

Outreach Summary Report for Oakland

EAST BAY GREENWAY MULTIMODAL PROJECT:
NORTH SEGMENT - LAKE MERRITT BART TO BAY FAIR BART



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This document reports on outreach efforts and community input collected for the Oakland portion of the East Bay Greenway (EBGW) Multimodal Project between September 15 and November 30, 2022.

The goal of this phase of outreach was to inform the public and stakeholders about the East Bay Greenway Multimodal Project and learn about community needs and concerns for multimodal transportation infrastructure. Project goals and alignment/design concepts were presented for public input, and community members were informed of how the latest concepts fit into the overall project schedule and environmental analysis. Additional outreach will be conducted as part of the project's final design.

Common themes heard during this round of outreach, across all input methods include:

Project Opportunities:

- Overall sentiment toward the East Bay Greenway project was highly supportive.
- Several comments expressed enthusiasm for improved access to BART stations and community destinations.
- Bike lanes should be low maintenance, clean, and well-lit.
- High demand for public art and greening along the corridor.
- Requests to provide additional information to the public through door-to-door outreach and social media
- Some community members expressed excitement about the project as meeting a need in the different neighborhoods for a family-friendly active recreation facility

Specific Project Concerns:

- Concerns about traffic safety along the corridor and sense that a high level of protection/separation will be needed for bikeways and pedestrian paths to be safe
- Concerns about cleanliness and maintenance.
- Uncertainty about possible delays to the project and concerns that the project timeline is too long.
- Concerns about unhoused populations along corridor including construction impacts and potential for new encampments.
- Concerns related to more traffic and congestion caused by the project.
- Concerns about cars parking in bike lanes.

This document may be appended as the project proceeds. Outreach for the San Leandro portion of the East Bay Greenway Multimodal Project is documented separately.



1. COMMUNITY & STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH

1.1 STAKEHOLDER LIST

A project stakeholder database (**Appendix A01**) was assembled using existing contacts from previous EBGW project outreach activities and updating and/or incorporating additional contacts such as elected officials and local community-based organizations (CBOs). The outreach team also identified businesses located along the project alignment for inclusion in the stakeholder list. As of this report, the stakeholder list includes 407 contacts.

1.2 STAKEHOLDER PRESENTATIONS

Stakeholder meetings were held on September 15 and October 19, 2022, to conduct outreach and collect input on the project.

A PowerPoint presentation was prepared (**Appendix A02**) and presented by Alameda CTC staff. Spanish and Chinese versions of the video were hosted on the project website. Email invitations were also drafted for Alameda CTC and City of Oakland staff (**Appendix A03**).

Attendees were also invited to visit the online survey (described in Section 2.2, below) to submit feedback on the project.

Table 1. Summary of Presentations

| Date | Event | Attendees |
|----------|--|---|
| 09/15/22 | City of Oakland Bicyclist & Pedestrian Advisory Commission (BPAC) virtual meeting | 32 (Appendix A04) |
| 10/19/22 | Virtual focus group with East Oakland Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) and cycling/multimodal transportation advocacy groups. Hosted over Zoom. | (Appendix A05) City of Oakland Bike East Bay TransForm Higher Ground Neighborhood Development Corp Rails-to-Trails Conservancy Greenbelt Alliance East Oakland Collective Walk Oakland Bike Oakland |



Alameda CTC also held several briefings with staff from Oakland Department of Transportation, AC Transit, and BART, some of which included a PowerPoint presentation.

1.3 POP-UP EVENTS

A series of popups were held at community events and BART stations around Oakland near the EBGW alignment. The BART station popups were held on weekdays during peak commuting hours. An Alameda CTC representative, along with consultant support, staffed each event and recorded notes of comments and conversations from visitors. The majority of pop-up visitors were local transit riders or other Oakland residents who visited the project area often.

The EBGW fact sheets (Appendix A06) and project postcards were distributed at the popups. Community members were also encouraged to take the survey forms, either online or through paper copies provided at each event.

