

I OAKLAND

Bike news from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program of the City of Oakland, California

Summer 2010 | Circulation 1,533

www.oaklandbikes.info

I  OAKLAND is a biannual newsletter of the City of Oakland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program. This newsletter provides an overview of accomplishments in the previous six months on the implementation of Oakland's Bicycle Master Plan.

RESOURCES

Suggest a Bike Rack Location

• Review guidelines at www.oaklandbikes.info/Page127.aspx and either request a rack online from that page, or contact us (info on mailing panel).

Oakland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee

• Meetings are held the 3rd Thursday of the month and are open to the public. More info at www.oaklandbikes.info.

Public Works Call Center

• Call (510) 615-5566 or go to www.oaklandpw.com/Page808.aspx to report:

- ▶ hazards such as glass, potholes, unsafe drainage grates, or other obstructions
- ▶ malfunctioning traffic signals
- ▶ abandoned bikes that need removal from bike racks, signs and/or meter poles
- ▶ speeding, or to request traffic calming or another roadway improvement

Program Staff

- Jason Patton, Bicycle & Pedestrian Program Manager
- Jennifer Stanley, Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Coordinator
- Jake Coolidge, Planning Intern
- Emily Ehlers, Design Intern
- Chris Wells, Design Intern
- Adam Shapiro, Design Volunteer
- Daniel Levy, Planning Volunteer

Time of the signs

New bicycle wayfinding signs were installed on another 11 miles of roadway in the vicinity of the MacArthur BART Station and along the established West/Genoa and Chabot/Tunnel Bikeways. Oakland's Public Works Traffic Maintenance staff manufactured and installed the 94 new sign assemblies along the routes. Sign design, manufacture, and installation have been funded by a combination of State Gas Tax revenues and Oakland's share of Measure B Bicycle & Pedestrian funding. Another 24 miles are currently under development, most to accompany new bikeways. (Information on Oakland's wayfinding system is at www.tinyurl.com/28bv77g) 



New sign on Skyline Blvd; Public Works Sign worker Alonzo Walker installing a sign on Webster St.

Taking it to the streets

The City received a \$75,000 grant from the State's Transportation Development Article 3 Bicycle & Pedestrian funding program to support Oakland's ongoing CityRacks program, which installs bike racks in response to requests from businesses and residents. The grant will also support a pilot project to install several "in-street" bike parking corrals, as has been done in San Francisco, Berkeley, and other cities throughout the country (most notably, Portland, OR). Why in-street? The sidewalks in many of Oakland's commercial districts are either too narrow or already cluttered—or both—to accommodate the growing demand for secure and conveniently located bike racks.

The pilot project will be developed based on a survey of other cities (see www.tinyurl.com/257yb3v) written by the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program's volunteer intern extraordinaire, Colin Dentel-Post (now an intern with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency). Pilot locations will be selected based on high demand and the support of adjacent businesses, and will include a variety of location types (e.g., adjacent to diagonal parking, at the end of the block) to help ferret out design issues and inform the selection and design of future installations. Email location ideas to bikeped@oaklandnet.com. 

Completing streets

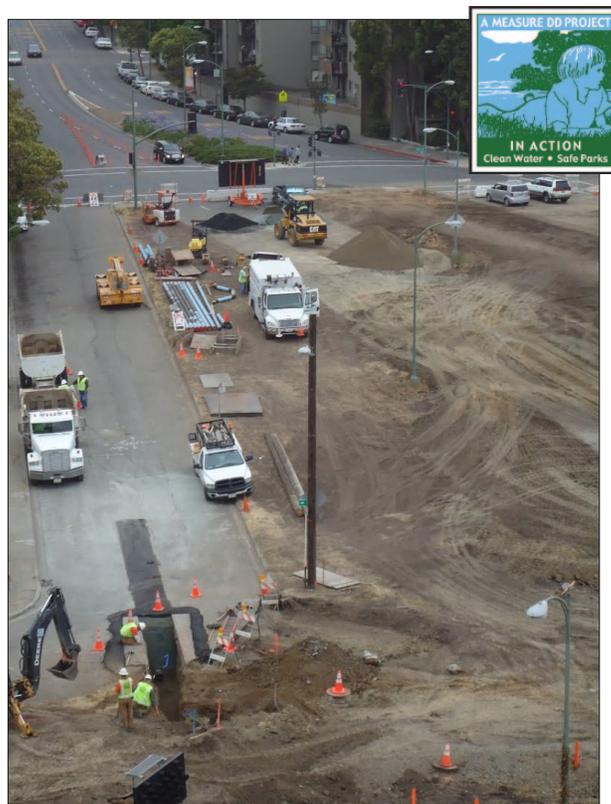
This year's long rainy season prevented an early start on planned paving and striping work. Still, between January and June 2010, a long-awaited bikeway project got underway, two short bikeway segments were installed, and a new bike/ped bridge was unveiled.

