juan Raigoza

Bay Trail/MTC Staff

Lee Huo
Maureen Gaffney
Sarina Seaton
Ben Botkin
Alex Yeung
Jess Thomas -Tech
Andrew Fremier
Brad Paul

Guests

Erik Alm, Caltrans District 4 Planning

2. Adoption of Agenda and Approval of Minutes

ACTION: Adopted the agenda and approved the 11/19/20 minutes. Raigoza moved, Bondurant seconded.

Yes Votes:

John Woodbury
Steve McAdam
Brenda Buxton
Julie Bondurant
Juan Raigoza
Leo DuBose

No Votes: None

Abstentions : None

3. Announcements by Committee Members and Staff

- Gaffney Announced Laura Thompson's retirement from the Bay Trail and that she's settling into her life in Scotland. Working with Save the Bay, Smart Family Foundation donated \$160,000 to the Bay Trail Project for work towards a SFO feasibility study. Solano Transportation Authority, Vine Trail, and Bay Trail are working together to obtain an Urban Greening Grant to fund a section of Bay Trail in Vallejo, and the application has been selected to go to the next stage of evaluation for a site visit on December 8, 2020. Corte Madera Creek Overcrossing project being led by Transportation Authority of Marin will be moving to construction in Spring 2021. Gaffney stated that Bay Trail gaps have been closed along the San Rafael SMART Path near the downtown transit center and in Ravenswood. Regional Measure 3 has been appealed to State Supreme Court and will result in continued delays in the ability to utilize the funds.
- Huo Announced that Bay Trail Confidential, an online program promoting the Bay Trail that is being produced by San Francisco City Guides, has launched with its first program in October. The show was a success with 98 attendees with enthusiastic feedback from follow up surveys. The show will move forward has a monthly program. Stated that staff is continuing to partner with Save the Bay on Bay Day which was converted to a month-long event due to the pandemic encouraging people participate in the Bay Day Trail Challenge to promote people getting on the Bay Trail. There was significant corporate sponsorship of the event and 1,159 people officially signed up for the Bay Day Trail Challenge. Bay Trail staff is participating in the Bay Adapt planning process which looks to develop consensus around goals for regional effort to tackle sea level rise adaptation. Caltrans has initiated their Bike Superhighway planning process, and staff will participate on the technical advisory committee. The City of Hayward working with the Hayward Area Shoreline Planning Agency is finishing up the Hayward Shoreline Master Plan which looks at shoreline retreat options for existing facilities for different expected levels of sea level rise and inundation. East Bay Regional Park District has completed its Risk Assessment Adaptation Prioritization Plan which looks at the sea level impacts to the Bay Trail in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. The plan has identified Berkeley Marina, Alameda Point, and the Martin Luther King Regional Shoreline as areas for more in-depth study and planning efforts. Stated that Vijay Kesavan who works on the Priority Conservation Area Grants will be filling the role of the South Bay – Bay Trail Planner for the interim.
- Botkin Announced that interest in the Water Trail has increased during the pandemic with increased web traffic and map requests. The Berkeley Marina Redevelopment Project replaced an existing dock with an ADA-accessible dock with grant funds from the Water Trail. Petaluma River dredged opening up access. Crane Cove Park opened in the Dogpatch area of San Francisco including water trail access that will be considered for Water Trail designation at an upcoming meeting. Bay Point Restoration Project completed with an ADA accessible kayak launch. A new Water Trail Grant will be available soon using Proposition 68 funds focusing on Severely Disadvantaged Communities. MTC's Active Transportation Plan moving forward, and it will incorporate work on trails and greenways. Plan Bay Area will include a new strategy on modernizing and expanding trails, open space, and recreational facilities.

4. Block Grant 6 Discussion

Maureen Gaffney introduced the item, provided background on the purpose of new Prop 68 grants including the focus on Severely Disadvantaged Communities (SDAC), and requested the Committee to provide staff with advice and direction on the grant process and how to focus the grants funds. The Committee emphasized keeping the process simple and streamlined. The Committee and staff discussed known projects that might want funding and staff went through possible projects. The committee suggested making the funds less restrictive and be open where possible. The Committee had a preference for utilizing the SDAC focused funds for ready-to-go projects while attempting to use Non-SDAC-restricted funds for feasibility and planning studies since funding for these purposes are less common. The Committee recommended sending a simple and broad notification to all partners announcing the current grant program.

5. Bay Trail Staff Reorganization Discussion

MTC Deputy Executive Directors Brad Paul and Andrew Fremier introduced the item and provided background on the proposed move of Bay Trail staff to the MTC Operations Division. The Committee discussed the issue and requested that Bay Trail staff remain dedicated to Bay Trail work since their expertise is critical to the success of the Bay Trail. Andrew Fremier said that they want to focus on delivery and staff will transfer intact with the idea that Bay Trail staff will continue what they do with opportunities for mutual support between the staff who work on the Bay Trail and those on project delivery. The Committee emphasized that some sections of the Bay Trail are more recreational than transportation focused and that it's important that the work on the more recreational sections of the Bay Trail will be continued by MTC staff. Andrew Fremier stated that he will make sure to not lose sight of the recreation value of the Bay Trail and marry both concepts. There was a discussion that staff working on the Water Trail would reintegrate with the Trails Team. There was a discussion about the role of the Bay Trail Project Board moving forward and the relationship with MTC/BATA. There was mutual interest in developing a new MOU that outlines roles and commitments that would strengthen the relationship between the Bay Trail Project Board and MTC/BATA. There was also a discussion of the value of the Bay Trail Project non-profit in raising private funds for delivering Bay Trail projects through philanthropy work with foundations and other private donors.

6. Public Comment

There were no public comments.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 p.m.