



April 15, 2024

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415.302.0110

San Rafael City Council
1400 Fifth Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901

RE: 101/580 Connector Project (Item 5a)

Honorable Mayor and Council Members,
Sustainable San Rafael has been part of TAM's Stakeholder Working Group studying the connector idea for several years.

We have questioned the cost of a new interchange--with elevated flyovers and a widened freeway to receive them--compared to investments of greater priority, such as protecting I-580 and east San Rafael from sea level rise. We wonder whether these costly improvements will remain viable in the higher waters that are inevitable here.

Sustainable San Rafael therefore supports the current proposal to separate out the Bellam Avenue pedestrian, bike, and traffic improvements as a stand-alone EIR alternative. We urge particular attention to creating a safe and welcoming pedestrian route through this concrete domain.

We have also questioned the early decision not to examine the alternative of improving the portion of Sir Francis Drake between the two freeways as a landscaped parkway. This would be a less expensive and more appropriately scaled and located improvement, recognizing that the traffic on this easterly portion of Drake consists largely of commuters between Southern Marin and the East Bay. The option would also be less disruptive of the vulnerable Canal community.

Sustainable San Rafael recommends including appropriate parkway improvements in the EIR as an additional alternative.

We appreciate the flexibility of TAM and the City to reconsider transportation priorities in response to changing conditions.

Sincerely,

William Carney,
Vice-President

CC: Anne Richman, TAM Executive Director