



News from: Office of the Mayor Libby Schaaf

MEDIA ADVISORY

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MAYOR LIBBY SCHAAF LAUNCHES OAKLAND'S FIRST DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NOTED PLANNER JEFF TUMLIN NAMED INTERIM HEAD OF NEW DEPARTMENT DURING TRANSITION

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Oakland, CA — Today, Oakland Mayor Libby Schaaf announced the establishment of the City of Oakland's first Department of Transportation (DOT). This is a key milestone in the administration goal to more equitably bring greater safety and accessibility to Oakland's streets for the benefit of all city residents.

The announcement followed a presentation to the City Council yesterday outlining the new department structure, which will include some responsibilities formerly held by Oakland Public Works, such as road design, resurfacing and maintenance. The DOT will have a strong planning focus on sustainable strategies that can bring needed change quickly to city streets. The two departments will be staffed by current employees.

"A better Oakland starts with better streets today, in every part of our city," said Mayor Schaaf. "We need a world-class transportation department to take a fresh look at our streets, and provide Oakland residents with safer, healthier and more accessible ways to get around, to and from work and school. Equitably enhancing our streets and adding to the array of viable transportation options in Oakland increases the vibrancy of our urban community."

Mayor Schaaf also announced that the transition to the new department will be led by Jeff Tumlin, a transportation consultant and Principal and Director of Strategy with Nelson/Nygaard, an internationally recognized planning firm that focuses on mobility, accessibility and sustainability. Tumlin is renowned for helping build consensus-based projects and will manage the creation of the DOT until a director is appointed at a later date.

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“Jeff gets Oakland and understands how to get things done, and I know that our hard-working staff who will be moving to the new department, as well as our city residents and business people, will benefit from his years of experience in building safer, more vibrant, and more equitable communities,” said Mayor Schaaf.

Mayor Schaaf formed the DOT to help carry out her vision of investing more in Oakland’s infrastructure to support quality of life in the city by creating more vibrant community spaces, and to achieve three key city goals:

Economic: To increase the capacity of the City to attract funds, carry out projects and accelerate street and infrastructure maintenance, provide new mobility alternatives, and reduce traffic congestion.

Environmental: To leverage the accelerated repair of our streets to make them “complete streets” that increase pedestrian safety and support the needs of drivers, transit riders and bicyclists alike. Improving all types of transportation reduces air pollution and Oakland’s asthma rate, and is critical to our fight against global warming.

Social Equity: The DOT will expand Oakland’s capacity to work more actively to bring local transit agencies, private mobility companies, and communities together to ensure that equity considerations are included within all forms of mobility including bike sharing and car sharing. By using better data in decision-making, including socioeconomic information, alongside more conventional safety and traffic data, the City can improve outcomes for all community members.

“This is such an exciting time for transportation in Oakland – our new Department of Transportation is forming just as AC Transit breaks ground on the bus-rapid-transit line connecting downtown Oakland with East Oakland and downtown San Leandro, as bike sharing gets ready to launch, and as the City develops our bond proposal to fund long-deferred infrastructure investments and fight against displacement with affordable housing,” said Mayor Schaaf.

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