



City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

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

News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photo/Video Opportunity

Neighborhood Streets Safety **Celebration of Pedestrian Access & Safety Model Project**

Oakland, CA – Senior, disabled and student pedestrian access and safety have been greatly improved at the busy intersection of 18th Street and Adeline Street, thanks to the focused attention of Mayor Quan’s Pedestrian Access and Safety Task Force, Oakland’s Americans with Disabilities Act Programs Division, and the Public Works Agency’s Department of Engineering & Construction. This “Neighborhood Streets Safety” project leveraged limited City street and sidewalk improvement resources to address the priorities of pedestrians that frequent this intersection.

The busy, four-lane intersection is home to the West Oakland Senior Center on the southeast, West Oakland Public Library on the northwest, DeFremery Park Recreation Center and playgrounds on the southwest, with a housing complex completing the busy area on the northeast. What was previously inaccessible to many is now greatly improved for the safety and enjoyment of this diverse community.

The City has resurfaced the streets, repaired sidewalks, installed new curb ramps, and added audible pedestrian push buttons to facilitate safe crossing. In addition, the City has rehabilitated disabled parking zones, bus stops, and other transportation amenities and added several traffic calming measures. This project draws from local, State and Federal funds earmarked for street and sidewalk rehabilitation. The total project cost was \$105,000. Small local business contractors performed the work under the supervision of the Public Works Department of Engineering & Construction.

The Mayor’s new Task Force includes members of the Mayor’s Commission on Persons with Disabilities, Commission on Aging, and the Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee. This project serves as a working model for other communities as we work towards making City streets universally accessible to pedestrians, bicyclists, public transit riders, and motorists.

Betty Mulholland of the Mayor’s Commission on Persons with Disabilities commented, “It is time that streets and sidewalks are improved in a coordinated fashion to the benefit of all pedestrians. These improvements and upgrades will certainly allow seniors and persons with disabilities to walk and drive to this area. I am very gratified to see the work accomplished at 18th and Adeline, where the West

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Oakland Senior Center, the West Oakland Library and the community center are located, and hope to see this same action replicated throughout the City.”

As part of the Office of Parks and Recreation’s Unity in the Community celebration on Saturday, June 25, 2011, the Neighborhood Streets Safety collaborators will hold a ribbon-cutting ceremony and press conference to celebrate the greatly improved four-block area (**Date Change Due to Rain**).

- What:** Press Conference and Ribbon-Cutting to celebrate transformation of neighborhood streets serving the West Oakland Senior Center, West Oakland Public Library, and DeFremery Park
- When:** **RESCHEDULED Due to Rain** for Saturday, June 25, 2011 1:00–1:30 p.m.
- Where:** Adeline and 18th Streets, as part of the Unity in Community neighborhood block party
- Sponsor:** City of Oakland ADA Programs Division
- Who:** The public and press are invited to this free event. Dignitaries scheduled to make brief comments include Mayor Jean Quan, City Councilmember Nancy Nadel, along with representatives of the City’s Pedestrian Access & Safety Task Force, Oakland Public Works, and ADA Programs Division.

Oakland ADA Programs Manager, Christine Calabrese said, “These improvements allow universal access and serve to empower all types of pedestrians to come out and enjoy the local amenities and services to a much greater – and safer – degree. Increased access for pedestrians with disabilities and safer access to AC Transit corridors for primary users – students, seniors, and people with disabilities are the significant benefits of the Neighborhood Street Safety project.”

The Neighborhood Streets Safety project is also a model for inter-agency cooperation at its best. PG&E and AT&T both stepped up as partners concerned about this community in need by relocating their utility boxes in a very short time period so other work including improved curb ramps could be completed.

This celebration is a first benchmark of Oakland’s Corridor Improvement initiative, as the City is also actively completing similar neighborhood street safety and access work along many of the City’s major transportation corridors including Broadway, Telegraph, College, International, Foothill, and MacArthur.

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