

Press Release

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Alameda CTC Announces \$30 Million Federal Award to Improve Transportation Safety, Connectivity in Oakland and San Leandro Along East Bay Greenway

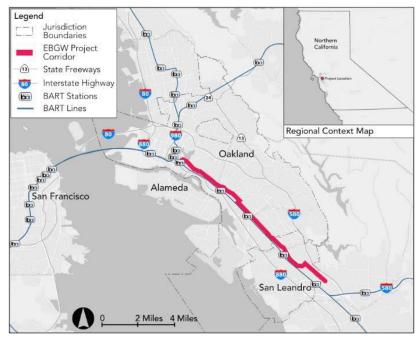
Made possible through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act, grant is second largest in California and will help build more than ten miles of a new bike and pedestrian path that prioritizes safety and connects five East Bay BART stations

ALAMEDA COUNTY, Calif. - Earlier today the US Department of Transportation announced a

\$30 million grant to the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) to construct the first phase of the East Bay Greenway, providing a 10.6-mile bike and pedestrian corridor connecting communities along five BART stations from Oakland to San Leandro. Construction will deliver a host of new safety features for users along the path, including protected intersections,

separated bike lanes, crosswalk and accessibility improvements, and traffic signal enhancements.

"Alameda CTC's priorities for improving safety and advancing equitable transportation for all can advance even further with this grant award. Reconnecting communities that have been underinvested in will increase safety, access and result in more equitable opportunities for people who live and work in this corridor. This grant will provide a highquality bike and pedestrian path that people can feel safe to use every day to travel for work, school and recreation. This project also means more affordable and



Map of East Bay Greenway Project Area (in red) and larger Bay Area region.

healthier transportation options while providing a cleaner transportation choice that advances our agency's climate goals," remarked Alameda CTC Chair, Emeryville Councilmember John J. Bauters. "We thank the Biden-Harris Administration, the Department of Transportation, and our Congressional delegation for making this critical funding available."

The \$30 million grant will be used to construct Phase One of the East Bay Greenway Project, constructing a bicycle and walking path connecting five Oakland and San Leandro BART stations. Given the documented history of transportation disinvestment in low-income communities and communities of color, including in this project's area, infrastructure investments along the East Bay Greenway are especially important to advance equitable transportation options for all users. Along with important safety improvements, the project will also boost access to schools, affordable housing, community services, commerce, and public transit including BART and AC Transit — while promoting cleaner transportation options that reduce greenhouse emissions.

"For so long, communities along this corridor have been in long need of these types of investments to advance economic development, community connectedness and cleaner air," remarked Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao. "This award marks an important investment towards providing highquality transportation options in Oakland and the rest of the corridor."

"This project will provide significant benefits to the communities that it traverses between Lake Merritt in Oakland and Bayfair in San Leandro, where significant housing and economic development efforts are underway, while helping to meet local, state, and national goals to improve transportation safety, economic competitiveness, climate resilience, and community connectivity," noted Alameda CTC Commissioner and San Leandro Mayor Juan González III.

The award was made possible through the US Department of Transportation's Reconnecting Communities Pilot and Neighborhood Access and Equity discretionary grant programs, which seek to fund transportation investments that prioritize disadvantaged communities, improve access to daily travel destinations, foster equitable development and restoration, and reconnect communities by addressing transportation facility barriers to community connectivity. Alameda CTC's \$30 million grant is the second largest in California. The Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has been combined with the newly-established Neighborhood Access and Equity discretionary grant program in the Inflation Reduction Act to make it more efficient and accessible for project sponsors to apply for the historic levels of infrastructure funding.

"By improving safety, reducing emissions, connecting communities and providing users with multimodal travel options for walking and cycling, this award is critical for advancing equitable transportation for everyone in Alameda County," noted Alameda CTC's Executive Director, Tess Lengyel. "Alameda CTC can now deliver this project with the combination of local voter-approved Measure BB funding, state and federal funding. Thank you to the voters for their trust and our sincere appreciation goes to the Biden-Harris Administration, the US Department of Transportation, our federal partners, including Senators Alex Padilla and Laphonza Butler, and Congressmembers Barbara Lee and Eric Swalwell for their support, and our state and regional partners."

To learn more about the first phase of the East Bay Greenway Multimodal Phase 1 – Lake Merritt to Bayfair project, please visit the fact sheet for the project on Alameda CTC's website.

About the Alameda County Transportation Commission

The mission of the Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) is to plan, fund and deliver transportation programs and projects that expand access and improve mobility to foster a vibrant and livable Alameda County. Governed by a 22-member Commission, Alameda CTC manages the county's one-cent transportation sales tax and serves as the county's congestion management agency. The agency delivers more than \$200 million each year in transportation improvements that create jobs, enhance mobility and enrich communities.

Learn about current transportation <u>projects and programs</u> and learn about <u>Measure BB</u>, which voters passed in November 2014. Visit <u>Alameda CTC's website</u> to learn more, and follow Alameda CTC on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>X</u>, formally known as Twitter.

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