RESOLUTION #2010-6

A RESOLUTION OF THE ALBANY CITY COUNCIL URGING THAT THE BAY AREA TOLL AUTHORITY SEEK FUNDING FOR THE WEST SPAN BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN MAINTENANCE PATHWAY OF THE SAN FRANCISCO-OAKLAND BAY BRIDGE FROM PROPOSED TOLL INCREASES ON STATE-OWNED BAY AREA TOLL BRIDGES

WHEREAS, the Bay Area Toll Authority (BATA) is considering a toll increase on the seven state-owned Bay Area toll bridges; and

WHEREAS, the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge is a crucial transportation link that is a recognized part of the 500-mile San Francisco Bay Trail, initially sanctioned in 1987 when Senator Bill Lockyer’s SB 100 was signed into law; and

WHEREAS, and extensive public planning process for the East Span replacement structure resulted in the inclusion of a 15.5 foot wide pathway from West Oakland to Yerba Buena Island as part of the new bridge; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans is preparing to complete a pathway from Oakland and Emeryville to the Gateway Park planned for the East Span touchdown; and

WHEREAS, Caltrans has already completed the skyway portion of the East Span pathway for pedestrians, bicyclists, and Caltrans maintenance vehicles; and

WHEREAS, in May of 2001, Caltrans released a major $2 million feasibility study that found the addition of cantilever pathways on both sides of the West Span to complete non-motorized access across the Bay is feasible and would have multiple benefits to Bay Area travelers; and

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WHEREAS, in April 2009, BATA allocated $1.3 million to TY Lin
International for the preparation of a project study report for the West Span Bicycle-
Pedestrian Maintenance Pathway Project; and

WHEREAS, a shore to shore pathway on the Bay Bridge would complete the gap
in the San Francisco Bay Trail, offer bicyclists a direct commute option during hours
when BART restricts bicycle access, provide views of downtown San Francisco from the
upper deck, be an attraction that would draw significant additional tourist traffic to the
City, and enhance the Embarcadero Promenade; and

WHEREAS, the pathway would benefit motorists by providing an emergency
refuge in case of breakdown, emergency vehicle access, and allow Caltrans crews to use
the pathway for many maintenance activities, eliminating the need to close lanes on the
Bay Bridge, reducing congestion and number of collisions; and

WHEREAS, a pathway on the Bay Bridge would provide an alternate access
route in case of natural or manmade disasters that affect the Bay Bridge or the Transbay
tube; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 Caltrans awarded $98,000 to begin transportation planning
for a new San Francisco community on Treasure Island. The plan being developed
envisions a vibrant walkable/bikable San Francisco neighborhood of up to 6,000
residential units located only 3-miles away from downtown. These new residents will be
relatively isolated from San Francisco and the East Bay if a pathway is not provided; and

WHEREAS, the pathway has the potential to be used by millions of bicyclists
every year, traveling between Oakland and San Francisco—a shorter distance than
represented by the Marin to San Francisco downtown via the popular Golden Gate Bridge
pathway; and,
WHEREAS, the most cost-effective means to increase capacity and reduce greenhouse gas emissions on this heavily congested corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Governor of California in 1998 signed AB 2038 (Migden) to allow for a bicycle/pedestrian path to be built on the western span of the Bay Bridge using the locally generated toll-bridge surcharge money; and

WHEREAS, BATA's congestion pricing toll option would offer non-peak tolls to motorists at a lower level than on the other six toll bridges, thereby adding to traffic congestion.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Albany urges BATA to seek funding for the West Span Bicycle-Pedestrian Maintenance Pathway of the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Bridge from proposed toll increases on state-owned bay area toll bridges.

Joanne Wile, Mayor
RESOLUTION NO. 2010-6

PASSED AND APPROVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ALBANY, this 16th day of February, 2010, by the following votes:

AYES: Council Members Atkinson, Javandel, Lieber, Thomsen & Mayor Wile

NOES: None

ABSENT: None


[Signature]

JACQUELINE L. BUCHOLZ, CMC
CITY CLERK

The City of Albany is dedicated to maintaining its small town ambience, responding to the needs of the community, and providing a safe, healthy environment now and in the future.