



April 28, 2015

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Mr. David Schonbrunn, President
Transportation Solutions Defense and Education Fund
P.O. Box 151439
San Rafael, CA 94915

Dear Mr. Schonbrunn:

Thank you for your letter of March 13 outlining possible solutions directed towards opening a third lane on the Richmond San Rafael Bridge as soon as possible. Staff from TAM share your concern about the time necessary to open the third lane to traffic during the afternoon commute. The back-up extends to U.S. 101 covering the length of the approaches to the Bridge in both directions, a distance of 2 to 3 miles. Eastbound Interstate 580 becomes completely gridlocked shortly after 4:00 PM and lasting until nearly 8:00 PM.

TAM staff have discussed your ideas with Caltrans and MTC. Caltrans is especially concerned about the inadequate sight distance at the approach to the Richmond Parkway off-ramp on the Contra Costa side due to the close proximity of the existing retaining wall that would have to be addressed prior to allowing traffic to utilize the shoulder. Several other issues remain, the most important being the current painting contract. The contractor is allowed full time use of the shoulder for the next year and a half. Any change to that contract would involve a substantial and expensive change order. Also, initial investigations have shown that the shoulder on the Richmond side is not adequate for extended vehicle loading. Any use of this shoulder would require a complete rebuild of this section that would have to be coordinated with the requirements of the yet to be determined final design of the Project.

We believe that the best approach is to try and complete the current project as soon as practically possible. TAM has been working closely with MTC and Caltrans and together the original scheduled completion of construction has been shortened by 16 months. The team is exploring additional methods to accelerate delivery of the project including a risk based construction award process. The design team is committed to devoting maximum resources to completing the design; any time spent on an interim solution would delay the final product.

Please feel free to contact me or Dan Cherrier (415) 226-0829 with any additional thoughts on this important project. Thank you again for your involvement and interest.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Steinhauser".

Dianne Steinhauser
Executive Director

cc: Stephanie Moulton-Peters – TAM Chair
Lenka Culik-Caro – Caltrans Design
Hon. Marc Levine – California State Assembly
Chris Lillie – Metropolitan Transportation Commission