Small Town, Big Aspirations:
Leveraging Interagency Collaborations to Address Complex Infrastructure Challenges

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Cal Cities’ City Leaders Summit
Thursday, April 18, 2024
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Agenda

- Welcome to the Town of Fairfax
  - Condition of Infrastructure
  - Recent Roadway Improvement Efforts
  - Challenges
- Case Study: Fairfax-Bolinas Road
  - History of Roadway
  - Department of Public Works Response for FY23-24
- Key Takeaways

Town of Fairfax, California
Town of Fairfax, CA

Quick facts:

- Approx. 7,500 residents
- Overall budget = $19.21 million
  - $13.79M for General Fund
  - $4.12M for Capital Improvements
- 53.7% of funds source from Property Taxes
- 52.7% of funds appropriated for Police and Fire services
Fairfax Road Conditions

Quick facts:

• 27.6 centerline miles and 3,067,321 sq ft of pavement in our system

• No stand-alone Public Works Director between 2008-2021

• Worst road conditions in Marin County (Pavement Condition Index Score of 53/100)

• The street network replacement cost is estimated to be approximately $48 million
Fairfax-Bolinas Road

Quick facts:
- Fairfax-Bolinas Road spans 14.6 miles in total. One of four East-West roadways in Marin County.
- Connects the Town of Fairfax and emergency services with federal Golden Gate National Recreation Area and Point Reyes National Seashore, and Mount Tamalpais State Park.
- The only road to access Marin Water District treatment facilities that supply one-third of the drinking water for over 190,000 people.
- Key evacuation and firefighting access route.

Town of Fairfax, California
Recent land movement events:

- **11/16/2016**: Marin Independent Journal – *Fairfax-Bolinas Road set to reopen*
- **12/8/2021**: Marin Independent Journal - *Fairfax-Bolinas Road gets emergency storm repairs*
- **8/9/2023**: Marin Independent Journal - *Fairfax road gets $2.39M repair after storm damage*
Step 1: Find the Facts

Fact Finding

• Identify the best available information (e.g., Pavement Management Technical Assistance Program (P-TAP) and assoc. Pavement Condition Index scores)

• Identify projects of regional significance

• Cultivate additional information about target projects (e.g., rough cost estimates, historic projects, pipeline projects, grant monies)

• Map out key stakeholders and potential project partners
Step 2: Build the Team

Bolinas-Fairfax Road

- Town of Fairfax
- County of Marin
- Marin Municipal Water District
- Marin Bicycle Coalition
- Congressman Jared Huffman (CA-2)
- Senate President Mike McGuire
- Marin County Fire
- Marin Office of Emergency Services
- Transportation Authority of Marin
- Marin Emergency Radio Authority
Step 3: Sell the Story (Pt. 1)

The Town of Fairfax, California

AP&P Executive Committee Feedback

The TAM AP&P Executive Committee reviewed the report on June 12, 2023, and provide the following comments:

- The report should enable coordinated grant application opportunities.
- The current alignments shown in the report alongside the gaps are important to consider as alternatives in cases where closing gaps may be costly or otherwise challenging. For example, the Horsetail Path shown as a current alignment was noted as a potential alternative to the Alto Tunnel given the relatively high cost to provide an improvement at the Alto Tunnel.
- A future effort might consider the ranking of the gaps.
- The Cross Marin Bikeway linkage to Fairfax-Bolinas Road is critical as a connection to open space.
- There is an opportunity to consider future branding and marketing of the corridors in order to improve the cohesion and clarity of the network.

Town of Fairfax, California
Step 3: Sell the Story (Pt. 2)

Develop your one-pager

- What is the project?
- Why is it important?
- Why is it urgent?
- What do you need?
- When do you need it by?

Bolinas Road Resiliency and Community Connection

6.5 MILE CRITICAL SPHTH OF ROADWAY NEEDS $50.29M FOR MAJOR RECONSTRUCTION AND STABILIZATION

Excavation and firefighting route: Water District access

Bolinas Road serves as a vital artery in West Marin, a key evacuation and firefighting access route connecting state and federal parks and reserves, and the only road to access Marin Water District treatment facilities that supply one fifth of the drinking water for over 500,000 people.

The road spans 14.6 miles in total and connects Federal Lands (California National Recreation Area and Point Reyes), and Mount Tamalpais State Park with the Town of Fairfax and emergency services.

Urgency

Determinations of the roadway during the 2022-2023 winter storms was so severe that geotechnical engineers estimate that another similar winter season could not only cause the road sections to fail completely and prevent all access, but will also create new slides where the road has known vulnerabilities.

Repairs at the 6 slide locations, which already received $7.9M in FHWA funding by the County will be completed in 2021. The remaining $30.29M project needs to be completed as soon as possible to avoid the potential of catastrophic damage and permanent road closures, eliminating the critical access Bolinas Road provides for emergency and the Water District.

$30.29M Funding needed

Project budget:

- $1.1M Study/Conceptual
- $1.38 Environmental, design, permits
- $7.42 Right-of-way, utilities
- $28.81 Construction
- $30.29M TOTAL

Considering the public safety urgency of the project and the limited life left of the current road, the County of Marin and Town of Fairfax are seeking to begin the project immediately (pending secured funding).

Summer 2023: Preliminary engineering
Fall 2023: Design, ROW, utilities
Spring 2024: Construction

Updated 2-15-2024
Response

- Negotiated a Project Charter with the County of Marin for which spells out goals and objectives, roles and responsibilities, and key performance indicators.

- On Wednesday February 28th, the County of Marin, in partnership with The Town of Fairfax, officially submitted our 36-page grant proposal to the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) for their Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) discretionary grant program.
Response

Bolinas–Fairfax Road is a vital artery for locals, recreation, & 1st responders—but the onslaught of storms caused massive damage we can’t ignore. Dems secured historic funding for infrastructure, and I’ll keep pushing to direct that $$ to this project.

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Key Takeaways

1. Find the Facts

2. Harness the Power of Partnership

3. Sell the Story
Questions?

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