



City of  
**OAKLAND**  
California

Media Contact:

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



## News from: Oakland Public Works

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 21, 2014

# Oakland Reaches Silver Level as a Bicycle Friendly Community

From Bronze to Silver: Not Alchemy, Just Vision and Determination

**Oakland, CA** –This week, the League of American Bicyclists designated the City of Oakland a Silver Level Bicycle Friendly Community. This is another step up from the Bronze Level designation earned in 2010 and recognizes the ongoing efforts to improve bicycling undertaken by a broad range of stakeholders, from the City’s Public Works Department to the advocacy and encouragement work of local organizations, notably Walk Oakland–Bike Oakland and Bike East Bay.

The recognition reflects Oakland’s accomplishments since 2010, including:

- 25% increase in bikeway mileage, including a world-class bike path on the East Span of the Bay Bridge (by Caltrans)
- Green-painted bike lane markings and other safety measures to make roads safer for cyclists
- Bike way-finding sign system along 16 interconnected corridors that now boasts nearly 500 signs
- 70% increase in number of publicly accessible bike parking spaces
- A “vulnerable road user” City of Oakland ordinance that allows bicyclists and pedestrians to pursue civil penalties from aggressive motorists
- Six million dollars in grants to implement Bay Area Bike Share in Oakland

“Oakland is proud to be a national leader in building bikeable cities,” said Mayor Jean Quan, who as a member of the Metropolitan Transportation Commission worked to bring Bike Share funding to the East Bay. “I am delighted and humbled that Oakland received this recognition. I encourage everyone to try biking around Oakland – we have more miles of bike lanes than ever, and with the best weather in the country, we are a great city to explore on two wheels.”

In addition to new and improved infrastructure, the award acknowledges the increase in the number of people bicycling in Oakland: from 2007 to 2013 the number of Oaklanders bicycling to work doubled. In the 2013 American Community Survey, Oakland ranked eighth out of the 70 largest U.S. cities for the number of people bicycling to work. Another analysis revealed that, of the 52 largest U.S. cities, Oakland had the seventh largest percentage of women cyclists. In some Oakland census tracts, the percentage of people bicycling to work approaches 10%.

( - more - )

News from:  
**Oakland Public Works**  
**Bicycle Friendly City**

November 20, 2014  
Page Two

“The Silver award is gratifying because it recognizes the passion and resolve of so many individuals and organizations,” said Jason Patton, Oakland’s Bicycle and Pedestrian Program Manager. “This is a moment to celebrate and thank community partners, especially Walk Oakland–Bike Oakland and Bike East Bay, who work tirelessly to improve Oakland’s quality of life by promoting bicycling as sustainable, equitable and fun transportation.”

More than 800 communities have applied since the program began, and 326 have been awarded the Bike Friendly City designation. Oakland is one of only 71 designated at Silver. Of the country’s 50 most populous cities, 11 are Silver Level and Oakland is the only city that moved up from Bronze in the latest award cycle. According to the League, “The five levels of the award – diamond, platinum, gold, silver and bronze – provide a clear incentive for communities to continuously improve.” Moving from one level to a higher one is a clear indication of Oakland’s determination to promote biking as an important mode of transportation.

To learn more about what it means to be a bike friendly city, visit [bikeleague.org/community](http://bikeleague.org/community).

To learn more about Oakland’s bicycle and transportation programs, please visit [www.oaklandbikes.info](http://www.oaklandbikes.info).

# # #