

News from: Oakland Public Works

CONSTRUCTION & TRAFFIC ADVISORY IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 13, 2016

Embarcadero Bridge Closure Seismic Safety Replacement

Traffic to be Detoured to 7th Street Bridge from May 2016-May 2018

Oakland, CA – Heavy construction will begin on the Embarcadero Bridge on Friday, May 13, 2016 with the closure of the old bridge. The Embarcadero Bridge, which spans the Lake Merritt Channel where it joins the Oakland-Alameda Estuary, will be replaced by a new, seismically safer structure with enhanced pedestrian and bicycle access.

Digital signs are placed on the roadway to alert roadway users of the upcoming closure date. Letters to residents and businesses in the area were also mailed, emailed and hand delivered so everyone could be aware of the changes.

During construction, the Embarcadero (between Estuary Park and 5th Avenue) will be closed, and through traffic will be detoured to the 7th Street Bridge as shown in the detour map below. The new bridge is expected to be opened in May 2018.

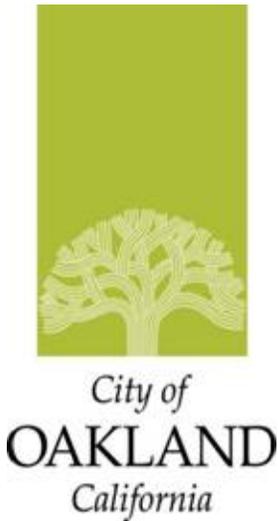
Additional updates will be provided during the course of construction. We will make every effort to minimize inconveniences to local businesses, residents and the traveling public. More information is available on the project webpage, www.oaklandnet.com/embarcadero.

“The City of Oakland thanks Embarcadero Bridge and roadway users in advance for their patience and cooperation as we continue to enhance our emerging waterfront and strengthen critical links such as this to withstand earthquakes. Access to the waterfront and seismic safety of our infrastructure are both critical for Oakland residents and visitors,” said Oakland Public Works Assistant Director Michael Neary. The project complements the City’s Measure DD vision of improving water quality and pedestrian, bike and recreational access to Lake Merritt, the Lake Merritt Channel and the Estuary.

Project Description

The new bridge will be wider (59 feet versus the current 37 feet). In addition to 12-foot vehicle travel lanes in each direction, it will accommodate a 6-foot bike lane in each direction, a 5-foot wide sidewalk on the north side, and a 12-foot wide multi-use path on the south (Estuary) side. This expansion will allow for continuity of pedestrian and bicycle access along the waterfront trail. The new bridge will have higher clearance over the water to allow kayaks and canoes to maneuver under the bridge. The project will also have new street lighting, landscaping, new restroom facilities and planted rainwater treatment areas at both ends to improve water quality.

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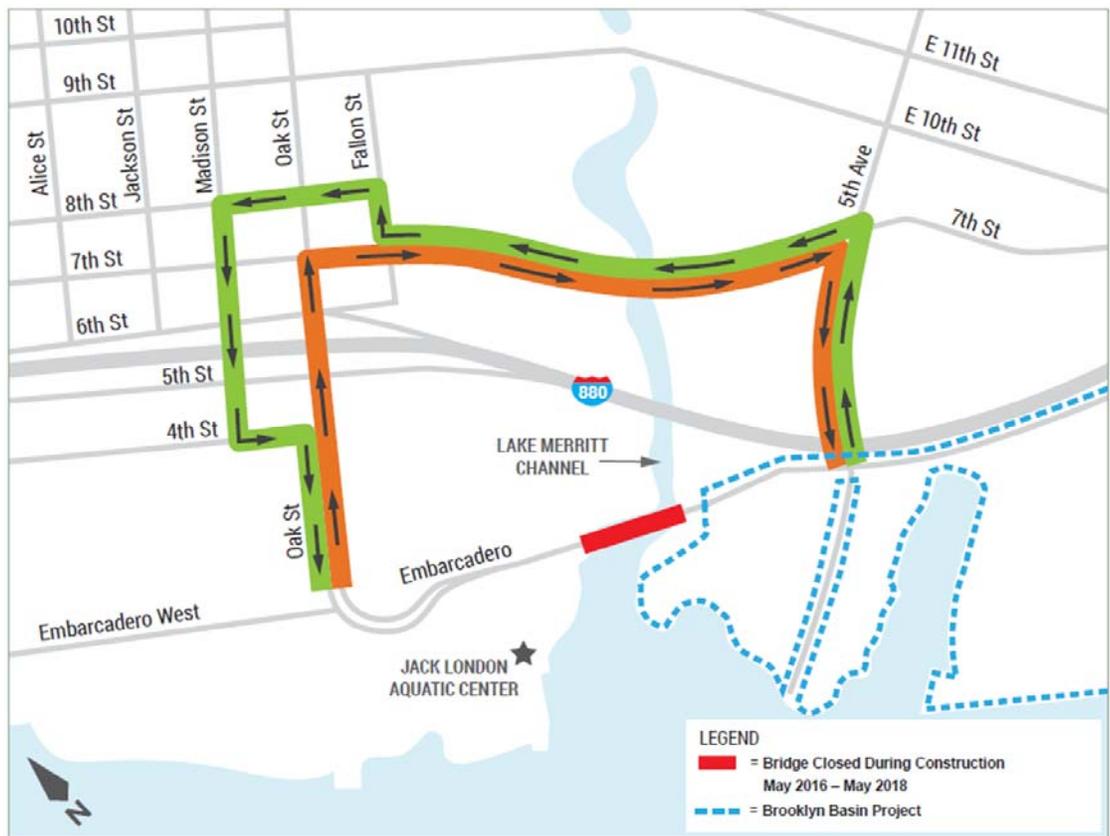
The long-awaited seismic upgrade of the bridge was determined to be more cost effective and better than a mere retrofit and will improve infrastructure far into the future. The project costs of \$23 million are funded 97% from federal, state and local resources.

The public can find additional information about the project, including a fact sheet and frequently asked questions at www.oaklandnet.com/embarcadero as well as a detour map.

Additional information and periodic updates are available on the project webpage, www.oaklandnet.com/embarcadero.

Embarcadero Bridge Local Traffic Detour Map

Note: Detour is for pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers.
All streets have sidewalks and bicycle roadway markings.



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