

I OAKLAND

Bike news from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program of the City of Oakland, California
Summer 2007 www.oaklandbikes.info

Bicycling news from the City of Oakland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program Summer 2007

This newsletter provides an overview of accomplishments in the previous six months on the implementation of Oakland's Bicycle Master Plan.

New Electronic Bicycle Lockers in Downtown Oakland at Broadway and 20th Street

On June 23, 2007, the City installed eight, state-of-the-art electronic bicycle lockers ("eLockers") on 20th Street, east of Broadway, adjacent to the 19th Street BART Station and at a major AC Transit transfer location for express buses. These new eLockers complement eight that were installed downtown at 14th and Broadway in May 2006. eLockers can be used by any cyclist with a \$20 "BikeLink" card pre-purchased like a BART ticket; there is no application needed or waiting list. Parking costs five cents an hour and the first five hours of each rental are free. This means that a nine-hour rental costs just 20 cents, and a workweek of locker rental costs only one dollar. Find card purchase locations or buy online at www.bikelink.org.

An innovative locking technology coupled with the BikeLink card allows for continuous locker access by consecutive users. By comparison, conventional lockers rented by the year to only one person are vastly underutilized. For example, BART has a waiting list for their assigned lockers, yet the lockers remain empty 80% of the time. All sixteen Oakland eLockers were funded by a grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air matched by funds from the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority's Measure B ½ cent sales tax for transportation.

Walk Oakland! Map & Guide, 3rd Edition

The third edition of the Walk Oakland! Map & Guide was released in May in conjunction with Bike-to-Work Day. The map highlights Oakland's historic walkways, neighborhoods, and landmarks while promoting walking and bicycling.

The new version includes improved information on bikeways throughout Oakland and additional detail on hills that will be helpful to cyclists. Look for the chevrons on bikeways that indicate a fifty-foot gain in elevation and show the direction of hills. The map may be purchased at bookstores and bike shops throughout Oakland. A .pdf version is posted at www.oaklandbikes.info/Page132.aspx.

New Bicycle Lanes!

- ***Market Street, 3rd-18th Streets***

In June, the City of Oakland completed the second phase of the Market Street Bikeway by installing bicycle lanes on Market Street from 3rd to 18th Street in West Oakland. The project connects to the Bay Trail Bikeway at 3rd Street that provides a continuous connection between Emeryville, Jack London Square, and the Fruitvale District.

The first phase of the Market Street Bikeway installed bicycle lanes from 57th Street to West MacArthur Blvd. in 2005. The third phase is scheduled for completion in spring 2008 and will close the gap by adding bicycle lanes between West MacArthur Blvd. and 18th Street. The project is funded in part by a generous grant from the Bicycle and Pedestrian Safety program of the Alameda County Transportation Improvement Authority (www.acta2002.com/bikeped.html.)

- ***Lakeshore Ave, Winsor to Mandana***

In March, bicycle lanes were installed on Lakeshore Ave between the Lakeshore commercial district and the City of Piedmont. By reconfiguring the street, the project responded to community requests for traffic calming to reduce speeding and improve pedestrian safety. The four-lane roadway was restriped with one travel lane in each direction, a two-way center turn lane, and bicycle lanes in both directions.

Commonly known as “road diets,” such projects offer benefits to pedestrians, bicyclists, and drivers. Pedestrians have fewer lanes to contend with at crosswalks while drivers have safety improvements for left turns, driveway access, and parallel parking. For additional information on the neighborhood benefits of bicycle lanes, see <http://tinyurl.com/32p5tq>.

Did you know?

As of June 30, 2007, Oakland had 87 miles of bikeways including:

- 15 miles of off-street bike paths;
- 21 miles of on-street bike lanes; and
- 51 miles of signed bike routes.

The bikeway network envisioned by the Oakland Bicycle Master Plan Update, slated for adoption this year, will call for the addition of 19 miles of paths, 72 miles of bike lanes and 40 miles of routes for a total of 218 miles of bikeways at build-out. For more about Oakland's bike plan, see page 4.

Oakland's 14th Annual Bike-to-Work Day: Celebrating the "No-Pollute" Commute

Oakland's 14th annual downtown Bike-to-Work Day event was held on Thursday, May 17, 2007. Approximately 460 bicyclists took part in the morning festivities, a 39% increase over last year's attendance and the biggest downtown Oakland Bike-to-Work Day event ever held.

