



Date: September 25, 2013

To: Regional Planning Committee

From: Laura Thompson  
Bay Trail Project Manager

Subject: **Gateway Park**

## Summary

The Bay Area Toll Authority will present an overview of Gateway Park to the Regional Planning Committee. The creation of this new park is proposed at the east touchdown of the San Francisco Oakland Bay Bridge (Bay Bridge) in Oakland. A new park at this location provides a gateway to both the new East Span of the Bay Bridge and the City of Oakland. The linear park includes 170 acres from the waterfront near the touchdown of the new East Span of the Bay Bridge to Mandela Parkway in West Oakland. Its working title is Gateway Park. The park will provide safe access to the new bicycle/pedestrian path on the new East Span of the Bay Bridge, which opened on September 3, 2013. It also will provide access to existing and planned segments of the San Francisco Bay Trail. The park will provide access to the shoreline and a unique waterfront amenity, and will include passive, active, and extreme sports recreation opportunities. It will include a venue for community events and art displays and showcase the natural, maritime, industrial and transportation history of the East Bay area.

The new park is proposed by the Gateway Park Working Group. The Gateway Park Working Group includes the following nine local, regional and state agencies:

- Bay Area Toll Authority
- California Department of Transportation
- San Francisco Bay Conservation and Development Commission
- California Transportation Commission
- East Bay Regional Park District
- City of Oakland
- Port of Oakland
- East Bay Municipal Utility District
- Association of Bay Area Governments Bay Trail Project

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At this time, it is envisioned the park will be a regional park operated by the East Bay Regional Park District or a Joint Powers Authority. Specific amenities within the park may be operated by either a philanthropic organization and/or private concessionaires. While the current planning process seeks approval for the entire project, it is anticipated that the park will be constructed in phases depending on the availability of funding and right-of-way. A name has not been determined for the new park, but names that have been considered include *Gateway Park* and *The Key*.

The San Francisco Bay Trail is a key component of the park and will serve as a primary transportation corridor to the area. Direct trail connections between the park, Oakland and Emeryville will provide safe access for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling to this new regional destination. The *Bay Trail Plan*, adopted by ABAG in 1989, identifies a 500-mile shoreline trail alignment that traverses seven toll bridges connecting parks along the waterfront. The park is consistent with *Bay Trail Plan* policies that encourage enhanced recreational use and transportation connections as well as the Bay Trail Strategic Plan.

**Recommendation**

This is an informational item.