DATE: August 16, 2013

TO: Honorable Mayor Hillmer and Members of the City Council

FROM: Dan Schwarz, City Manager

SUBJECT: UPDATE ON TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY OF MARIN (TAM) GREENBRAE CORRIDOR WORKING GROUP

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider the attached resolutions.

SUMMARY AND BACKGROUND

The Council requested an agenda item for the purpose of discussing the activities of the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) Greenbrae Corridor Working Group. The next meeting of this group is on Monday, August 19, 2013. It is anticipated that the Larkspur members of the Working Group, Mayor Hillmer, Councilmember Marsh, and Vice-Mayor Morrison (alternate) will provide background by means of an oral report at the Council meeting. As further information, the Working Group’s materials are available on the TAM website http://www.tam.ca.gov.

Recently, some Councilmembers were approached by an organization called Marin Deserves Better, which has taken an active role and been granted standing by the Working Group. Marin Deserves Better requests that the Council adopt a resolution of a form similar to resolutions adopted by the Corte Madera Town Council and the Boards of the Tamalpais Union High School District and the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District (attached). Staff has prepared a draft resolution (attached) effectively the same as the one adopted by the Corte Madera Town Council.

In addition, the City received the attached letter from TAM Executive Director Dianne Steinhauser.

FISCAL IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

None

ANALYSIS

The draft resolution consistent with the one adopted by the Corte Madera Town Council contains very specific statements about specific improvements contained and not contained in the current Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvements Project. Staff has not been able to devote the necessary resources to analyze these statements – particularly with respect to their overall implications for the Project. If such analysis is a desire of the Council, staff requires direction to that effect.

There are many policy issues touched upon by the Corte Madera resolution that are consistent with the City’s policies promoting improved bicycle and pedestrian paths of travel. The Council may not be prepared to endorse some of the more specific statements promoted by Marin Deserves Better about certain project elements. Therefore, staff has prepared an alternate resolution that encourages TAM to study the feasibility of including additional bicycle and pedestrian improvements that are consistent with the adopted plans of those agencies whose jurisdiction includes all or a portion of the Project Area.

The resolutions are not mutually exclusive; the Council could pass both resolutions.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended for the Council to consider approving one or both of the attached resolutions.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dan Schwarz

Attachment
1. Resolutions adopted by other agencies.
2. Letter from TAM Executive Director
3. Draft Resolution Consistent with Marin Deserves Better Request
4. Draft Resolution with General Policy Statements
WHEREAS, Caltrans and the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) are considering a major freeway improvement project in the Greenbrae/101 corridor (Greenbrae/101 Project) that currently does not include the completion of the Larkspur/Corte Madera section of the North-South Greenway from the Sandra Marker Trail from Wornum Drive along the railroad right of way over the Corte Madera Creek connecting to the Cal Park Hill Tunnel on a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge;

WHEREAS, the existing bicycle/pedestrian path on Wornum Drive would be enhanced by additional safety improvements to the connection between the communities on the west and bay side of Highway 101, which is of particular concern for school age children;

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation for Regional Measure 2, which is one of the funding sources for the Greenbrae/101 Project, identifies the construction of a path from Wornum Drive to the Cal Park Hill Tunnel;

WHEREAS, safety enhanced multi-modal transportation improvements must be included in the project to encourage bicycle/pedestrian use and safety, to reduce traffic congestion and improve the quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, residents of Larkspur and Marin County will walk and bicycle more if the paths are safe and separate (from automobile crossings at grade), direct, flat, and esthetically pleasing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Larkspur resolves

1. The City Council supports including in the Greenbrae/101 Project in the completion of the Larkspur/Corte Madera section of the North-South Greenway from the Sandra Marker Trail at Wornum Drive and Tamal Vista to the Redwood Highway, and continuing along the railroad right-of-way from the Redwood Highway over Corte Madera Creek on a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge, following the Preferred Alternative in both the 2004 Larkspur and Bay Trail Study and the 2007 TAM Central Marin Ferry Connection Feasibility Memorandum.