From 7:00-9:00am, the event featured the traditional, free pancake and coffee breakfast and tabling by transportation-related organizations. All-day, complimentary valet bike parking was provided by the East Bay Bicycle Coalition (EBBC). The morning event culminated in a press conference and a prize raffle from 8:30-9:00am. Participants were encouraged to bring their own cup, cutlery or plate and enter a special raffle drawing; 41 entered this raffle (compared with 194 who entered the regular raffle). Together with compostable cutlery, plates and cups—not to mention the preponderance of no-pollute commuters—the event was clearly one of the city's greenest.

For a slideshow documenting the festivities, go to www.oaklandbikes.info/btwd.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Elections

The City of Oakland's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) was chartered in 1995 to advise the City on the design of bicycle and pedestrian facilities and related issues. In March, BPAC members elected Paul Russell (Council District 4) to serve as Chair and Mark Dieter (Council District 5) to serve as Vice-Chair, each for one year terms.

The Committee seeks involvement from residents of all Oakland council districts and from representatives of community-based organizations with missions related to walking and bicycling. All are welcome to participate in the BPAC's meetings on the third Thursday of each month from 5:30pm to 7:30pm in Oakland City Hall. To receive meeting announcements and agendas, email bikeped@oaklandnet.com or call (510) 238-3983.

Parking Meters and Bicycle Parking

The Transportation Services Division is working with the Parking Division of the Finance and Management Agency to coordinate the removal of 4,700 on-street parking meters with the installation of new bicycle parking. The parking meters are being replaced with "pay and display" parking kiosks in commercial areas including Rockridge, Piedmont Ave, Grand Lake, Montclair, and downtown.

To avoid a shortage of bicycle parking, two meter poles with their meter housing will be left on each block face. A sticker will be applied to each meter housing to mark it as bicycle parking. New signs are also being installed at either end of each block directing motorists to the kiosk for payment. The new poles for these signs will also serve as bike parking.

The meter poles and sign poles will ensure that bicycle parking remains available on every block in Oakland's commercial districts.

As funding allows, the CityRacks program will install bicycle racks in these locations to provide higher-quality bicycle parking spaces. For more information on the CityRacks Program and to suggest locations for the installation of new bike racks, please go www.oaklandbikes.info/Page127.aspx.

Oakland Bicycle Master Plan Update

The City of Oakland is in the process of updating its Bicycle Master Plan that was originally adopted in 1999. The Bicycle Master Plan is the City's long-term, big-picture vision for promoting bicycling in Oakland.

The Plan includes an existing conditions analysis, policy recommendations, the proposed bikeway network, design guidelines for bikeways and bicycle parking, and prioritizes project implementation.

On March 14, the City released the Draft Plan and the associated Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a 45-day public review period. During that period, a public meeting was held at the Lakeside Park Garden Center and a public hearing was held at a meeting of the City of Oakland's Planning Commission.

Staff is now revising the Draft Plan based on comments received and preparing the Final EIR. This fall, the updated Plan will go before the Planning Commission and City Council for adoption. Additional information on the update process is available at www.oaklandbikes.info/Page123.aspx.

Kathryn Hughes, Bicycle/Pedestrian Program Manager, Retires

In December 2006, Kathryn Hughes retired after 17 ½ years of service with the City of Oakland. For the last eight years, Kathryn managed the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Program. She initiated several City programs and projects, including the CityRacks Bicycle Parking Program, Oakland's first bike station at the Fruitvale BART Transit Village, the hazardous grate replacement project, Bike-to-Work Day, CarFree Day and the Walk/Bike California conference. She also implemented the first bike lanes on the City's bicycle network including those on West Street, Bancroft Ave, Grand Ave, Telegraph Ave, the West Oakland Bay Trail, MacArthur Blvd, and Market Street. Kathryn made key contributions to the 1999 Bicycle Master Plan, Cypress Memorial Park, and to waterfront trail projects.

The staff of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program wishes Kathryn a very happy retirement. In January, Jason Patton filled the position of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Program

Manager. He has worked for the City of Oakland on pedestrian and bicycle planning since 2001. Contact Jason at (510) 238-7049 or jpatton@oaklandnet.com.

Public Works Call Center

Now there's one central place within the City of Oakland to report traffic hazards and other transportation and maintenance-related issues: the Public Works Agency's Call Center. Those who report issues to the Call Center receive a tracking number to facilitate easy follow up and resolution. Call (510) 615-5566 or go to www.oaklandpw.com/Page808.aspx to report:

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

Got bike rack?

Through the CityRacks Bike Parking Program (and based on available grant funding) the City of Oakland installs free bike parking racks in the public right-of-way in commercial districts and at city-owned parks, libraries and garages. To request a rack, please review the guidelines at www.oaklandbikes.info/Page127.aspx and either request a rack online from that page, or contact the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Coordinator at (510) 238-3983 or bikeped@oaklandnet.com.

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