


# I OAKLAND

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

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[www.oaklandbikes.info](http://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](http://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 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month and are open to the public. More info at [www.oaklandbikes.info](http://www.oaklandbikes.info).

### **Public Works Call Center**

- Call (510) 615-5566 or go to [www.oaklandpw.com/Page808.aspx](http://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
- Adam Shapiro, Design Intern
- Vacant, Volunteer(s): interested? Email [bikeped@oaklandnet.com](mailto:bikeped@oaklandnet.com) with a project idea

## **Bronze-Level Bicycle Friendly Oakland**


In September 2010, the City of Oakland was named as one of only 18 new Bicycle Friendly Communities in the nation as recognized by the League of American Bicyclists (LAB), the pre-eminent bicycling organization in the United States. The designation acknowledges efforts by the entire Oakland community: non-profit organizations, businesses, the City, and other agencies all of which are striving to create a bicycle-friendly environment. Oakland joins the ranks of 157 other Bicycle Friendly Communities in 43 states that, according to LAB, welcome cyclists by “providing safe accommodation for cycling and encouraging people to bike for transportation and recreation.”



Oakland applied for the designation to seek independent feedback on progress implementing the City's Bicycle Master Plan (2007), and garnered a bronze-level award on the first try. The award reflects the fact that bike riding and bike culture are flourishing in Oakland. Out of the 70 largest cities in the United States, Oakland now has the fifth largest percentage of people bicycling to work (US Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey).

The Oakland community has a strong history of promoting bicycling. The East Bay Bicycle Coalition was founded in 1972. Bicycles have been allowed on BART trains since 1972. Oakland installed its first designated bike route in 1976. Oakland's first annual Bike to Work Day was held in 1994. The City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee has met monthly since 1995. Oakland's first bike lanes were installed in 1997. Cycles of Change, the youth bicycle education program, was started in 1998. The City adopted its first Bicycle Master Plan in 1999. All AC Transit buses have been equipped with bicycle racks since 2001. And Walk Oakland Bike Oakland (WOBO) was founded in 2006.

Upon learning of the award, Kassie Rohrbach, WOBO Executive Director commented, “We look forward to working with the city to grow rapidly from Bronze to Platinum.”

Look for purple signs (shown, left) in the coming months to be installed at our borders publicizing Oakland's bicycle-friendly status. 



## Completed facilities, July-December 2010

Wet weather and cold temperatures curtailed 2010's already-too-short construction season. A multi-street resurfacing project and the Fruitvale Ave streetscape project were forced to delay new bikeway striping until drier and warmer conditions in the new year. But, don't despair: bicycle program staff spent summer and fall getting a long list of projects ready for construction—2011 promises to be Oakland's biggest year ever for new bikeways! See the "Preview of Coming Attractions" for details.

### ***Cryer Site: one more link in the San Francisco Bay Trail***

In September 2010, a small but sweet stretch of mixed-use path was completed along the Oakland waterfront between Dennison St and Union Point Park near Coast Guard Island. The new trail completes a link in the San Francisco Bay Trail, of which Oakland's seven-mile Waterfront Trail is part. Planned to extend from Clay St in Jack London Square all the way to 66th Avenue in East Oakland, the Waterfront Trail is divided into 37 segments. Of these, 21 segments totaling almost five miles have been completed or partially completed. Oakland's voter-approved Measure DD matched by grants from the San Francisco Bay Trail Project and other sources fund this work. The Cryer Site Project also included upgrades to the boathouse, sustainable landscaping, and custom fence railing.



*New trail segment provides critical link in Oakland's Waterfront Trail.*

### ***19th Street BART bike parking for 64***

In November, BART installed double-decker bike racks accommodating 64 bicycles inside the 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART Station. The racks are located in the concourse outside the paid area between 17<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> Streets, and are most easily accessed by the two stairways nearest 19<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway. (Or, bicyclists can use the station elevator.) These racks are providing needed parking capacity for the increasing number of bicyclists using the station. From 1998 to 2008, the percentage of people accessing 19<sup>th</sup> St BART by bicycle increased from 2.5% to 6.2%. The new racks will help alleviate overcrowding at 20<sup>th</sup> St and Broadway where the City has space for about 38 bicycles (30 rack spaces and eight eLockers). The racks were salvaged from the Downtown Berkeley Bikestation, which relocated to street level in July.