2. The City Council supports including in the Greenbrae/101 Project underpasses on the North South Greenway at Tamal Vista, any new freeway off ramps, and the
Redwood Highway as the Greenway passes parallel with Wornum Drive under Highway 101 so that the North South Greenway would be fully safe and separate (no pedestrian or bicycle crossings of roadways at the same grade) from the Sandra Marker Trail to the Cal Park Hill Tunnel as shown in the drawing dated June 3, 2013 by Joe Breeze entitled Conceptual North-South Greenway Bike-Ped Underpass 2.1 Along Wornum Way.

* * * * * *

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the City Council of the City of Larkspur duly introduced and regularly adopted the foregoing resolution at a regular meeting held on the 21st day of August, 2013, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBER:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER:

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBER:

__________________________
MAYOR

ATTEST:

___________________________
CITY CLERK
WHEREAS, the Larkspur City Council is committed to the provision of safe bicycle and pedestrian routes within its jurisdiction;

WHEREAS, Caltrans and the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) are considering a major freeway improvement project in the Greenbrae/101 corridor (Greenbrae/101 Project) with project elements within the jurisdiction of Larkspur;

WHEREAS, it is anticipated that the final Greenbrae/101 Project scope will include improvements for bicycle and pedestrian routes;

WHEREAS, several local and regional agencies, including, but not limited to, the City of Larkspur, the Town of Corte Madera, the County of Marin, TAM, and the Association of Bay Area Governments, have adopted various plans that identify bicycle and pedestrian improvements within the Greenbrae/101 Project Area;

WHEREAS, it is a goal of the City of Larkspur to realize improved bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between the City’s existing networks on the north and south sides of Corte Madera Creek;

WHEREAS, it is a goal of the City of Larkspur to maintain and improve bicycle and pedestrian connectivity between the west and east sides of Highway 101;

WHEREAS, the City Council is aware that members of the Marin community have proposed that the Greenbrae/101 Project include bicycle and pedestrian improvements that are not currently identified as part of the Project; and

WHEREAS, the City Council is also aware that the planning processes to include these elements in the Greenbrae/101 Project may require more time and the coordination of more regulatory agencies than is feasible within the time constraints of the overall Greenbrae/101 Project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Larkspur encourages TAM to consider the feasibility of including addition bicycle and pedestrian improvements that are consistent with the adopted plans of those agencies whose jurisdiction includes all or a portion of the Project Area.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council believes that the final scope for the Greenbrae/101 Project should include as many elements as possible that improve and enhance safe travel between the CalPark Hill Tunnel and the Sandra Marker Trail.

* * * * * * *

IT IS HEREBY CERTIFIED that the City Council of the City of Larkspur duly introduced and regularly adopted the foregoing resolution at a regular meeting held on the 21st day of August, 2013, by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: COUNCILMEMBER:

NOES: COUNCILMEMBER:

ABSENT: COUNCILMEMBER:

ABSTAIN: COUNCILMEMBER:

__________________________
MAYOR

ATTEST:

___________________________
CITY CLERK
RESOLUTION NO. 11/2013

A RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL OF THE TOWN OF CORTE MADERA SUPPORTING THE INCLUSION OF VARIOUS IMPROVEMENTS AS PART OF CALTRANS’ HIGHWAY 101 GREENBRAE/TWIN CITIES CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT AS RECOMMENDED BY THE TOWN’S BICYCLE PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (BPAC)

WHEREAS, Caltrans and the Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) are considering a major freeway improvement project in the Greenbrae/101 corridor (Greenbrae/101 Project) that currently does not include the completion of the Larkspur/Corte Madera section of the North-South Greenway from the Sandra Marker Trail from Wornum Drive along the railroad right of way over the Corte Madera Creek connecting to the Cal Park Hill Tunnel on a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge;

WHEREAS, the existing bicycle/pedestrian path on Wornum Drive would be enhanced by additional safety improvements to the connection between the communities on the west and bay side of Highway 101, which is of particular concern for school age children;

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation for Regional Measure 2, which is one of the funding sources for the Greenbrae/101 Project, identifies the construction of a path from Wornum Drive to the Cal Park Hill Tunnel;

WHEREAS, safety enhanced multi-modal transportation improvements must be included in the project to encourage bicycle/pedestrian use and safety, to reduce traffic congestion and improve the quality of life; and,

