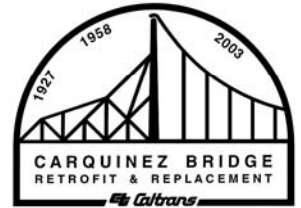




DISTRICT 4 FACT SHEET



CARQUINEZ BRIDGE BICYCLE & PEDESTRIAN PATH

A new way to cross the Carquinez Strait

Project Purpose: The bicycle and pedestrian path on the new Carquinez (Alfred Zampa Memorial) Bridge provides a safe, new transportation connection for non-motorized travel over the Carquinez Strait along westbound Interstate 80. The new bike/ped path links Solano and Contra Costa counties, and closes a gap in the San Francisco Bay Trail and Bay Area Ridge Trail path systems.

Background: There are currently three spans across the Carquinez Strait along I-80. The original Carquinez Bridge was constructed in 1927 and carried two-way traffic until a second span was constructed in 1958 to accommodate eastbound traffic. Structural analysis of the Bay Area's bridges in the 1980s and '90s showed that both the 1927 and 1958 Carquinez Bridge structures required seismic retrofit. The retrofit of the 1958 (eastbound) bridge was completed in December of 2001. Because of the projected cost of retrofitting the 1927 Carquinez Bridge, it was decided that replacing the span was the best option. The new replacement suspension span was opened to traffic in 2003, and named for the late Alfred Zampa, a local ironworker who worked on all of the major bridges in the Bay Area. Accommodation for bicyclists and pedestrians was planned early on in the design phase for the new bridge.

Description: The new bike and pedestrian path, located on the western side of the new Carquinez Bridge, offers breathtaking views of the Carquinez Strait and San Pablo Bay. The 12-foot-wide path extends from Maritime Academy Drive in Vallejo approximately 1.6 miles over the Carquinez Strait to San Pablo Avenue in the town of Crockett, and is compliant with Americans With Disabilities Act standards.

The design of the railing and traffic barrier system of the path complement architectural elements of the new suspension bridge. The path connects to a vista point on the Vallejo side that overlooks the bridge as well as the strait beneath, and features a retaining wall with a striking sailboat based relief. The trailhead on the Crockett side will provide benches, native plantings and interpretive signage for the path as well as for the trail systems the path links.

Access to the bicycle and pedestrian path is free, and is available to bicyclists, pedestrians and wheelchair users seven days a week from sunrise to sunset. For safety reasons, no animals, scooters, skateboarding, rollerblading or skating are allowed.

Schedule: The new Carquinez Bridge opened to traffic in November 2003. The bike and pedestrian path on the bridge opens Sunday, May 16, 2004.

Construction Cost: Approximately \$500 million (for the entire bridge), funded through Regional Measure 1 and administered by the Bay Area Toll Authority/Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

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