



FAIRFAX TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

STAFF REPORT

MEETING DATE February 7, 2024
PREPARED FOR Mayor and Town Council
PREPARED BY Heather Abrams, Town Manager
SUBJECT Adopt a Resolution Authorizing the Town Manager to Collaborate with Marin County on the Submittal of the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) Grant Application for the Bolinas Road Project

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Council approve the attached resolution for RAISE grant application with Marin County for Bolinas Road.

BACKGROUND

On January 10, 2024, Council approved the proposed Bolinas Road Project Charter between Marin County and the Town. The Marin County Board of Supervisors approved the same [Project Charter on January 23, 2024](#). On February 6, 2024, the Marin County Board of Supervisors will consider a [resolution to approve an application for a RAISE grant](#) on behalf of the County and the Town for Bolinas Road.

Large Federal grants, such as RAISE, require an intensive effort to apply for and to administer. Working with Marin County Public Works is beneficial to the Town by providing efficiencies in working together and providing the Town with access to staff and consultants ready to take advantage of large grants when they are available.

DISCUSSION

Approving the attached resolution demonstrates understanding and support for the grant application and the project, which will be beneficial to grant the application. Attached is the one-sheet summary of the project, upon which Marin County's grant writing consultants are writing the RAISE grant application.

If the grant application is successful, staff will return to the Council with a resolution to accept the grant award and commit to the match required (i.e. the attached resolution does not provide a final commitment from the Town to allocate the matching funds that may be required). The current RAISE grant application is for a total project budget of approximately \$25 million. Approximately 40% of the project area is within the incorporated Town limits. If a \$10 million project was awarded for the project portion within Town limits, the anticipated Fairfax match could be approximately \$2 million total.

The project would last approximately five years, with total costs spread across the project timeline. For rough budgeting purposes the Town could be ready to allocate \$400,000 annually for the match, if this grant application is successful. The first year would likely be taken up by project investigation, design, and bidding. Thus, the match in the first year would likely be significantly less than \$400,000 in the first year.

FISCAL IMPACT

No allocation is being requested at this time. Potential fiscal impacts if the grant is awarded and then accepted by the Town are listed above.

ATTACHMENT

- A. Resolution
- B. One-Page Bolinas Road Project Summary

RESOLUTION 24-__

**A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF FAIRFAX
IN SUPPORT OF THE REBUILDING AMERICAN INFRASTRUCTURE WITH
SUSTAINABILITY AND EQUITY (RAISE) GRANT APPLICATION FOR THE BOLINAS
ROAD RESILIENCY AND COMMUNITY CONNECTION PROJECT**

WHEREAS, the Bolinas Road serves as a vital artillery within the Town of Fairfax and within Marin County toward West Marin providing key evacuation and firefighting access, connections to state and federal parklands and residents; and access two Marin Water District dams water treatment facilities that supply the drinking water for over 190,000 county customers; and

WHEREAS, during the winter storms of 2022-23, nine separate slope failures occurred along Bolinas Road—two of which required emergency action to stabilize—and slope stabilization projects are being designed and implemented for the remaining seven locations; and

WHEREAS, it is recognized that reactive storm damage repairs to Bolinas Road are expensive, impactful on the community, and may interfere with essential water treatment and firefighting access as compared to planned design and construction work; and

WHEREAS, the Bolinas Road Resiliency and Community Connection (Project) is a critical initiative by the Town of Fairfax and County of Marin aimed at enhancing and repairing this vital access road, improving transportation infrastructure and safety, and promoting sustainable travel in the County of Marin and the Town of Fairfax; and

WHEREAS, it is expected that planning, designing, and constructing a large scale project that evaluates and addresses many areas of concern along Bolinas Road will be more cost efficient and less impactful to roadway users than implementing individual emergency construction projects as slope failures occur in the future; and

WHEREAS, the Town Council and the County of Marin have approved the current Bolinas Road Project Charter to provide a framework for both agencies working together to seek grant funding in support of the proposed Project; and

WHEREAS, the proposed Project is in alignment with the County's and the Town's emergency protocols, comprehensive plan and long-term transportation strategy, addressing key issues such as emergency and residential access, water resiliency, traffic congestion, vehicle and cyclist safety, and environmental sustainability; and