Popups were supported by a posterboard (**Appendix A07**) outlining the East Bay Greenway Multimodal Project and how the project will improve safety and connection along the BART corridor in Oakland for pedestrians and bicyclists. A Spanish-language posterboard was also included. Plotted maps of the alignment and graphical cross- sections and plotted maps of the alignment were provided by HNTB.

Table 2. Summary of Pop-Up Events

| Date | Event / Location | |
|----------|---|--|
| 09/17/22 | Oakland Roots Soccer Game (outside of stadium entrance) | |
| 10/25/22 | Lake Merritt BART Station | |
| 10/26/22 | Coliseum BART Station | |
| 10/27/22 | Fruitvale BART Station | |
| 10/30/22 | Día de Los Muertos Festival | |

Total estimated visitors to the pop-ups: 75+





Alameda CTC booth at Día de Los Muertos festival

1.4 POSTCARD MAILER

A postcard describing the East Bay Greenway Multimodal project and its benefits was created and mailed to 14,987 residents and businesses along the project alignment in Oakland on October 3, 2022.

The postcard (**Appendix A08**) included a map of the proposed alignment in Oakland, details on the upcoming pop-up event at the Día de los Muertos festival, and an email address for submitting comments or questions. A QR code linking to the project survey was also featured. The information on the postcard was provided in English, Spanish, and Chinese.

1.5 E-BLAST AND CBO MATERIALS

Emails were drafted for distribution by Alameda CTC and the City of Oakland to their respective mailing lists. The emails (**Appendix A09**) publicized the date and location of upcoming pop-up events and promoted the project survey.

Outreach content, including a draft email and social media posts, was also provided to select CBOs, including the groups that attended the 10/19 focus group, for distribution to their respective constituents. (**Appendix A10**).



2. ONLINE OUTREACH

2.1 WEBSITE CONTENT

Updated web content and a video flyover of the project area (Appendix A11) was developed and deployed to the East Bay Greenway Oakland Phase 1 project page on <u>Alameda CTC's</u> website.

2.2 SURVEY

An online survey (provided in English, Spanish, and Chinese) was created to solicit feedback about the project. The survey ran from October 1 to November 30, 2022 and was promoted by Alameda CTC on its Twitter and Facebook channels. Attendees of the 10/19 CBO focus group were asked to share a link to the survey to their constituents. Paper copies of the survey were also distributed at the pop-up events. (**Appendix A12**)





2.3 MEDIA COVERAGE

An article covering the project and highlighting in-person outreach opportunities (including the Dia de Los Muertos pop-up) was published by The Oaklandside on September 22, 2022. <u>Link to article.</u>



3. SUMMARY OF INPUT RECEIVED

The following section summarizes input received on the East Bay Greenway Multimodal project in Oakland. Feedback is summarized from comments received from the popup events, stakeholder briefings, and the survey.

The full datasets collected through each input method are provided in Appendix B: Public Input.

3.1 OVERALL IMPRESSION OF PROJECT

Common themes heard during this round of outreach, across all input methods include:

Project Opportunities:

- Overall sentiment toward the East Bay Greenway project was highly supportive.
- Several comments expressed enthusiasm for improved access to BART stations and community destinations.
- Bike lanes should be low maintenance, clean, and well-lit.
- High demand for public art and greening along the corridor.
- Requests to provide additional information to the public through door-to-door outreach and social media
- Some community members expressed excitement about the project as meeting a need in the different neighborhoods for a family-friendly active recreation facility

Specific Project Concerns:

- Concerns about traffic safety along the corridor and sense that a high level of protection/separation will be needed for bikeways and pedestrian paths to be safe
- Concerns about cleanliness and maintenance.
- Uncertainty about possible delays to the project and concerns that the project timeline is too long.
- Concerns about unhoused populations along corridor including construction impacts and potential for new encampments.



- Concerns related to more traffic and congestion caused by the project.
- Concerns about cars parking in bike lanes.