- The existing **northbound bikeway on Harrison Street, 21st St-Grand Ave**, was upgraded as part of a repaving project in April 2010. The bike lane striping now begins sooner, and, as before, connects to the bike lanes on eastbound Grand Ave. Sharrow markings were added to support bicyclists merging to continue through on Harrison St. A coincident project added traffic signal video cameras to the Harrison/21st Sts intersection to detect left-turning bicyclists from both streets. (A recently initiated Measure DD-funded project, currently in the design phase, will close the remaining bikeway gaps on the southwest side of the Lake.)

- Work to remove the notorious, inglorious **12th St Dam** began in May! The multi-million dollar, multi-year project is expected to be completed in late 2012. Funded by Oakland's Measure DD, the project will to convert the "world's shortest freeway" into a people-scale boulevard with bike lanes, wider sidewalks, and a new bridge over the Lake Merritt Channel. For more information, go to www.tinyurl.com/295ae3l.

- The **Bay Trail Slough Bridge at Oyster Bay Regional Park** on the Oakland/San Leandro border is complete. The 300-foot pedestrian/bicycle bridge closed a major gap in the trail. It is now possible to travel, sans motor, from the Martin Luther King Jr. Regional Shoreline in Oakland all the way to the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge. An opening-day ceremony in May also celebrated the completion of this 300th mile of the San Francisco Bay Trail. The \$3,600,000 project was a cooperative effort by multiple agencies, and was funded, in part, by a \$1,000,000 Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Grant from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority.

- Bike lanes were installed on **Broadway Terrace under Highway 13** in May 2010. The project initially consisted of median restriping in response to community safety concerns. The bike lanes were added to implement the City's "route accommodation" policy: address bicycle safety and access in the design and maintenance of all streets. The bike lanes help improve the existing bikeway connecting Broadway to Montclair Village via the Lake Temescal Path, Broadway Ter, and Mountain Blvd. 



Work begins in earnest to reconfigure "the world's shortest freeway." Photo by Erik Niemann, (www.oakland12thstreetproject.blogspot.com).



The Bay Trail Slough Bridge marked completion of the 300th mile of the San Francisco Bay Trail. Photo by Reh-Lin N. Chen.



Oakland's 17th annual downtown **Bike to Work Day** fête for the masses was held on Thursday, May 13, 2010. From 7:00-9:00am, a pancake and coffee breakfast was served courtesy of Piedmont Grocery, Tully's Coffee, and a crew of volunteers. By 11:00 am, at least 665 bicyclists were counted flowing into the East Bay Bicycle Coalition-staffed valet bike parking corral, a 13% increase over the 587 counted at that time last year.

Wheels of Justice Cyclery and Bay Area Bikes provided complimentary bike safety checks, an onsite AC Transit bus allowed participants to hone their bus-bike rack loading skills, and cyclists and passers-by browsed tabling displays ranging from bike-inspired art to BART schedules. Six of Oakland's eight Council Members cycled to the event in Pedal Pools with their constituents. The morning event culminated in a press conference and a prize raffle from 8:30-9:00am, highlighted by At-Large Council member Rebecca Kaplan gathering the crowd by blowing secularly into a *shofar* (ram's horn), and the announcement of the winner of an awesome Grand Prize: a folding bike donated by Dahon!

Photos, right, by Darian Avelino. Check out more event photos at www.oaklandbikes.info/btwd.

Thanks to the 28 volunteers and all the businesses that sponsored the downtown event at Frank H. Ogawa Plaza!!!



