



## News from: OAKLAND PUBLIC WORKS

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# Oakland Celebrates Telegraph Avenue Complete Streets

**Oakland, CA** – Today, the City of Oakland unveiled a series of major safety improvements and street enhancements along Telegraph Avenue – including the East Bay’s first parking protected bike lanes.

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The new street reconfiguration is an important interim phase of the **Telegraph Avenue Complete Streets** project. The project will improve safety for everyone who uses Telegraph Avenue through a combination of treatments that include new and improved pedestrian crossings, relocated bus stops and traffic signal upgrades.

It will also install the East Bay’s first parking protected bike lanes, reduce vehicle lanes from two per direction to one per direction, add a center left turn lane, and place the bike lanes next to the curb, where vehicle parking normally is located. These new bike lanes will now be buffered from moving traffic by a lane of parked cars. The project also includes painted corner bulb-outs and median refuges, high-visibility crosswalks, enhanced commercial loading zones, parking meter relocation, relocated bus stops and some street repaving.

Mayor Libby Schaaf, community members, business owners and City Council representatives inaugurated the new streetscape with a ribbon cutting ceremony on Tuesday, May 10, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. on Telegraph Avenue at 21<sup>st</sup> Street.

“The Telegraph Avenue Complete Street Plan reflects our City’s vision and commitment to creating street character that meets the needs of all users,” said Mayor Libby Schaaf. “The new design is a significant piece of our citywide effort to create multimodal streets that improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians, cyclists, drivers and transit users. I am confident that this Complete Streets project will serve as a template for improving safety on other major corridors in Oakland.”

Completion of this phase of the **Telegraph Avenue Complete Streets** project was funded by voter-approved Measure B sales tax funds. These interim improvements are the first phase towards implementing recommendations from the Telegraph Avenue Complete Streets plan that went through an extensive community process beginning in 2013. The Oakland City Council formally adopted the Plan in December 2014.

The Telegraph Avenue Complete Street Plan reflects the increased efforts to create a street character that meets the needs of all users. The new design improves the safety and accessibility for everyone; makes the street more

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comfortable and enjoyable for pedestrians, cyclists and transit users; and balances the needs and convenience of all users. The project considers not only through-travel but also access to the businesses, residences, restaurants and gathering spaces that make Telegraph Avenue a great destination.

Telegraph Avenue is an important corridor in Oakland, providing a link between downtown Oakland and the University of California, Berkeley for all modes:

- **Pedestrians:** Telegraph Avenue bisects several important pedestrian districts, including Downtown Oakland, Uptown, Koreatown-Northgate and Temescal.
- **Cyclists:** Telegraph Avenue provides one of the only direct routes between downtown Oakland and North Oakland and Berkeley. Despite the lack of bike facilities, Telegraph Avenue is one of the most heavily traveled routes for cyclists, with over 1,200 daily cyclists, and growing.
- **Transit Riders:** AC Transit serves Telegraph 24-hours a day. Buses arrive every 5-7 minutes during peak periods, with 9,000 daily boardings.
- **Motorists:** Telegraph Avenue is an arterial carrying between 1,000 and 2,000 peak hour vehicles, with higher volumes generally found at the northern end of the corridor.

**Next Steps** On the heels of City Council's approval of a plan to remove a vehicle lane and install protected and buffered bicycle lanes, the City applied for and received a \$4.8M grant from the State of California's Active Transportation Program in 2015 to make the current interim plan permanent, including concrete pedestrian medians, bulbouts, bus boarding islands and other pedestrian, bicycle and transit amenities. These improvements will be made between 20<sup>th</sup> Street and 41<sup>st</sup> Street, and are expected to be completed by 2018.

Additional community outreach and future plan development will continue in 2016 and 2017. The Alameda County Transportation Commission (ACTC) is funding a joint Oakland/Berkeley plan, beginning at 41<sup>st</sup> Street in Oakland, continuing through the Temescal District, and into the City of Berkeley.

For more details and updates on projects across Oakland, please visit [www.oaklandpw.com/projects](http://www.oaklandpw.com/projects).

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