Transportation Authority of Marin

US 101/I-580 Connector

Website Content

May 10, 2024

<https://www.tam.ca.gov/projects-programs/northbound-101-and-eastbound-580-direct-connector/>

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| **Existing Content** | **New Content** |
| **[H1] US 101/I-580 Multi-Modal and Local Access Improvement Project** | **[H1] US 101/I-580 Multi-Modal and Local Access Improvement Project** |
| [N/A] | **Public Workshop for Bellam Blvd**  Wednesday, May 29  5:30pm to 7:30pm Marin Health and Wellness Connection Center, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael, CA |
| **Overview** | **Overview** |
| The Transportation Authority of Marin (TAM) is planning a proposed project to construct a freeway-to-freeway direct connection from northbound US 101 to eastbound Interstate 580 in Marin County.  TAM expects to initiate the environmental review and continue community engagement in 2023, with the goal of deciding on a preferred alternative by the end of 2025. Design and construction would take approximately seven years after the environmental document is approved, pending availability of funds.  This project is a collaborative effort among TAM, the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), and the cities of San Rafael and Larkspur.  Currently, drivers who wish to access the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge (I-580) via northbound US 101 in Larkspur must exit the freeway and travel on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Larkspur or across Bellam Boulevard in San Rafael to I-580 and the bridge entrance. Highway drivers on local streets cause congestion and traffic delays on Sir Francis Drake Boulevard, Bellam Boulevard, and northbound US 101.  The proposed project would allow vehicles to continue along US 101 northbound onto a new, separated highway connector in San Rafael and merge directly onto I-580.  The connector will be two lanes, with the possible addition of a third lane for High-Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) bypass. Regardless of which alternative is chosen, additional benefits from this project include:   * Replacement of the eastbound Bellam Boulevard undercrossing. * Bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure improvements along Bellam Boulevard. * Addition of an eastbound auxiliary lane on I-580. | The US 101/I-580 Multimodal and Local Access Improvement Project aims to address congestion on local roadways and reduce travel times between northbound US 101 and eastbound I-580 to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.  Currently, drivers who wish to access the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge (I-580) from northbound US 101 in Larkspur must either exit the freeway and travel on East Sir Francis Drake Boulevard in Larkspur, or exit the freeway at Bellam Boulevard in San Rafael.  The objective of the proposed project is to improve traffic flow and reduce back-ups on northbound US 101 and Bellam Boulevard ramps by improving Bellam Boulevard and potentially separating regional pass-through traffic from local traffic on a new freeway-to-freeway connector. The proposed improvements would enhance traffic circulation and improve transit connections and connectivity for bicycles and pedestrians. The project will also include transit, bike and pedestrian improvements, landscaping and streetscape beautification on Bellam Boulevard.  TAM is currently conducting community engagement and environmental review, with the goal of deciding on a preferred alternative by 2027. Once a preferred alternative is chosen, design and construction will take approximately seven years, pending the availability of funds. |
| [H2] PROJECT OBJECTIVES  The objective of the proposed project is to build a new freeway-to-freeway connection between northbound US 101 and eastbound I-580 to improve connectivity and traffic flow for regional traffic and reduce local traffic congestion. By separating regional pass-through traffic from local traffic, the project will also enhance traffic circulation, bicycle, pedestrian, and transit connections. The project will include landscaping and streetscape beautification on Bellam Boulevard and will promote equity for all users and communities within the project area. | [propose removing; language from this section has been woven into Overview content above] |
| [H2] PROJECT ALTERNATIVES  On December 13, 2021, the TAM Board of Commissioners approved four possible project alternatives, plus a no-build alternative, to study further in the environmental review phase. Each proposed alternative would provide a direct freeway-to-freeway connector between northbound US 101 and eastbound I-580 to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge.  The alternative concepts under consideration include:   * Alternative 2, Simms Street * Alternative 3A * Alternative 3B Modified * Alternative 6, Andersen Mid-Way   [Study Area Graphic] | [H2] PROJECT ALTERNATIVES  Each proposed alternative will reduce travel times between northbound US 101 and eastbound I-580 to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge for regional traffic and improve travel times, local access and connectivity for residents, businesses, transit riders, bicyclists, and pedestrians.  The alternative concepts under consideration include:   * Alternative 2, Simms Street * Alternative 3A * Alternative 7 * No build   [Study Area Graphic] |