3.2 SUMMARY OF STAKEHOLDER MEETING INPUT

Questions and comments were recorded at the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (**Appendix B01**) and Oakland CBO Focus Group (**Appendix B02**) briefings.

Participant questions and comments were primarily centered around safety for pedestrians and bicyclists, maintaining the bike paths, and the possibility of adding more greening and amenities along the project corridor. Participants had several suggestions for project features that would serve the public, including creating wider, family-friendly paths, adding art and design elements, and incorporating a two-way cycle track design.

Two emails with comments were received after the focus group briefing (**Appendix B03**), one concerned with adding play structures for children and fitness structures to the greenway, and the other suggesting outreach to community organizations for planning through an environmental justice lens.

3.3 SUMMARY OF POP-UP EVENT INPUT

Across all pop-up events, most of the questions and comments were positive. The most frequently asked questions from pop-up event visitors were:

- When will the project be complete?
- How will the project be funded?
- Will the East Bay Greenway connect to the Bay Trail?

3.4 SUMMARY OF SURVEY RESPONSES AND COMMENTS

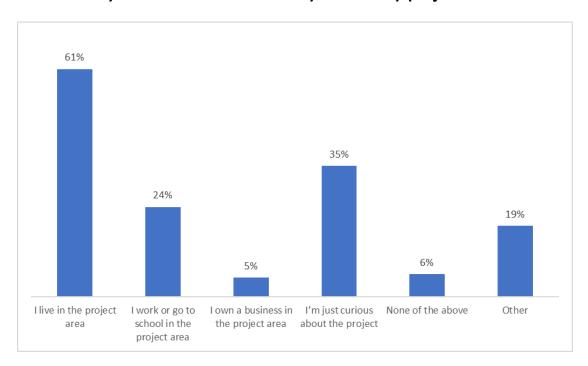
The following figures and tables summarize responses received from the EBGW Multimodal Project Oakland Survey via Google forms as well as paper surveys that were filled out at the



pop-up events. A total of 144 responses were received for the survey with the majority taking the survey online. Three individuals took the survey in Spanish and the rest in English.

The full dataset is available in **Appendix B04**.

Q1: What is your interest in the East Bay Greenway project? Select all that apply.



Respondents who selected "Other" were able to leave a write-in comment with more information about their interest in the project. The majority of these write-in responses cited an interest in biking in the area. For example, one respondent said, "I'm a bike commuter and I would ride this if it were built".

Another theme was safety as seen in the following response: "I support trail/greenway projects, I design trail/greenway projects, and I want to be able to bike through the East Bay more safely."

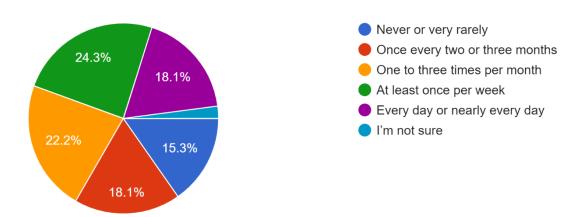
Q2: What forms of transportation do you use on a regular basis (at least 2-3 times per week)? Select all that apply.

| # | Response | % |
|---|--------------|-----|
| 1 | Walk | 69% |
| 2 | Bike/Scooter | 66% |



| # | Response | % |
|---|-----------|-----|
| 3 | BART | 59% |
| 4 | Drive | 55% |
| 5 | Bus | 24% |
| 6 | Rideshare | 6% |
| 7 | Other | 4% |

Q3: How often do you travel along East 10th, East 8th, East 12th, or San Leandro Streets in Oakland (between Lake Merritt BART and San Leandro)?



Over two-thirds of participants (67%) travel through the project area at least monthly, with a further 42% traveling through the area on a weekly or daily basis.