In December, BART also added nine additional U-racks—for a total of 42 bike parking spaces—inside the paid area at MacArthur BART Station. Next up: high-capacity bike parking for MacArthur BART as part of the first phase of the MacArthur BART Transit Village. The City continues to work in partnership with the local transit agencies, and BART in particular, to realize the Bicycle Master Plan goals of providing ample, secure bike parking at transit stations.



*New double-decker racks inside the 19th St BART Station (left) should help alleviate overcrowding at surface-level racks and lockers (above).*

## Webster St, 30<sup>th</sup> St to 34<sup>th</sup> St

As part of its hospital reconstruction, Alta Bates Summit Medical Center improved a portion of the popular Webster-Shafter Bikeway from 30<sup>th</sup> St to 34<sup>th</sup> St. Improvements include sharrows, bicycle warning signs, and a northbound bike lane for cyclists climbing up Pill Hill. The additions were made to maintain bicyclist safety and access during the construction of a new hospital on Hawthorne St.

The Webster-Shafter Bikeway was originally created in 1988, providing a connection between Broadway at 27<sup>th</sup> St and the Berkeley border en route to UC Berkeley. In May 2010, the City improved the bicycle wayfinding signage for the portion of the route below 51<sup>st</sup> St in conjunction with other wayfinding improvements to MacArthur BART. In 2011, the City will improve the wayfinding signs from 51<sup>st</sup> St to the Berkeley border and add sharrows to the entire route. 

### Preview of coming attractions

#### *Bikeways*


The Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program has a New Year's resolution for 2011: implement more bikeway striping than ever before. In fact, our goal is to double the total miles of Oakland's roads with bike lanes or sharrows. The City installed its first bike lane on West St from W Grand Ave to W MacArthur Blvd in 1997. Since then, Oakland has installed bike lanes and sharrows on 32 miles of roadway. In comparison, 33 miles of bike lane and sharrow projects are planned for implementation in 2011. As shown on the accompanying map, key projects include 27th St, 38th Ave, E 15th St/Foothill Blvd, MacArthur Blvd, Webster St/Shafter Ave, and Webster St/Franklin St in downtown Oakland.

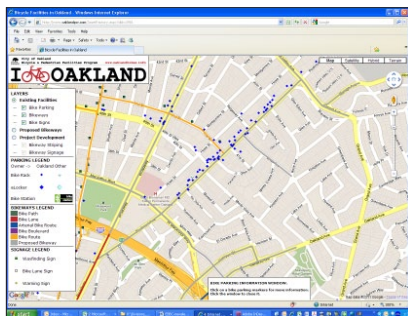
#### *Bicycle-Friendly Photo Contest and Postcard Series*

The Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program is holding a photo contest to generate images publicizing Oakland as a Bicycle Friendly Community (see cover story) and to help the City promote bicycling in the coming years. The contest will be held in March 2011. The winning photos will be: featured in a "Greetings from Oakland, California" postcard series that will be distributed on Bike to Work Day; displayed in City Hall during Bike Month (May); and featured online at [www.oaklandbikes.info](http://www.oaklandbikes.info). Look for contest rules to be posted on the website in mid-February.




#### *Bike to Work Day*

The City is seeking volunteers, partners, and support for Bike to Work Day (May 12, 2011) and Bike Month activities. If you'd like to volunteer to help with the annual downtown Energizer Station, please contact us at [bikeped@oaklandnet.com](mailto:bikeped@oaklandnet.com) or (510) 238-3983. For other volunteer opportunities, please contact Walk Oakland Bike Oakland ([info@wobo.org](mailto:info@wobo.org)) or the East Bay Bicycle Coalition ([rebecca.stievater@ebbc.org](mailto:rebecca.stievater@ebbc.org)). 



### Web-based dynamic maps of Oakland's bicycle facilities

Would you like to know exactly where Oakland's bike racks are? Are you curious what new bikeways are being designed or are pending construction? Oakland bicycle facilities can now be viewed via Google maps, thanks to the efforts of volunteer Daniel Levy.

