



News from

Office of the Mayor



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## **MAYOR DELLUMS ANNOUNCES: CITY AWARDED \$1 MILLION TO IMPROVE WALKING & BIKING ROUTES TO SCHOOLS**

**Oakland** — Mayor Ron Dellums today announced that the second cycle of the Federal Safe Routes to School Program has awarded the City of Oakland a grant of \$920,300 to address pedestrian and bicycle safety along routes to several neighborhood schools. The project, *The Neighborhood Connection: Improving Oakland School Walking and Bicycling Routes*, will focus improvements at Bret Harte Middle School, Manzanita Elementary, Manzanita SEED, Peralta Elementary, La Escuela Internacional and the Pacific Boychoir schools.

“Providing our children with safe routes to school is vital to their educational success,” said Mayor Ron Dellums. “Wrapping our arms around our young people by addressing their needs simultaneously is a significant investment in the future of this city and the future of all urban areas throughout this country. Walking or riding a bike curbs obesity, invigorates the circulatory system and readies the mind for learning.”

Speeding traffic on nearby major arterials and collector streets poses safety issues and discourages walking and bicycling and this project responds to concerns expressed by parents, principals and students. The project includes ADA-compliant pedestrian bulb-outs and ramps, crosswalks, pushbuttons and countdown signals, and widens and closes gaps in sidewalks at identified locations. It improves bicycling safety by adding new bike lanes on Alcatraz Avenue from Dover Street to College Avenue. The project also realigns the traffic lanes on Hopkins Place to improve safety for vehicular traffic, as well as students walking or bicycling to school. Hopkins Place connects the MacArthur Boulevard bicycle lanes with the front of Bret Harte Middle School.

Mayor Dellums said: “We are particularly grateful for the Federal Safe Routes to School Program’s financial support, which will help us deliver our precious children to and from school safely while stimulating their health and well-being. This is a tremendous collaboration that addresses our vision for Oakland as a Model City and I look forward to working with the Federal Government to ensure that we continue to comprehensively support our children.”

The \$920,300 grant is the largest Safe Routes to School award that Oakland has received to date. Previously the city was successful in securing \$700,425 (the first Federal funding available) for seven elementary and junior high schools and several State grants. The most recent State grant of \$803,737 will construct coordinated pedestrian and transit improvements at Oakland Technical High School and the Castlemont Community of Schools.

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