Q4: Which of the following features do you want to see most along this section of roadway? Select all that apply.

| # | Response | % |
|---|-------------------------------|-----|
| 1 | Separated bike paths or lanes | 92% |
| 2 | Better pedestrian crossings | 68% |



| # | Response | % |
|---|--|-----|
| 3 | Upgraded lighting | 61% |
| 4 | Landscaping and/or amenities (benches, art, etc) | 60% |
| 5 | Bike routes with lower speeds and less traffic | 55% |
| 6 | Other | 11% |

Bike and pedestrian safety emerged as clear priorities for respondents. Of the 11% of respondents that selected "Other," the write-in field was mostly used to emphasize the need for one or more of the already featured priorities, including cleaner streets, paved roads, and crossings that priorities bicyclists and pedestrians

Q5: How might you and your family use the East Bay Greenway? Select all that apply.

| # | Response | % |
|---|--|-----|
| 1 | For fun/recreation | 87% |
| 2 | To get to shopping, errands, or appointments | 65% |
| 3 | To commute to work or school | 44% |

Q6: What are your concerns about the project, if any? For example, concerns related to construction, traffic, parking, etc. Please be specific.

Respondents were invited to submit open-ended responses expressing any concerns they had about the project. The most common themes and the number of survey respondents expressing the theme are summarized below.



| # | Theme | Respondents expressing comment theme |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | Traffic safety | 18 |
| 2 | Project timeline and construction | 17 |
| 3 | Maintenance/cleanliness | 9 |
| 4 | Homelessness | 9 |
| 5 | Traffic congestion | 7 |
| 6 | Personal security | 4 |
| 7 | Others | 1-4 |

The table below provides representative quotes from each of the most common comment theme areas.

| Concerns | Relevant Quotes | |
|-----------------------------------|--|--|
| Traffic Safety | "[I] want clear paths for pedestrians and wheelchairs and bicycles and for it to be safe for kids to ride with special crossing lights for any cartraffic [pathways]." Drivers in this area are very dangerous and frequently speed and ignore traffic laws. The route needs to be protected by crash-proof barriers to prevent bikers and pedestrians from being killed. | |
| Project Timeline and Construction | "Project construction timeline too long" "I'm all for the project! My only concerns are delays in getting it completed." | |
| Maintenance/ cleanliness | Keeping the paths safe and clean - housing support and resources will be needed for the unhoused in the community to really maintain the path | |



| Concerns | Relevant Quotes |
|------------------------|--|
| Homelessness | Ensure homeless encampments and trash dumping do not overtake the beautified space. |
| Traffic and congestion | "I am concerned about traffic. If lanes need to be reduced to make room for the separated bike paths, it may cause congestion." "My main concern is that you will create something that is still stressful to ride. I presently use Bancroft and Foothill but Foothill is stressful, especially thru Fruitvale. I love this idea of better connection between Castro Valley and Oakland." |
| Personal Security | "The San Leandro Street corridor will have major challenges as it is a very rough neighborhood with lots of homelessness, crime, and rampant scofflaw drivers. Crossing any street, even if you have the green light, is dangerous because so many drivers run red lights." |

Q7: What is your ZIP code?

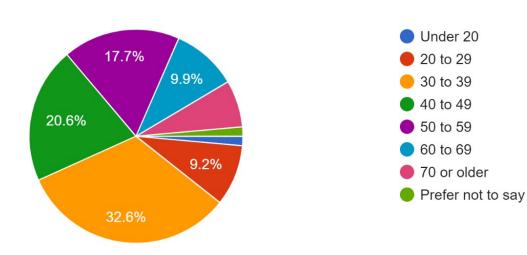
The survey included several optional demographic questions to guide equity outreach efforts. The five most reported corresponding cities are provided below:

| # | City | % |
|---|------------|------|
| 1 | Oakland | 64% |
| 2 | Alameda | 6.6% |
| 3 | Hayward | 6.6% |
| 4 | Emeryville | 3.3% |
| 5 | Berkeley | 3.3% |

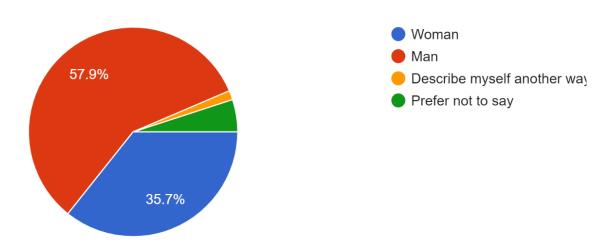
The most common zip codes for responses in Oakland were 94606 (18 responses); 94601 (16); 94607 (9); 94611 (8); 94610 (6); 94612 (6); 94609 (6); 94621 (5); 95619 (4); 94605 (3); 94618 (2); and 94602 (2).