Go to [www.oaklandbikes.info/AssetFactory.aspx?did=3901](http://www.oaklandbikes.info/AssetFactory.aspx?did=3901) and click on layers to see existing bikeways, signs and parking; proposed bikeways; and the status of bikeways under development. 

# City of Oakland Bikeway Network

Bikeway Improvements, July to December 2010

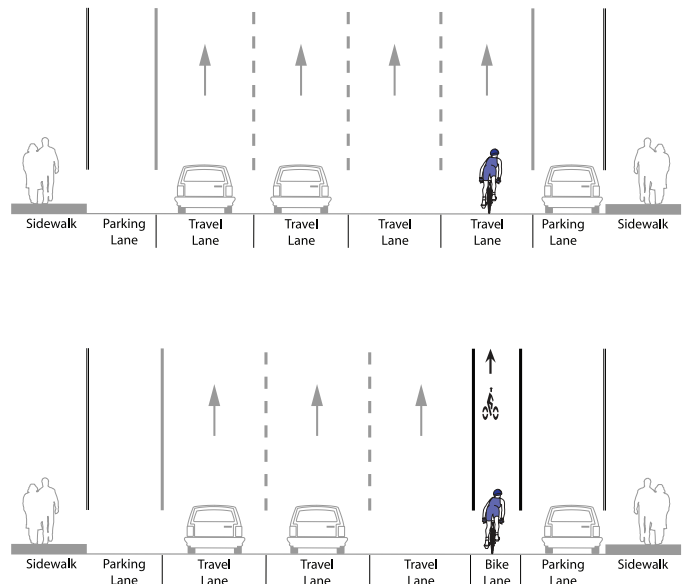
Bikeways Pending Construction in 2011



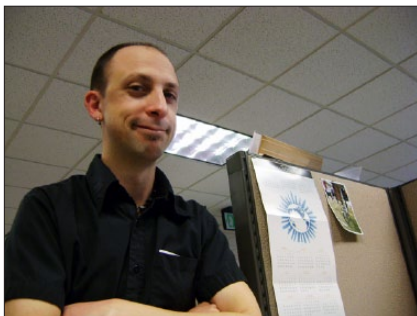
## City Council approves downtown bike lanes on Webster and Franklin Streets

On December 7, City Council approved the reconfiguration of Webster St and Franklin St to include bike lanes between 14<sup>th</sup> St and 25<sup>th</sup> St. The project will complete the first continuous bikeway into downtown Oakland and serve three regional transit stations. It will connect the North Oakland neighborhoods of Piedmont Avenue, Temescal, and Rockridge via existing bikeways on Broadway and Webster St/Shafter Ave to 12<sup>th</sup> Street BART, 19<sup>th</sup> Street BART, and AC Transit's Uptown Transit Center. It will also serve the Lake Merritt neighborhoods of Adams Point, Grand Lake, Haddon Hill, and Peralta Heights via existing bikeways on Grand Avenue, Lakeshore Avenue, and MacArthur Boulevard. Via West Grand Avenue, the project will connect to completed bikeways on West Street and Market Street in West Oakland.

The project also includes the installation of new bicycle wayfinding signs in the Broadway corridor between 14<sup>th</sup> St and 41<sup>st</sup> St. The bikeway is funded by a \$90,000 grant from the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's Transportation Fund for Clean Air program and is scheduled for construction in 2011. 



*Franklin St, 14th St-20th St & Webster St, 14th St-19th St, existing cross section (top), new cross section (bottom)*

