



News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 22, 2013

Oakland Transportation Grants Win Big \$20 Million in Federal Funds Will Improve City Streets

Oakland, CA – The City of Oakland was recently awarded over \$20 million in federal transportation funds to improve streets throughout the City. These grant awards represent 37 percent of the \$54 million in One Bay Area Grant program funds awarded in Alameda County.

“Oakland is on the rise, with our economy and our population both projecting steady growth over the next few years. That means more people walking our beautiful city, more people biking to work and more cars on the road. These grants will help us improve our transportation infrastructure to accommodate those new residents and businesses,” Mayor Jean Quan said.

Under the One Bay Area Grant program, regional funding authorities are aligning transportation funds to projects that support projected infill development in areas formally designated for priority development. Oakland received funds for projects located in three priority development areas: Downtown, West Oakland and the Lake Merritt BART Station area. These areas are expected to support additional housing and job growth in the coming years, and will require infrastructure upgrades and transportation project development in order to accommodate that growth. The projects will improve bicycle and pedestrian access to transit, encourage infill development, and maintain roadway and transit-supportive infrastructure, such as pavement. The overall goals of the grant program are to maintain existing infrastructure while investing in projects that decrease air pollution in the region.

Oakland is receiving funding for five projects:

Lakeside Green Street Project (\$7 M): Continuing Oakland’s successful efforts to improve Lake Merritt, Oakland will reconstruct 20th Street, Harrison Street and Lakeside Drive at Snow Park to calm traffic, improve bicycle and pedestrian access to and around the lake and increase usable park space.

Peralta Street/Martin Luther King Jr. Streetscape Project (\$5.45 M): These two West Oakland neighborhood streets will receive new bike lanes, sidewalks, enhanced crosswalks, pedestrian bulb-outs and improved transit stops. On MLK, the number of traffic lanes will be reduced. This “road diet” is intended to calm traffic and make the street more hospitable for pedestrians and cyclists without impacting motor vehicle traffic flow. These streets are near both the West Oakland and MacArthur BART stations.

Media Contact:

Kristine Shaff
Public Information Officer
(510) 238-2966
kshaff@oaklandnet.com

7th Street West Oakland Transit Village Phase 2 (\$3.29 M): This will extend the first phase of the successful streetscape project in front of the West Oakland BART station that was completed last year. It will provide bicycle and pedestrian improvements along 7th Street towards the Post Office facility at Woods Street, improve access to the BART Station and complete an important Bay Trail connection.

Lake Merritt BART Bikeways (\$422,000): Bicycle connections to the Lake Merritt BART Station will be improved from all four directions by installing bikeways along Oak, Madison, 8th, 9th and 10th streets. In many cases, a reduction of a lane of traffic will provide room for a dedicated bike lane to this station, which has one of the highest rates of bicycle use of any station in the BART system.

Oakland Pavement Rehabilitation (\$3.83 M): Four miles of streets throughout Oakland will be rehabilitated in an ongoing effort to restore the condition of the City's pavement, which is among Oakland's most important budget challenges.

Federal funds will be available to spend starting in late 2013, and Oakland expects to be ready to bid projects for construction starting in early 2014. All work will be completed by 2017.

"My thanks to everyone involved in bringing these funds to Oakland," Quan said.

For more information, please contact Oakland Public Works Agency, Department of Engineering, Senior Transportation Planner, Bruce Williams at (510) 238-7229 or bwilliams@oaklandnet.com.

###