Q8: How old are you?

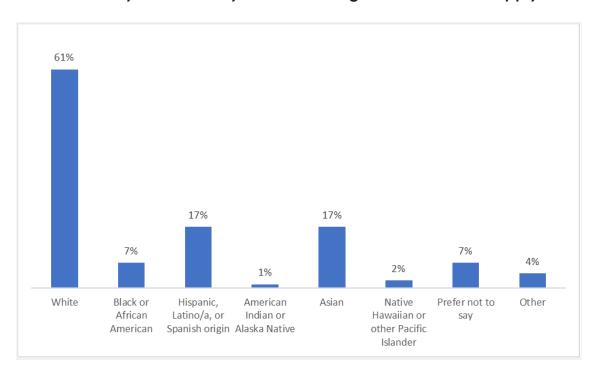


Q9: How do you describe yourself?





Q10: What do you consider your race or origin? Select all that apply.



Q11: Do you have any additional questions or comments for the project team?

Additional feedback and questions about the project largely fell into several key comment theme areas, as summarized below.

| # | Theme | Respondents expressing comment theme |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1 | General support for project | 21 |
| 2 | Specific design suggestions | 7 |
| 3 | Support for separated/protected facilities | 5 |
| 4 | Questions regarding project scope and schedule | 3 |



| # | Theme | Respondents expressing comment theme |
|---|---|--------------------------------------|
| 5 | Suggestions for additional outreach | 3 |
| 6 | Neighborhood needs | 3 |
| 7 | References to model facility | 3 |
| 8 | Other feedback, including: • homelessness • volunteer engagement • accommodations for seniors, children, and people with disabilities • project maintenance • general skepticism about the project | 1-2 |

Excerpts from responses highlighting the most common themes are provided below:

| Category | Relevant Quotes |
|--------------------------------|---|
| General Support for Project | "This is an awesome project and I can't wait to see it completed." "I live in San Antonio neighborhood and work in Hayward near the Hayward BART station. This project would drastically improve these areas and help reduce car dependency and promote pedestrian safety." "I presently use Bancroft and Foothill but Foothill is stressful, especially thru Fruitvale. I love this idea of better connection between Castro Valley and Oakland. []. Cycle commuting is very practical but only if people feel safe. Thanks for this great project!" |



| Category | Relevant Quotes |
|--|---|
| Specific Design Suggestions | "The transition between Section 2 (E 8th St – E 10th St to 14th Ave) and Section 3 (E 12th St – 20th Ave to Fruitvale Ave) should provide an adequately protected/marked crossing between the cycle track section and protected bike lane section. A cycle track in each direction along Section 3 should be considered []The intersection at 12th St. and 23rd Ave. should include design elements to protect eastbound bicycle and pedestrian users from automobiles turning onto 23rd Ave. |
| Support for separated/protected facilities | "I would like to feel comfortable biking with my children here [] This means traffic calming and separated bike facilities" "Protected bike lanes are preferable to sharing the street with any vehicle traffic" |
| Project Scope/Schedule | "Are they also going to pave and fix the current paths, sidewalks, etc." "Will this create jobs?" |
| Outreach and Updates | "Will there be more public outreach concerning this project?" "On foot/ In person outreach should be included on this survey as well" |
| Neighborhood Needs | "this project with help with better connectivity to transit. which is hard for most people living in disinvested or industrial parts of East Oakland." |



| Category | Relevant Quotes |
|------------------|--|
| Model Facilities | "The concept of this greenway seems ideal: it could open up the neighborhoods along the way to increased opportunities and inexpensive ways to access other neighborhoods and opportunities. The Ohlone Greenway seems like a successful model." "It would be really awesome if this happened. Would it be like the Doyle Street Greenway in Emeryville? I love that one - it's so pleasant and makes going between Oakland and Berkeley so much easier!" |



APPENDIX A: OUTREACH COLLATERAL

A01: STAKEHOLDER LIST

Excel spreadsheet containing the project stakeholder list. Link to spreadsheet

A02: POWERPOINT PRESENTATION VIDEOS

Presentation given to Focus Group with narrations provided for web distribution.