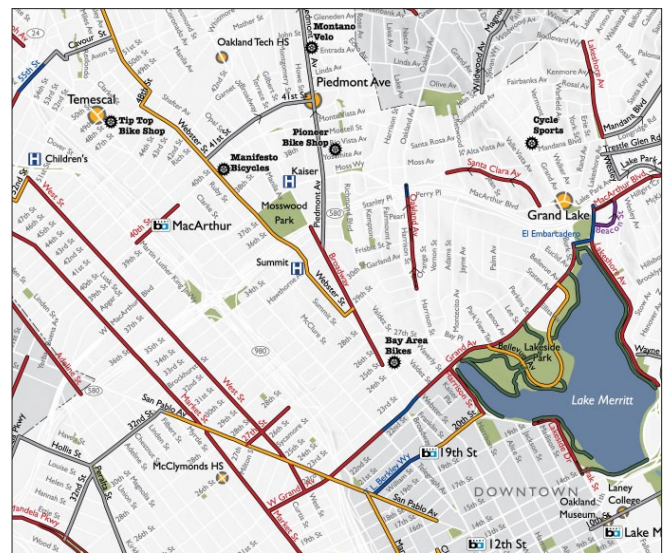


### Interns make our world go 'round!

#### *Long-time Oakland planning intern flies south*


Jake Coolidge, the Bicycle & Pedestrian Facilities Program's Planning Intern for over two years, left in December to take a GIS and cartography job at Stanford University. Jake is

one of the longest-serving program interns. He helped design, build, and refine the GIS and database resources that provide a foundation for the City's ongoing wayfinding signage and bicycle parking work. Jake also designed the free 2010 Bikeways Map; 10,000 copies were printed last May and distributed on Bike to Work Day and to all Oakland bike shops. We were sad to see him go and thank him for his invaluable contributions to designing, building, publicizing, and maintaining Oakland's bicycle facilities. Happy trails, Jake!



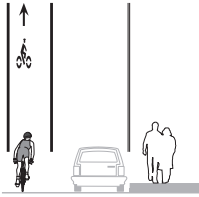
*Oakland's 2010 Bikeways Map, cartography & graphic design: Jake Coolidge (pictured)*

#### *Design interns depart for greener pastures*

On board for about six months each, two other interns, **Emily Ehlers** and **Christopher Wells** also deserve recognition for their invaluable work during the past six months. Emily (now with consulting firm Nelson\Nygaard) and Christopher (who started as a volunteer, and is now pursuing a Master's in City and Regional Planning at the University of North Carolina) drafted like mad to finalize the plans for seven bikeways that will be installed this summer, funded by a Federal Stimulus grant from the Department of Energy. Their work built upon efforts by predecessor, **Andrea Potter**, now completing a degree in Civil Engineering at the University of California, Davis. 

## Introducing “By the Numbers”

What bicycle facilities does Oakland have? How quickly are new facilities being built? To answer these questions, this newsletter now includes a feature titled “By the Numbers” to provide quantitative measures on the implementation of Oakland’s Bicycle Master Plan. The biannual newsletter will track these metrics:



**Bikeway miles:** How many miles of bikeway does Oakland have? These facilities include bike paths, bike lanes, bike routes, arterial bike routes, and bike boulevards. See the City’s free 2010 Bikeways Map (available at Oakland bike shops) for explanations of these terms and the locations of the bikeways. Oakland’s Bicycle Master Plan calls for the installation of 218 miles of bikeways.




**Bike parking spaces:** This number counts all known bike parking in Oakland that is accessible to the public, including sidewalk racks, lockers at BART stations, and the Fruitvale BART Bike Station. Parking may have been installed by the City or Port, BART, and other private property owners. How many bike parking spaces does Oakland need? You tell us. Request new parking at specific locations through the CityRacks Program: [www.oaklandbikes.info/Page127.aspx#racks](http://www.oaklandbikes.info/Page127.aspx#racks).



**Bike wayfinding signs:** In July 2009, Oakland adopted new design guidelines for bicycle wayfinding signage. The new signs are being installed on bikeways throughout the city, providing directions and distances to 100 destinations. The design guidelines estimate that 2,000 signs will be needed to cover the 218 miles of bikeways proposed in Oakland’s Bicycle Master Plan.




