



NEWS FROM:

Community & Economic Development Agency

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Media Contact: Neil Gray
(510) 238-3878
ngray@oaklandnet.com

City Seeks Community Input on Future Development of the Lake Merritt BART Station Area

OAKLAND, Calif. (April 9, 2010) – The City of Oakland invites the public to the first community workshop on the Lake Merritt BART Station Area Plan slated for **Wednesday, April 14, 2010**. Running from **6:00 to 8:00 p.m.**, the workshop will be held in the Metropolitan Transportation Commission’s Auditorium at 101 Eighth Street in downtown Oakland. Community goals and keys issues of concern for the planning area will be discussed at this workshop.

Thanks to a grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the City of Oakland, BART and the Peralta Community College District are working cooperatively to prepare a Station Area Plan that will establish regulations for development projects and enhance the area’s vitality. A team of City staff members and consultants are engaging community members in discussions about the future of the area.

Circling a half-mile from the Lake Merritt BART Station, the planning area encompasses Chinatown, Laney College, the Lake Merritt Channel and numerous civic buildings. The area is home to a diverse population and business community and hosts significant worker and student populations. Chinatown has the unique role as a citywide center for the Asian community.

In developing the plan, topics as varied as land use, urban design, historic preservation, infrastructure, circulation, streetscape improvements and parks and public spaces will be reviewed. A comprehensive Environmental Impact Report will be prepared pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act. The Station Area Plan should generate interest, enthusiasm and consensus about new development in the area while establishing priorities for public improvement projects.

The plan’s key objectives, which will continue to be developed and refined through the two-year process, include spurring equitable, sustainable and healthy community development; encouraging non-automobile modes of transportation; increasing the housing supply, especially affordable housing; creating new jobs and improving access to jobs; providing services and retail options; and identifying recreational and open space opportunities.

The April 14th workshop is the first of many opportunities for community input. Input will be sought throughout the planning process which is expected to continue until the end of 2011. Project updates are available at www.business2oakland.com/lakemerrittsap or on the project hotline at (510) 238-7904. Interested parties may also sign up for e-mail updates at lake_merritt_plan@oaklandnet.com.

The workshop is wheelchair accessible. Mandarin and Cantonese interpreters will be on hand. To request materials in alternative formats, or to request an ASL interpreter or other language assistance, captioning or assistive learning device, call (510) 238-7904 or TTY: (510) 238-3254 at least three business days in advance. Please refrain from wearing scented products to the workshops so persons who may experience chemical sensitivities can attend.

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