12th Street Project

BACKGROUND:

In November 2002, the voters of Oakland passed a bond measure known as Measure DD—the Oakland Trust for Clean Water and Safe Parks. This $198 million bond will fund a variety of projects related to clean water and parks, including the 12th Street Reconstruction Project.

In 1877, a scenic boulevard was proposed to loop around Lake Merritt. Today, much of the Lake is surrounded by a high-speed expressway. One goal of the Lake Merritt Master Plan and Measure DD is to return to the concept of a slower, scenic boulevard that is more in keeping with the beautiful park setting.

To that end, reconstruction of 12th Street at the south end of the lake is one of the most important urban design projects to be proposed for the City of Oakland in many years.

SCOPE OF WORK:

The 12th Street Reconstruction Project involves reconfiguring the existing 12-lane expressway across the 12th Street dam into a six-lane, tree-lined boulevard. The project limits extend from Oak Street to the intersection of E. 18th Street and Lakeshore Avenue.

The redesign will:

- Move the new road away from the shoreline to create a new, four-acre park at the south end of Lake Merritt
- Remove unsafe and unsightly pedestrian tunnels
- Provide safer access for pedestrians and cyclists along the perimeter of Lake Merritt
- Create pedestrian connections to the Oakland Museum, the Henry J. Kaiser Convention Center and Laney College
- Reduce the width of the roadway, allowing construction of a shoreline park with an event plaza, arc pier, restroom, turf areas and multi-use paths.
- Replace existing culverts at the Lake Merritt Channel with clear-spanning vehicle and pedestrian bridges, allowing improved tidal circulation into the lake and enhanced water quality and wildlife habitat.
- Establish direct pedestrian, bicycle and boat access from Lake Merritt along the Lake Merritt Channel Park, allowing eventual easy access to the Bay Trail and waterfront.

(continued backside)

Artist's rendering offering an aerial perspective

Artist's rendering showing pedestrian bridge

Artist's rendering of lakefront overlook

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SCOPE OF WORK: *(continued)*

- Close the gap in the existing Necklace of Lights by introducing 11 new fixtures. In addition, multi-purpose pathways will be introduced to provide continuity around this area.

The result of these and other traffic changes around Lake Merritt will be to transform the streets from high-speed commute routes into calmer, scenic boulevards. Bicycle and pedestrian safety will be greatly improved, and the park itself will be significantly expanded.

FUNDING:

The project is funded by Measure DD, State Coastal Conservancy, and Federal Highway Funds. The estimated construction budget for the12th Street Reconstruction Project is $35 million.

CURRENT STATUS:

Construction is anticipated to extend from Spring 2010 to the end of 2012.

For updates visit www.oaklandnet.com/measuredd or call (510) 238-7279.

Aerial photo of existing conditions.

Proposed reconstruction plan for 12th Street.

CITY OF OAKLAND