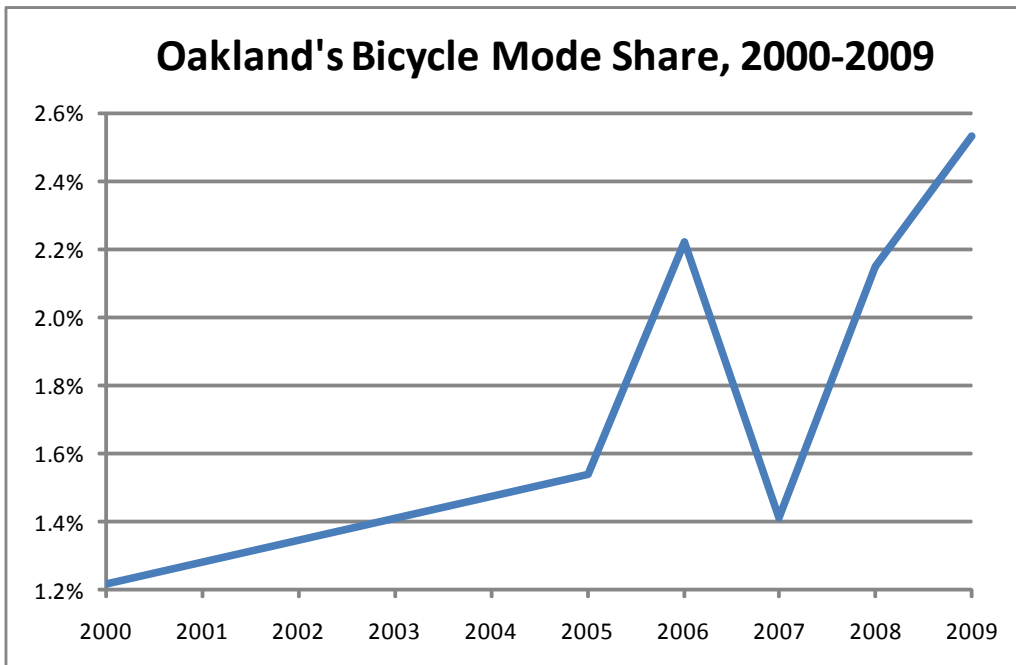
**Bike-friendly traffic signals:** Roughly one-third of Oakland’s traffic signals are “actuated,” meaning that detectors monitor for vehicles and then give green lights to the streets where vehicles are waiting. Some of these traffic signals use technology that does not reliably detect bicyclists and is difficult to configure and maintain. Others use current technology and can detect bicyclists when configured properly. In 2010, the City began a proactive program of identifying and fixing these intersections to ensure that bicyclists are served. This number tracks the intersections that have been specifically improved for bicyclists. Look for the bicycle detector symbol on the pavement to know where to wait for your green light. (The symbol also documents that the detection zone has been verified.) Oakland has 197 traffic signals on the bikeway network that are prioritized for verification and upgrades (as needed). It is City policy to configure **all** traffic signals to serve bicyclists. Report detection issues on your route to [bikeped@oaklandnet.com](mailto:bikeped@oaklandnet.com). 

### *By the Numbers: Oakland Bicycle Facilities as of December 31, 2010*

Date (as of)	Bikeway miles	Bike parking spaces	Bike wayfinding sign assemblies	Bike-friendly traffic signals
December 31, 2007	90.4	3,224	0	0
June 30, 2008	90.6	3,444	0	2
December 31, 2008	94.0	3,492	26	2
June 30, 2009	94.4	4,390	26	5
December 31, 2009	97.6	4,428	26	11
June 30, 2010	100.3	4,566	125	16
December 31, 2010	100.4	4,772	125	16

## A decade of bicycling in Oakland

Are you a new bicyclist in Oakland? **You're not alone.** Have you been riding in Oakland for years and feel like you see more and more bicyclists on the streets? *You're right!* Census data since 2000 reveal a growing number of Oaklanders bicycling to work as their primary means of transportation. Out of the 70 largest cities in the United States, Oakland now has the fifth largest percentage of people bicycling to work (US Census Bureau, 2009 American Community Survey). The top ten cities in rank order are Portland, Minneapolis, Seattle, San Francisco, Oakland, New Orleans, Honolulu, Washington DC, Philadelphia, and Boston. Oakland's bicycle mode share increased from 1.2% in 2000 to 2.5% in 2009. 



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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](http://www.oaklandbikes.info)  
([www.tinyurl.com/4fe73f6](http://www.tinyurl.com/4fe73f6))

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](http://www.oaklandbikes.info) 查詢。  
([www.tinyurl.com/4ee5zre](http://www.tinyurl.com/4ee5zre))

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](http://www.oaklandbikes.info)  
([www.tinyurl.com/4m5hjhc](http://www.tinyurl.com/4m5hjhc))