WHEREAS, residents of Corte Madera and Marin County will walk and bicycle more if the paths are safe and separate (from automobile crossings at grade), direct, flat, and esthetically pleasing.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Town Council of the Town of Corte Madera supports including in the Greenbrae/101 Project in the completion of the Larkspur/Corte Madera section of the North-South Greenway from the Sandra Marker Trail at Wornum Drive and Tamal Vista to the Redwood Highway, and continuing along the railroad right-of-way from the Redwood Highway over Corte Madera Creek on a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge, following the Preferred Alternative in both the 2004 Larkspur and Bay Trail Study and the 2007 TAM Central Marin Ferry Connection Feasibility Memorandum.

2. The Town Council supports including in the Greenbrae/101 Project underpasses on the North South Greenway at Tamal Vista, any new freeway off ramps, and the Redwood Highway as the Greenway passes parallel with Wornum Drive under Highway 101 so that the North South Greenway would be fully safe and separate (no pedestrian or bicycle crossings of roadways at the same grade) from the Sandra Marker Trail to the Cal Park Hill Tunnel as shown in the drawing dated June 3, 2013 by Joe Breeze entitled Conceptual North-South Greenway Bike-Ped Underpass 2.1 Along Wornum Way.
I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing Resolution was duly and regularly adopted by the Town Council of the Town of Corte Madera of Marin County at a regular meeting thereof held on June 4, 2013, to wit:

AYES: Furst, Condon, Lappert, Ravasio

NOES: None

ABSENT: None

Diane Furst, Mayor

ATTEST:

Lisa Harper, Interim Town Clerk
RESOLUTION #13

RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES
OF THE TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT
SUPPORTING THE NORTH SOUTH GREENWAY AND UNDER-CROSSINGS AT WORNUM DRIVE

WHEREAS, it is the understanding of the Tamalpais Union High School District Board of Trustees (“Board”) that Caltrans and Transportation Authority of Marin are considering a major freeway improvement project in the Greenbrae/Twin Cities corridor that does not include the completion of the Larkspur/Corte Madera section of the North South Greenway from Wornum Drive along the railroad right of way over the Corte Madera Creek on a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge;

WHEREAS, the existing bike/pedestrian path on Wornum Drive offers a reasonably safe connection between the communities on the west and east sides of Highway 101. The Board understands that the proposed Caltrans and Transportation Authority of Marin improvement project would add an off-ramp and bus stop at Wornum Drive that would cross the existing bike/pedestrian path, creating increased conflict points with motor-vehicle traffic. The Caltrans and Transportation Authority of Marin improvement project would also add an on-ramp and second off-ramp at Wornum Drive that would bring considerably more motor-vehicle traffic onto the street. These proposed improvements would make the area significantly more dangerous for bicyclists and pedestrians.

WHEREAS, the Board believes that better multi-modal transportation improvements need to be included in the Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project so as to encourage bicycle/pedestrian use by students, parents, teachers, and the community as a whole, to reduce traffic congestion and improve the quality of life. The community will walk and bike more if the paths are safe and separate, direct, flat, and aesthetically pleasing.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board:

1) Supports including in the Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project, the completion of the Larkspur/Corte Madera section of the North South Greenway from Wornum Drive along the railroad right of way over Corte Madera Creek on a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge

2) Supports including in the Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project, Joe Breeze’s plan to improve the bike/pedestrian path at Wornum Drive with under-crossings at Tamal Vista Drive and at Redwood Highway to create a safe and separate connection.

PASSED AND ADOPTED at a regular meeting of the Governing Board of the Tamalpais Union High School District on this 22nd day of May, 2013 by the following vote, to wit:

AYES: 5
NOES: 0
ABSENT: 0

I, Laurie Kimbrel, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution adopted by the Board of Trustees of the TAMALPAIS UNION HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT at their meeting on May 22, 2013, which Resolution is on file in the office of said Board.