Issac Rodriguez, EBBC Education Coordinator, gives helmet fitting advice.



Bicyclists gather to watch the speakers at the press conference.



Pancakes!

 **City of Oakland celebrates Bike to Work Day**

FRUITVALE AVE LANE CLOSURE

Thursday, May 13, 2010

7 AM-9 AM

4 PM-6 PM

Miller-Sweeney Bridge Lane Closure

In conjunction with the City of Alameda, the City of Oakland closed travel lanes on Fruitvale Ave, resulting in temporary bike lanes for Bike to Work Day across the Miller-Sweeney Bridge from Fernside Blvd in Alameda to Alameda Ave in Oakland. Temporary traffic control signs were installed one week in advance to provide notice of the closure. The temporary lanes were in place from 7:00-9:00am and 4:00-6:00pm. Cones were placed by Oakland's Traffic Maintenance crews and a contractor hired by the City of Alameda. One police officer from both Oakland and Alameda was stationed at Fruitvale Ave/Alameda Ave and Tilden Wy/Fernside Blvd, respectively. The temporary lanes were also coordinated with Alameda County, the owner and operator of the drawbridge. The project was instigated by Bike Alameda. They reported the following bicyclist counts: morning—112 to Oakland and 60 to Alameda; evening— 33 to Oakland and 70 to Alameda.

City of Oakland Bikeway Network

Bikeway Improvements, January to June 2010



Multi-modal mashup

Just in time for Bike Month, the Oakland Museum of California unveiled off-site bike-centric exhibits at . . . the Oakland International Airport. The exhibits, found along the walkways to the airport's two terminals, focus on Northern California bike culture with an emphasis on the East Bay and Oakland. Items on display include bicycles, vintage jerseys, custom bike fashions, photos (some donated by Oakland bike shops), as well as an example of Oakland's new bicycle wayfinding signs and a sharrow marking projected onto the floor. The exhibit continues through September 10. If you are flying out of the "I [FLY] OAK" airport, be sure to check it out. 



*Displays at the Oakland International Airport
Terminals 1 and 2 feature bikes,
fashions, sharrows, signs, and more.*



2010 Bikeways Map

The City of Oakland's first-ever bike map was published in time for Bike to Work Day in May. The full-color, pocket-sized, free map is available through local bike shops and bicycle-related organizations. The map (which can be viewed online at www.oaklandbikes.info/Page129.aspx) highlights designated bikeways and destinations like transit stations, parks, and neighborhood districts that are supported by Oakland's bicycle wayfinding signage system. It also includes street grades, bike shops, and bikeways connecting into neighboring cities.

Maps were sent to all bike shops at the beginning of May. If your shop is out, have them contact the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program. The map was designed by the City's Bicycle Planning Intern, Jake Coolidge, and the results reflect his perfect storm of GIS and cartographic skills. 

Bike-friendly inventory expands

From January-June 2010 . . .

Traffic signals were upgraded to detect bicyclists at the following three intersections:

- Harrison St & 21st St
- 52nd St & Telegraph Ave
- 62nd St & College Ave



Sixty-eight (68) new bike racks accommodating 138 bicycles were installed in Oakland's commercial districts.

To request a rack or report a problem traffic signal, please contact us (info on mailing panel).

Bicycle Friendly Communities: Oakland seeks critical evaluation and recognition

The City of Oakland is submitting an application to the League of American Bicyclists' "Bicycle Friendly Community" program. The purpose of the Program is to encourage communities to actively support bicycling and recognize the communities that are doing so successfully. The process also provides a critical evaluation of what communities could improve upon, based on a comparison with other US communities of comparable size. Oakland's Bicycle Master Plan identifies this program as the objective for measuring progress on achieving the Plan's overall goals: "Publicly strive to become a Bicycle Friendly Community by 2012, as recognized by the League of American Bicyclists." This summer is the midpoint in the five-year life span of the current Bicycle Master Plan. Submitting the application now enables the City to address the feedback from this critical evaluation in scoping the next update to Oakland's Plan.