| [H2] PROJECT FUNDING  This project received voter support for funding in the local [Marin Transportation Sales Tax Measure AA](https://www.tam.ca.gov/funding/measure-a-renewal/), approved in November 2018. TAM also advocated for this project to be included in [Regional Measure 3](https://mtc.ca.gov/tags/regional-measure-3), which was approved in June 2018. It is anticipated additional funding will be needed to fully fund the construction of the project.  PROJECT TIMELINE  [Timeline Graphic] | [H2] PROJECT FUNDING  This project received voter support for funding in the local [Marin 1/2-Cent Transportation Sales Tax, Measure AA](https://www.tam.ca.gov/funding/measure-a-renewal/" \t "_blank), renewed in 2018. The project is also included in [Regional Measure 3](https://mtc.ca.gov/tags/regional-measure-3) (toll-bridge funds), which was approved by voters in June 2018. It is anticipated additional funding will be needed to fully fund the construction of the project.  [H2] PROJECT TIMELINE  [Timeline Graphic] |
| **Design Alternatives and Photos** | **Design Alternatives and Photos** |
| [H1] Existing Conditions  Image: Looking north above Cal Park Hill at US 101 shows the afternoon traffic backup in the right lane exit to Bellam Boulevard.  Image: Looking northeast to East San Rafael shows US 101 and the Cal Park Hill bike path in the foreground, I-580 in the middle distance, and San Pablo Bay in the far distance. Project alternatives would connect between US 101 and I-580 in this general vicinity. | [H1] Existing Conditions  Image: Looking north above Cal Park Hill at US 101 shows the afternoon traffic backup in the right lane exit to Bellam Boulevard.  Image: Looking northeast to East San Rafael shows US 101 and the Cal Park Hill bike path in the foreground, I-580 in the middle distance, and San Pablo Bay in the far distance. Project alternatives would connect between US 101 and I-580 in this general vicinity. |
| **[H2] Proposed Alternatives**  **[H3] Alternative 2**  [image]  **Est. cost $241M**  ([Visual simulation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/101-580-p22-Alt-2.png)) Drivers would exit US 101 northbound between the top of Cal Park Hill and the Bellam Boulevard off-ramp. The connector would be an elevated structure that crosses Andersen Drive and follows the alignment of Simms Street before merging with I-580 eastbound.  **[H3] Alternative 6**  [image]  **Est. cost $315M**  ([Visual simulation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/101-580-p34-Alt-6.png)) Drivers would exit US 101 northbound between the top of Cal Park Hill and the Bellam Boulevard off-ramp. The connector would be an elevated structure that crosses over Jacoby Street, Andersen Drive, and the Golden Gate Bridge Highway & Transportation District bus yard before merging with I-580 eastbound.  **[H3] Alternative 3A**  [image]  **Est. cost $315M**  **Est. cost $192M**  ([Visual simulation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/101-580-p25-Alt-3a.png)) Drivers would exit US 101 northbound near Bellam Boulevard and merge onto I-580 eastbound on a connector that crosses over the existing northbound US 101 / eastbound I-580 off-ramp.  **[H3] Alternative 3B Modified**  **Est. cost $200M**  ([Visual simulation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/101-580-p29-Alt-3b.png)) Drivers would exit US 101 northbound on a separate lane near Bellam Boulevard and merge onto I-580. The off-ramp from eastbound I-580 to Bellam Boulevard would be replaced with a new, separated off-ramp. | **[H2] Proposed Alternatives**  **[H3] Alternative 2**  [image]  **Est. cost $241M**  ([Visual simulation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/101-580-p22-Alt-2.png)) Drivers would exit US 101 northbound between the top of Cal Park Hill and the Bellam Boulevard off-ramp. A new bridge structure would cross Andersen Drive and follow the alignment of Simms Street before merging with I-580 eastbound.  **[H3] Alternative 3A**  [image]  **Est. cost $192M**  ([Visual simulation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/101-580-p25-Alt-3a.png)) Drivers would exit US 101 northbound near Bellam Boulevard, cross over the existing northbound US 101 / eastbound I-580 off-ramp, and merge onto I-580 eastbound.  **[H3] Alternative 7**  [image]  This alternative will study traffic, bicycle, and pedestrian improvements in the Bellam corridor with no direct connector. The improvements identified for the Bellam corridor would be included with a connector alternative if one of those alternatives is selected. |
| **Community Engagement** | **Community Engagement** |
| TAM is engaging community members and interested stakeholders throughout project planning. To date, TAM has conducted meetings and briefings with community organizations, convened a Stakeholder Working Group (see below), and held meetings with technical and management staff with cities, the County of Marin, and transit organizations. In 2023, TAM will initiate the environmental review of four proposed alternatives, during which there will be opportunities for community engagement and public comment on the scope of the environmental analysis, improvement concepts for Bellam Boulevard, and the draft environmental impact report.  Before the environmental review phase, TAM will be working closely with community organizations to implement an equity engagement approach to ensure all voices are heard in project planning. The activities will inform and involve underserved residents in the project area to build their capacity to participate and increase their involvement in community discussions.  [Sign up to receive project information and announcements](http://eepurl.com/g5OYpP).  **[H2] Community Working Group - Environmental Phase**  TAM reconstituted the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) that was initiated in 2020 as the Community Working Group to provide community input to the project team during the environmental phase.  