

City of
OAKLAND
California

Media Contact:

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

News from: Oakland Public Works Agency

IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 5, 2012

Oakland Rises to 7th in Nation in Bicycling Rate with 7,000 Biking Commuters

Oakland, CA – More Oaklanders are pedaling to work than ever before. Over three percent of Oakland workers – or about 5,000 daily commuters – commute by bicycle according to the U.S. Census Bureau's newly released 2011 American Community Survey data. When combined with workers who bike to BART to catch a train, that's more than 7,000 Oaklanders who make cycling a part of their daily commute. Oakland is one of only seven large cities in the United States with a bicycle commute mode share exceeding three percent, demonstrating the impact of the City of Oakland's investments in its bicycle program.

"The City has made a big commitment in recent years to building our bike lanes and making the City safer, more fun and more accessible for cyclists," Oakland Mayor Jean Quan said. "So it's gratifying to see more and more Oaklanders enjoying the benefits of biking as a healthy way to commute to work."

Of the 100 largest cities in the country, Oakland has the seventh highest rate of bicycling. Figure 1 below shows the top ten cities by 2011 bicycle commute mode share, as well as each city's 2008-2010 average. While the chart shows a nationwide trend toward increasing cycling, Oakland led the group with a 46 percent increase in 2011. Since 2000, bicycling in Oakland has increased by over 250 percent.

The rise in cycling reflects Oakland's extensive efforts to make bicycling in Oakland an easy and safe choice for all residents. Since the adoption of the City's Bicycle Master Plan in 2007, Oakland's bikeway network of lanes and paths has steadily expanded from 90 to 130 miles, with over 20 miles in just the last year. Public bike parking capacity has nearly doubled from 3,200 to 6,100 spaces (Figure 2). Also, 2013 will mark Oakland's 20th Annual Bike to Work Day. According to Jason Patton, the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager, "Investments in bicycle facilities not only make cycling safer and more convenient for existing cyclists, but are critical for encouraging new riders."

The recent successes are a precursor of an even more bicycle-friendly Oakland in the near future. As a no-emission, low-cost and healthy form of transportation, bicycling supports the City Council's goals related to climate change, equity and public health. City staff members are currently advancing over a dozen projects to add new bike lanes to Oakland streets. Staff are also striving to have Oakland certified as a "Gold-level" Bicycle Friendly Community by 2014, a designation achieved by fewer than 20 American communities. Patton states that, "Research shows there is a large pool of potential riders out there who would love to ride their bikes, but are concerned about biking in traffic. As the City of Oakland continues to create more and better facilities, we'll continue to see more and more cyclists on Oakland's streets."