The evaluation looks holistically at the locality, addressing the "five Es:" engineering, enforcement, education, encouragement, and evaluation/planning. The application has 87 questions and Oakland's answers run 30 pages. Oakland's application is available at www.tinyurl.com/25qgm74.

Information on the overall program is available at www.bikeleague.org/programs/bicyclefriendlyamerica/communities/bfc_about.php. 

How does Oakland compare?

Of the 70 largest cities in the United States, Oakland has the seventh largest percentage of people bicycling to work as their primary means of transportation (American Community Survey, 2008, www.publicsheet.zoho.com/public/bikeleague/70largest-cities-1). The top ten cities are Portland, Minneapolis, Seattle, Sacramento, San Francisco, Washington, DC, Oakland, Tucson, Albuquerque, and Philadelphia. By percentage of bicycle commuters, these top ten cities range from 5.96% in Portland to 1.63% in Philadelphia, with Oakland at 2.15%.

From 2000 to 2008, bicycle commuting increased by 48% for the 70 largest cities in the United States. In a recent comparison of bicycling and walking in the United States' 50 largest cities, Oakland ranked in the top third of all cities for five of the six categories under evaluation. Only five cities ranked equally or better across these categories: Minneapolis, Portland, San Francisco, Seattle, and Washington, DC ("Bicycling and Walking in the United States: 2010 Benchmarking Report," Alliance for Biking and Walking, www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/memberservices/C529).

While Oakland ranks well in national comparison, the absolute number of bicyclists is small but growing. The City's Bicycle Master Plan estimates that implementing the plan's recommendations may result in 5% to 10% of Oaklanders bicycling to work, up from 1.1% in 1990 (City of Oakland, Bicycle Master Plan, 2007, pp. 28-31, www.oaklandbikes.info/Page123.aspx).



Matt Gereghy, program coordinator, helps patch up tires and carry out bike maintenance. Photo by Irene Florez.

Bike-Go-Round

Bike-Go-Round, a new program of Cycles of Change (the Oakland-based bicycle education non-profit), will give away 400 bikes to and train low-income, adult Oaklanders. As reported in the OaklandLocal news site, low-income residents who are accepted into the program commit to a five-hour training (on rules of the road, safe routes, and bike maintenance), a one-hour introductory bike ride, and a six-month follow-up, receive a restored bike, free bike repairs and new bike accessories. The program, funded in part by a \$150,000 grant from the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, runs through December 2010. More information from the article at www.tinyurl.com/2b8wq58. 

Oaklavia: car-free and care-free, Oakland-style

The first “Ciclovia” (temporary street closure to autos for non-commercial, recreational use by pedestrians and cyclists) in Oakland was held on Sunday, June 27, 2010. About two miles of downtown streets, from Uptown to Old Oakland, were closed to cars from 10am to 2pm, for four, sunny, fume-free hours. As described by the San Francisco Chronicle, “Oakland took it to the streets Sunday, and the streets never looked better.”

An estimated 4,000 people took part, enjoying the opportunity to cruise with families and friends and check out events ranging from dance lessons to bike repair. The event, aptly named “Oaklavia,” was championed, coordinated, and sponsored by Walk Oakland Bike Oakland, with assistance from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, Kaiser Permanente, and the City of Oakland. All photos by Frank Chan. Check out more event photos at www.oaklavia.org/photos-from-oaklavia. 



City of Oakland, Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program
Public Works Agency (as of July 2010)
Transportation Services Division
250 Frank Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4344
Oakland, CA 94612



Phone: (510) 238-3983
Fax: (510) 238-7415
Email: bikeped@oaklandnet.com
Website: www.oaklandbikes.info

Si desea un ejemplar del boletín del programa ciclista de la Ciudad de Oakland en español, por favor llame 238-3983 o visite www.oaklandbikes.info (www.tinyurl.com/2ebaydv)

如需索取屋崙（奧克蘭）市自行車計劃的中文版新聞快訊，請致電 238-3983 或上網 www.oaklandbikes.info 查詢。
(www.tinyurl.com/2d9r33p)

Để lấy một tờ bản tin bằng tiếng Việt về chương trình đi xe đạp của Thành Phố Oakland, xin gọi số 238-3983 hoặc tới trang mạng www.oaklandbikes.info (www.tinyurl.com/29ymbmf)