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## NEWS ALERT

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# SF Supports Access on Golden Gate, Bay Bridges

## Board Slams GG Bridge Bike/ Ped Toll, Supports Bay Bridge Pathway

San Francisco — The San Francisco Board of Supervisors today passed two significant resolutions that support the right of Bay Area residents to walk and bike across regional bridges, free of charge.

One resolution, introduced by Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, calls on the Golden Gate Bridge District to drop a proposed \$1 toll for cyclists and pedestrians crossing the Golden Gate Bridge. “This proposed toll on pedestrians and cyclists would raise an insignificant amount of funding, and is contrary to the Transit First policy of the City of San Francisco,” says Leah Shahum, Executive Director of the SF Bicycle Coalition and a Board member of the Golden Gate Bridge District. “The proposed toll would likely reduce the number of people biking across the bridge, increasing congestion, and increasing the wear and tear on the bridge.” The Golden Gate Bridge District is considering the bike/ pedestrian toll among many possible measures to close a major budget deficit. Such a toll would be the first major bridge in the United States to charge a toll on non-motorized travelers, some people say a dubious distinction for a City often associated with progressive environmental policies. “With the world’s mayors coming to San Francisco in June for United Nations World Environment Day, it is the wrong message to send that the Bay Area doesn’t recognize the benefits of sustainable modes- biking and walking- for transportation and recreation,” says Tom Radulovich, Executive Director of Transportation for a Livable City.

The other resolution, calling upon the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) and the California State Legislature to fund a West Span Pathway on the San Francisco- Oakland Bay Bridge, was introduced by Supervisor Ammiano and co-sponsored by Supervisors Dufty, Alioto-Pier, Daly, and Mirkarimi. “With the dark financial and political clouds that have gathered around the reconstruction of the East Span, a pathway between San Francisco and Oakland for Caltrans maintenance activities and bicycle/ pedestrian access will be a silver lining for the project and a benefit for the entire Bay Area that will reduce congestion, provide new commuting options, and save the region money over the long term,” says Josh Hart, Program Director of the SF Bicycle Coalition.

More info on a Bay Bridge Pathway: <http://www.sfbike.org/baybridge>

More info on the GG Bridge Bike/ Ped Toll: <http://www.sfbike.org/ggb>

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