The committee is comprised of volunteers representing diverse interests in the project area, including business, community organizations, and commuters. The CWG meetings are open to the public and public comments are taken at the meetings.  [**View CWG Member List**](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/SWGE-Membership-Roster-Apr-2024.pdf)  Details on upcoming meetings, agendas, access/log-in information (virtual) and meeting locations (in-person) will be posted on the [Calendar Page](https://www.tam.ca.gov/events/) at least 72 hours prior to each meeting.  **CWG Meeting 1** – Wednesday, May 1, 2024 – CWG introductions and recap/overview – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Marin-101-580-CWGE-1-agenda-5-1-24-FINAL-v2.pdf) and [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/FINAL-TAM-Powerpoint-CWG-1.pdf).  **[H2] Stakeholder Working Group – Planning Phase**  TAM established a Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) to provide community input to the project team. The SWG provided a forum to discuss initial project concepts and features and for the project team to understand community concerns early in the project development process.  The committee is comprised of volunteers representing diverse interests in the project area, including business, community organizations, and commuters. The SWG meetings are open to the public and public comments are taken at the appropriate times.  [**View SWG Member List**](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SWG-Membership-Roster-4-22-21-General.pdf)  Details on upcoming meetings, agendas, access/log-in information (virtual) and meeting locations (in-person) will be posted on the [Calendar Page](https://www.tam.ca.gov/events/) at least 72 hours prior to each meeting.  **SWG Meeting 7** – Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – An overview of project progress, timeline and upcoming outreach – View the [agenda,](https://www.tam.ca.gov/event/101-580-stakeholder-working-group/)[presentation,](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/TAM-Powerpoint-SWG7_Final-Web.pdf) and [notes.](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/TAM_101-580-Multi-Modal-SWG-7_10-11-23_Summary-1.docx.pdf)  **SWG Meeting 6** – Tuesday, May 18, 2021 – Input on project alternatives – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Marin-101-580-Connector-SWG-6-agenda-5-18-21-final.pdf) and [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SWG-6-05182021-final-for-posting.pdf). Review the [handbook](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SWG-Handbook-Final.pdf) for an overview and visuals of the proposed alternatives. View [meeting notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SWG-6-Meeting-Summary-5-18-21-final-v2-1.pdf) and [summary slides](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/TAM-Powerpoint-SWG-SummaryInput.pdf) for the recap of meeting input, discussion, and background on [funding](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Marin-101-580-Connector-Project-Funding-6-17-21.pdf) commitments.  **SWG Meeting 5** – Monday, April 26, 2021 – Prior concepts, new and modified alternatives, review of all alternatives – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SWG-5-agenda-4-22-21_FINAL.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FINAL-SWG5-4.26.21-For-Webposting.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SWG-5-Meeting-Summary-4-26-21-final.pdf).  **SWG Meeting 4** – Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – Equity considerations – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Final-SWG-4-agenda-1-20-21.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/TAM-PPT-SWG4-Equity-Discussion-2020-12-28.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SWG4-Meeting-Summary-1-20-21-final.pdf).  **SWG Meeting 3** – Tuesday, August 25, 2020 – Bellam Boulevard improvements and additional information about project alternatives – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/For-Posting-FINAL-SWG-3-agenda-8-18-20.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/101-580-SWG-3-Final-Presentation-forPOSTING-rev1.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Final-SWG3-Meeting-Summary.pdf).  **SWG Meeting 2** – Tuesday, July 21, 2020 – Project Alternatives and discussion – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SWG-2-Agenda-7-21-20-Final-1.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/TAM-101-580-SWG-MTG2-All-Slides-For-Web-Posting-2.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Marin-101-580-Meeting-Summary-SWG-2.pdf).  **SWG Meeting 1** – Monday, June 29, 2020 – SWG introductions and overview – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Final-Public-SWG-Agenda-6-29-20.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/StakeholderWorkingGroup-Marin101-580-final-6.29.2020-ForWeb.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Marin101-580-Meeting-Summary-SWG-1.pdf). | TAM is working closely with community organizations to involve underserved residents within the project area and with neighborhood and business associations to ensure all voices are heard during the planning process.  **[H2] Upcoming Events**  **Public Workshop for Bellam Blvd**  When: Wednesday, May 29 from 5:30pm to 7:30p) Where: Marin Health and Wellness Connection Center, 3240 Kerner Blvd, San Rafael, CA  **[SPANISH LANGUAGE] Public Workshop for Bellam Blvd**  When: TBD June 2024  [Sign up to receive project information and announcements](http://eepurl.com/g5OYpP) about upcoming outreach opportunities.  **[H2] Community Working Group - Environmental Phase**  TAM reconstituted the Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) that was initiated in 2020 as the Community Working Group to provide community input to the project team during the environmental phase.  The committee is comprised of volunteers representing diverse interests in the project area, including business, community organizations, neighborhood groups, environmental interests, and commuters.  [**View CWG Member List**](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/SWGE-Membership-Roster-Apr-2024.pdf)  Details on upcoming meetings, agendas, access/log-in information (virtual) and meeting locations (in-person) will be posted on the [Calendar Page](https://www.tam.ca.gov/events/) at least 72 hours prior to each meeting.  **CWG Meeting 1** – Wednesday, May 1, 2024 – CWG introductions and project recap/overview – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/Marin-101-580-CWGE-1-agenda-5-1-24-FINAL-v2.pdf) and [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/FINAL-TAM-Powerpoint-CWG-1.pdf).  **[H2] Stakeholder Working Group – Planning Phase (2020-2023)**  TAM established a Stakeholder Working Group (SWG) to provide community input to the project team. The SWG provided a forum to discuss initial project concepts and features and for the project team to understand community concerns early in the project development process.  Seven SWG meetings were held between June 2020 and October 2023 to close out the planning phase:  **SWG Meeting 7** – Wednesday, October 11, 2023 – An overview of project progress, timeline and upcoming outreach – View the [agenda,](https://www.tam.ca.gov/event/101-580-stakeholder-working-group/)[presentation,](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/TAM-Powerpoint-SWG7_Final-Web.pdf) and [notes.](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2024/01/TAM_101-580-Multi-Modal-SWG-7_10-11-23_Summary-1.docx.pdf)  **SWG Meeting 6** – Tuesday, May 18, 2021 – Input on project alternatives – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Marin-101-580-Connector-SWG-6-agenda-5-18-21-final.pdf) and [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SWG-6-05182021-final-for-posting.pdf). Review the [handbook](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SWG-Handbook-Final.pdf) for an overview and visuals of the proposed alternatives. View [meeting notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/SWG-6-Meeting-Summary-5-18-21-final-v2-1.pdf) and [summary slides](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/TAM-Powerpoint-SWG-SummaryInput.pdf) for the recap of meeting input, discussion, and background on [funding](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/Marin-101-580-Connector-Project-Funding-6-17-21.pdf) commitments.  **SWG Meeting 5** – Monday, April 26, 2021 – Prior concepts, new and modified alternatives, review of all alternatives – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/SWG-5-agenda-4-22-21_FINAL.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/04/FINAL-SWG5-4.26.21-For-Webposting.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SWG-5-Meeting-Summary-4-26-21-final.pdf).  **SWG Meeting 4** – Wednesday, January 20, 2021 – Equity considerations – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Final-SWG-4-agenda-1-20-21.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/TAM-PPT-SWG4-Equity-Discussion-2020-12-28.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/SWG4-Meeting-Summary-1-20-21-final.pdf).  **SWG Meeting 3** – Tuesday, August 25, 2020 – Bellam Boulevard improvements and additional information about project alternatives – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/For-Posting-FINAL-SWG-3-agenda-8-18-20.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/101-580-SWG-3-Final-Presentation-forPOSTING-rev1.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/Final-SWG3-Meeting-Summary.pdf).  **SWG Meeting 2** – Tuesday, July 21, 2020 – Project Alternatives and discussion – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/SWG-2-Agenda-7-21-20-Final-1.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/TAM-101-580-SWG-MTG2-All-Slides-For-Web-Posting-2.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Marin-101-580-Meeting-Summary-SWG-2.pdf).  **SWG Meeting 1** – Monday, June 29, 2020 – SWG introductions and overview – View the [agenda](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Final-Public-SWG-Agenda-6-29-20.pdf), [presentation](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/StakeholderWorkingGroup-Marin101-580-final-6.29.2020-ForWeb.pdf), and [notes](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/Marin101-580-Meeting-Summary-SWG-1.pdf). |
| **Documents and Reports** | **Documents and Reports** |
| * [US 101/I-580 Multi-Modal and Local Access Improvement Project Fact Sheet (September 2023)](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TAM_US101_i580_Factsheet_Rev17v2.pdf" \o "" \t "_blank) * [US 101/I-580 Multi-Modal and Local Access Improvement Project Overview and Alternatives Presentation (December 2021)](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Marin-101-580-Connector-Presentation-2021-12-13.pdf" \o "" \t "_blank) | * [US 101/I-580 Multi-Modal and Local Access Improvement Project Fact Sheet (May 2024)](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/TAM_US101_i580_Factsheet_Rev17v2.pdf" \o "" \t "_blank) * [March 28 Presentation to TAM Board of Commissioners](https://www.tam.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/Marin-101-580-Connector-Presentation-2021-12-13.pdf" \o "" \t "_blank) |