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Office of the Mayor

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**MAYOR DELLUMS, CITY OF OAKLAND ANNOUNCE GRANT FOR
*SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PROGRAM***

CEDA & Public Works Agency to Install Pedestrian Safety Improvements

Oakland — April 1, 2008 – The City of Oakland has been awarded a *Safe Routes to School Program* grant from CalTrans for \$803,700. This award will allow the City of Oakland’s Community and Economic Development Agency and Public Works Agency to implement much needed pedestrian safety improvements near several Oakland schools.

Mayor Ron Dellums said: “Oakland’s young people are our most precious resource and any investment in them is an investment in our future. This grant allows us to continue our work of wrapping our arms around our children and improving their lives from every perspective. On behalf of the City of Oakland, I extend our sincere gratitude to CalTrans for partnering with us to continue to enhance the safety and well-being of our students. I also thank Senate President Pro Tem Don Perata and Assemblymember Sandre Swanson for their support in securing these much-needed funds. We look forward to future collaborations that will improve the quality of life for our most vulnerable residents.”

The construction of the improvements is projected to begin by late 2009 and should be completed by mid-2010. Oakland received the 16th largest award out of 139 projects statewide that received funding. Schools that will benefit from the grant, include: Oakland Technical High School, Castlemont Community of Small Schools, Youth Uprising Center and E.C. Reems Academy.

Oakland Technical High School: A transfer hub for AC Transit at the intersection of Broadway and 40th Street near Oakland Tech will receive upgraded traffic signals, a left-turn arrow and pedestrian “countdown” signal heads, as well as a widened sidewalk area.

Castlemont Community of Small Schools, E.C. Reems Academy and Youth Uprising: The segment of MacArthur Blvd. between 82nd and 90th will be re-striped from two traffic lanes in each direction to one lane per direction with pedestrian “refuge” medians and sidewalk “bulb-outs” at the crossing locations, meant to calm traffic and improve pedestrian safety. This segment of MacArthur has continually been the subject of concern over speeding vehicles and pedestrian safety.

“This is great news for the community,” said Vice Mayor Larry Reid, Council District 7. “Ensuring the safety and prosperity of our youth is the most important responsibility we have. It is with immense gratitude towards CalTrans and their *Safe Routes to School Program* that we will implement these wonderful projects.”

Safe Routes to School is an international movement that has taken hold in communities throughout the United States. Increasing street safety benefits all pedestrians in the neighborhoods, promotes walking and bicycling which in turn has positive impacts on health and reduces the negative aspects of traffic congestion and vehicle emissions. It is through local champions working with coalitions of parents, schools, professionals in transportation, engineering, health and law enforcement that sustainable projects emerge.

“Pedestrian safety is a critical issue for my district. My staff has been working hard with the community and with our traffic engineers to get funding to make the streets safer for Oakland Tech students and for all of our residents. We look forward to seeing the results,” stated City Councilmember Jane Brunner.

For more information about the *Safe Routes to School Program*, contact Joe Wang in the Transportation Services Division at (510) 238-6107 or jswang@oaklandnet.com.

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