Laurie Kimbrel, Superintendent
Secretary, Board of Trustees
Tamalpais Union High School District

ATTEST:

Bob Walter
Clerk, Board of Trustees
Tamalpais Union High School District
LARKSPUR-CORTE MADERA SCHOOL DISTRICT
Larkspur, California

RESOLUTION 2012/13-22
SUPPORTING THE NORTH SOUTH GREENWAY AND UNDER-CROSSINGS AT WORNUM DRIVE

WHEREAS, it is the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District Board of Trustees’ ("Board") understanding that Caltrans and Transportation Authority of Marin are considering a major freeway improvement project in the Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor that does not include the completion of the Larkspur/Corte Madera section of the North South Greenway from Wornum Drive along the railroad right of way over the Corte Madera Creek on a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge;

WHEREAS, the existing bike/pedestrian path on Wornum Drive offers a reasonably safe connection between the communities on the west and east sides of Highway 101. The Board understands that the proposed Caltrans and Transportation Authority of Marin improvement project would add an off-ramp and bus stop at Wornum Drive that would cross the existing bike/pedestrian path, creating increased conflict points with motor-vehicle traffic. The Caltrans and Transportation Authority of Marin improvement project would also add an on-ramp and second off-ramp at Wornum Drive that would bring considerably more motor-vehicle traffic onto the street. These proposed improvements would make the area significantly more dangerous for bicyclists and pedestrians; and,

WHEREAS, the Board believes that better multi-modal transportation improvements need to be included in the Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project so as to encourage bicycle/pedestrian use by students, parents and teachers, and the community as a whole, to reduce traffic congestion and improve the quality of life. The community will walk and bike more if the paths are safe and separate, direct and flat, and aesthetically pleasing.

BE IT RESOLVED:

1. The Board supports including in the Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project the completion of the Larkspur/Corte Madera section of the North South Greenway from Wornum Drive along the railroad right of way over Corte Madera Creek on a new bicycle/pedestrian bridge.

2. The Board supports including in the Greenbrae/Twin Cities Corridor Improvement Project, the attached conceptual plan to improve the bike/pedestrian path at Wornum Drive with under-crossings at Tamal Vista Drive and at Redwood Highway to create a safe and separate connection.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the Board at its meeting on June 19, 2013, by the following vote:

AYES: 5

NOES: 0

ABSENT/NOT VOTING: 0

Sheri Mowbray, President, Board of Trustees

Susan Christman, Clerk, Board of Trustees

I, Valerie Pitts, Secretary to the Board of Trustees, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the Board of the Larkspur-Corte Madera School District at its meeting of June 19, 2013, which Resolution is on file in the office of this school district.

Valerie Pitts, Superintendent and Secretary to the Board of Trustees
August 15, 2013

Dan Schwartz  
City Manager  
City of Larkspur  
400 Magnolia Avenue  
Larkspur, CA 94939

David Bracken  
Town Manager  
Town of Corte Madera  
300 Tamalpais Drive  
Corte Madera, CA 94925

Dear Gentlemen:

It has been reported to TAM that your Councils will be considering or recently have considered passing a resolution of support regarding the installation of new bicycle and pedestrian facilities in the Tamal Vista/Wornum Drive/Redwood Highway area as part of the Greenbrae Corridor improvements. TAM wishes to bring to your attention the need for consideration of bicycle and pedestrian path maintenance and operations in your deliberations regarding new facilities in the Greenbrae area.

The TAM Board will likely not proceed with the development of any new facilities within local jurisdictions unless there is a clear plan for future maintenance and operations of those facilities. While TAM has been able to assign a modest amount of available county-wide funds for maintenance of new facilities, those funds are fully committed and not available for any other new facilities. Recent experience indicates reluctance by local agencies in agreeing to accept any responsibility for maintenance and operations of newly constructed bicycle and pedestrian facilities. A plan for maintenance and operations will need to be in place prior to any further expenditures on a new facility.

TAM brings to your attention the distinct benefit to your residents of the new facilities being requested in the Greenbrae Corridor. Note that annual maintenance is a tiny fraction of the total investment of funds to build these type improvements in your community. We hope you will help us clear this obstacle to being able to proceed on developing these important facilities.

TAM encourages you to address this issue as part of any resolved recommendation supporting any new facilities within your jurisdiction.

Respectfully,

Dianne Steinhauser  
Executive Director  
Transportation Authority of Marin

Cc: Alice Fredericks, TAM Chair