WHEREAS, the Bolinas Road Resiliency and Community Connection project has garnered widespread support from community members, community leaders, local businesses, emergency responders, and the Marin Water District for its potential to preserve road access, reduce the impact of potential fires and secure drinking water access for one third of county residents and businesses, improve the quality of life and support economic development in the region; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation’s Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grant provides an important opportunity to secure substantial federal funding necessary for the planning, development and construction of this critically needed regional Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED that the Town Council of Town of Fairfax resolves as follows:

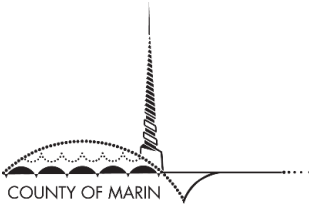
1. That the Town wishes to partner with the Marin County Department of Public Works to take all necessary steps, including the submission of the grant application, coordination with federal agencies, partnering with the County of Marin as stipulated in the Bolinas Road Cooperative Agreement, and engagement with community stakeholders, to advance the Bolinas Road Resiliency and Community Connection project.
2. That the Council hereby endorses the application for the RAISE grant to fund the Project, recognizing its importance to the county's potable water supply, transportation network, its residents and first responders.
3. That this resolution shall be transmitted to relevant federal and state agencies as evidence of the County’s strong support for the Project and its commitment to securing RAISE grant funding for the proposed Project.

The foregoing Resolution was duly passed and adopted at a regular meeting of the Town Council of the Town of Fairfax, held in said Town on the 7th day of February 2024, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES:
NOES:
ABSENT:

Barbara Coler, Mayor

ATTEST: _____
Christine Foster, Deputy Town Clerk



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Rosemarie R. Gaglione, P.E.
 PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR
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Road damage from 2021 storm, still in need of permanent repair.

Bolinas Road Resiliency and Community Connection

6.5-MILE CRITICAL STRETCH OF ROADWAY NEEDS \$35.9M FOR MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION AND STABILIZATION

Evacuation and firefighting route; Water District access

Bolinas Road serves as a vital artery in West Marin: a key evacuation and firefighting access route connecting state and federal parklands and residents; and the only road to access Marin Water District treatment facilities that supply one-third of the drinking water for 190,000 customers (one-third of Marin County).

The road spans 14.6 miles in total and connects federal Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes, and Mount Tamalpais State Park with the Town of Fairfax and emergency services.

2022/2023 Winter storms

For years, the road has been routinely impacted by mudslides during winter storms. However, two federally declared storm events in 2022-2023 (DR-4683, DR-4699) caused severe damage, including **nine major landslides** along the road.

The County of Marin and Town of Fairfax spent \$500,000 in immediate emergency mitigations, while \$3.5M of Federal Highway Administration funding was secured (along with \$450k of matching County funds) to permanently rebuild two slide locations. However, the roadway is still **in need of \$35.89M in additional work:**

1. Permanent repairs at the other seven slide locations;
2. Installation of 5,300LF of retaining wall;
3. A complete assessment of the full stretch of roadway to identify other vulnerabilities.



Slides have caused the road to close to one-lane in several locations, limiting emergency access.



The 9 slides from 2022-23 storms do not include known vulnerabilities at other road sections.

Urgency

Deterioration of the roadway during the 2022-2023 winter storms was so severe that geotechnical engineers estimate that another similar winter season could not only cause the road sections to fail completely and prohibit all access, but will also create new slides where the road has known vulnerabilities.

Repairs at the two slide locations (which already received \$3.5M in FHWA funding by the County) will be completed in 2024. The remaining \$35.89M project needs to be completed as soon as possible to avoid the potential of catastrophic damage and permanent road closures; **eliminating the critical access Bolinas Road provides for emergencies and the Water District.**

\$35.89M Funding needed

Project budget:

\$1.32M	Study/Geotechnical
\$2.19	Environmental, design, permits
\$0.48	Right of way, utilities
\$31.00	Construction
\$35.89M	TOTAL

Considering the public safety urgency of the project and the limited life left of the current road, the County of Marin and Town of Fairfax are seeking to begin the project immediately (**pending secured funding**).

Spring 2024: Preliminary engineering
Fall 2026: Design, ROW, utilities
Spring 2027: Construction