DRISI
Caltrans Division of Research, Innovation and System Information

Research Notes

After Study for the Richmond – San Rafael Bridge

A research focuses on assessing the impacts of the improvements on traffic and bicycle use at the Richmond- San Rafael Bridge.

Design

NOVEMBER 2022

Project Title:
After Study for the Richmond – San Rafael Bridge

Task Number: 3141

Start Date: June 1, 2018

Completion Date: June 30, 2022

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WHAT IS THE NEED?

The Richmond San-Rafael Bridge improvement project is a four-year Pilot. Before and After Studies are needed to assess the impacts of the improvements on traffic and bicycle use. The project includes two distinct items: (a) the construction of an auxiliary lane in the eastbound direction to improve traffic flow; and (b) a bicycle/pedestrian barrier project on the upper deck to provide a Bay Trail link between Contra Costa and Marin counties and provide a bicycle/pedestrian connection between the two counties over the bridge. The After Study will assess whether the improvements accomplished the goals.

The After Study will be an apple to apple comparison of before study and after study, and will provide analysis on traffic, accident and quality of life impacts after these improvements.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

The after study is an apple to apple comparison of Richmond San Rafael Bridge before study. The researcher will evaluate following items at East Bound (lower deck) and West Bound (upper deck).

- Traffic congestion
- Incident Clearance Time
- Rate and Severity of Incidents
- Impact on Bicycles and Pedestrians
- Quality of life (impact business and public daily activities due to new improvements)

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WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

The researcher will provide an evaluation that measures the level of success compared to the before study for the Caltrans consideration. Based on the study results Caltrans will decide if adjustments are needed, and what can be implemented permanently. Besides, this research can provide a standard to applicable projects with similar parameters.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

Caltrans can evaluate the success of each individual improvement and analyze the resulted impacts. The research results can assist Caltrans to determine what changes can be left permanently, and what changes that need to be reevaluated.

WHAT IS THE PROGRESS TO DATE?

Task closed. Submitted close-out package was submitted to ORM on August 4, 2022.

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