

STATE ROUTE 37 CORRIDOR

San Francisco Bay Trail: From Marsh Drive in Novato to Walnut Avenue in Vallejo



**BAY AREA TRAILS
COLLABORATIVE**

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The State Route (SR) 37 Corridor currently spans four counties and 21 miles along the northern shore of the San Pablo Bay, including portions of the San Francisco Bay Trail. However, there are few safe bicycle or pedestrian facilities along the corridor. South of the SR 37 Corridor, between the Sears Point Bridge and Sonoma Creek Bridge, the Bay Trail contains 8.4 miles of completed dirt/gravel trail.

There are approximately 15 miles of trail gaps yet to be completed along the remainder of the SR 37 Corridor. Closing these gaps will increase walking and bicycling options for commuting and recreation in the region by establishing an important east–west connection between Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Contra Costa counties. The trail will also establish important connections between other regional trails, including the SMART Pathway, the Napa Valley Vine Trail and the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

Through the Resilient 37 Program, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission and Caltrans have integrated multimodal mobility, wetland conservation, sea-level rise adaptation, and social and economic equity into their vision for a future transportation corridor in the San Pablo Bay. The area needs a safe and inviting bicycle and pedestrian facility that provides opportunities to access surrounding marshland via boardwalks, overlooks, displays and water trail launches.

Caltrans completed a Planning and Environmental Linkages Study (PELS) for the SR 37 Corridor, which recommended splitting the corridor into eight distinct projects. The first to be completed would be located near the westernmost section of the corridor in Novato, from US 101 to Atherton Avenue. The PELS includes a minimum design standard for bicycle and pedestrian access along the entirety of the corridor, which would host a 12–14-foot protected multiuse path.

The SR 37 Corridor includes segments of the Bay Trail, which will be a continuous 500-mile bicycling and walking path around the entire San Francisco Bay. It will pass through 47 cities, all nine Bay Area counties and seven toll bridges. More than half the length of the shoreline Bay Trail has been developed, connecting neighborhoods, schools, parks and transit centers, and providing a unique alternative commuting corridor.

The SR 37 Corridor is one of 12 projects that the Bay Area Trails Collaborative has prioritized as critical to completing its 2,600-miles-plus regional trail network. The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails to Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model trail networks that demonstrate the powerful impact trails have on communities



Existing wetlands along SR37 | Courtesy Stephen Josh, SF Bay Restore

TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

Safe Routes to Jobs: Growing housing demand in the North Bay requires many area residents to travel long distances between home and work. This jobs/housing imbalance is one of the leading causes of congestion in the Bay Area and by far the most significant cause of congestion along Highway 37, increasing average travel time from 20 minutes off peak to as much as 100 minutes during prime commute hours. The Grand Bayway will help to alleviate traffic congestion while also providing safe routes to jobs in the North Bay and Solano County.¹

Serving a Diverse Community: The Grand Bayway will serve Marin, Sonoma, Solano and Contra Costa counties, which have a combined population of 2.4 million+ people. The proposed gap-closure project will connect trail and active transportation alignments through communities designated as both disadvantaged (SB 535) and low-income (AB 1550), including parts of Vallejo, American Canyon and Novato.

Increasing Local Access to Open Space: The Grand Bayway will provide access to almost 6,000 acres of parks and open space within a half-mile of these trail segments, including Cullinan Ranch, Dickson Ranch/Sears Point, River Park and Skaggs Island.

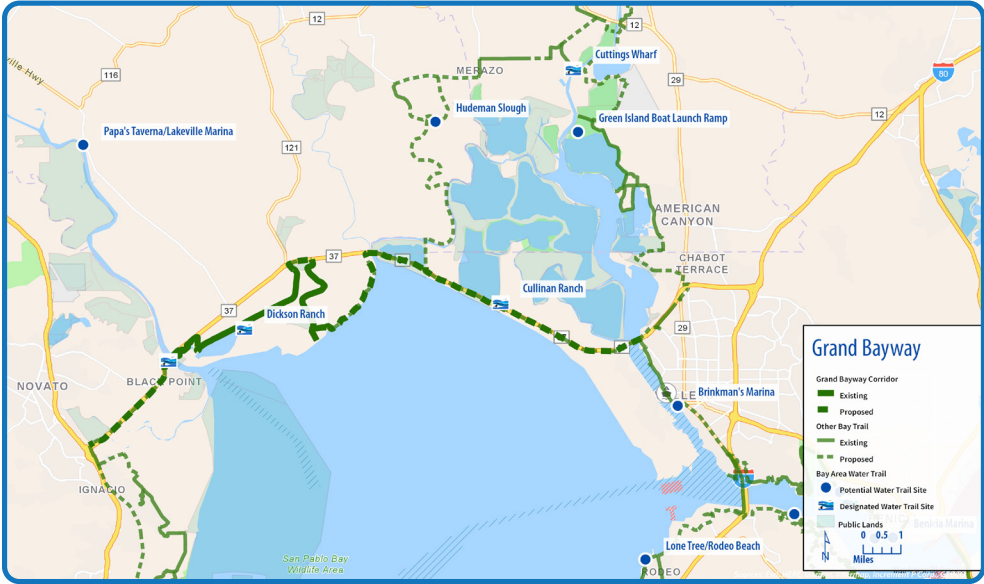
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PROJECT ACTION PLAN

- Significant funding (estimated in the billions of dollars) is needed to design and implement the SR 37 Corridor.
- The highest-priority trail segment is the connection between Sears Point/Eliot Trail and the Tubbs Toley trailhead, which would establish 8 continuous miles of high-quality Bay Trail from the Petaluma River at the Port Sonoma Marina to a unique stretch of shoreline at the southern end of Tubbs Island.

PROJECT DATA

- **Total Project Miles:** 21
- **Miles Completed to Date:** 8.4
- **Total Miles in This Segment:** 16.7
- **Funds Secured for This Segment:** Funding is anticipated to be secured from a variety of regional, state, federal and philanthropic sources in addition to the Resilient State Route 37 Project.



PROJECT CONTACT

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