- <u>Link to English Presentation</u>
- Link to Spanish Presentation
- Link to Chinese Presentation

A03: FOCUS GROUP EMAILS

Invitations emails drafted for Alameda CTC and City of Oakland for attendees. Link to PDF

A04: BPAC PRESENTATION & MINUTES

Document with list of BPAC attendees and PowerPoint presentation. Link to PDF

A05: FOCUS GROUP ATTENDEES

List of focus group attendees. Link to PDF

A06: POP-UP EVENT FACT SHEET

Project fact sheet distributed at popups.





A07: POP-UP EVENT POSTERS

Informational posters brought to pop-up events.



A08: POSTCARD

Postcard mailed to neighbors/businesses in project area and distributed at popups.





A09: POP-UP EVENT OUTREACH CONTENT

Content created for Alameda CTC to promote pop-up events & survey. Link to PDF

A10: PARTNER OUTREACH CONTENT

Content created for partners organizations to promote pop-up events & survey via e-blast and social media.

Twitter Post #1:

A regional trail linking Lake Merritt & South Hayward BART stations is in the works! The East Bay Greenway will provide 16 miles of separated bike lanes & other safety features. Head to @AlamedaCTC popups in @Oakland or visit alamedactc.org/eastbaygreenway

Twitter Post #2:

Your feedback is needed! @AlamedaCTC is conducting a survey on the Oakland span of its proposed East Bay Greenway project. The multi-use path & bike lanes will link Lake Merritt and South Hayward BART. Chime in if you live or work near the span in Oakland! bit.ly/EBGWOaklandSurvey

Twitter graphic:





Instagram post:

A regional trail linking Lake Merritt & South Hayward BART stations is in the works! The proposed East Bay Greenway will provide separated bike lanes, enhance pedestrian crossings, and offer other safety improvements along the route from @Oakland to Hayward. Alameda CTC wants to hear from you! Head to their upcoming popups in Oakland or visit alamedactc.org/eastbaygreenway to learn more.

Instagram graphic:



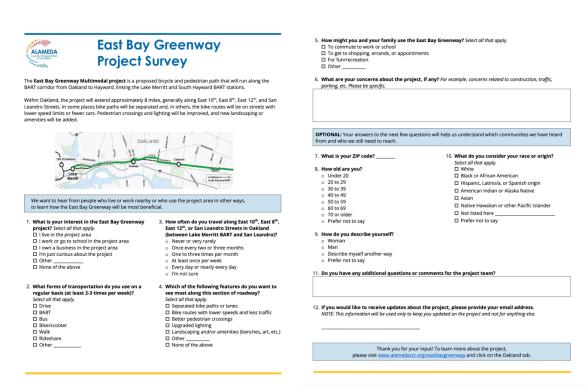


A11: EBGW OAKLAND FLYOVER VIDEO

Video providing bird's eye view of EBGW corridor in Oakland. Link to video.

A12: PROJECT SURVEY

Text of survey on website and distribution materials.





APPENDIX B: PUBLIC INPUT RECEIVED

B01: BPAC BRIEFING Q&A COMMENTS

Notes of questions & comments received during stakeholder presentations. Link to PDF

B02: FOCUS GROUP BRIEFING Q&A

Notes of questions & comments received during focus group. Link to PDF

B03: FOCUS GROUP BRIEFING EMAIL COMMENTS.

Emails received from stakeholders following presentations. Link to PDF

B04: PROJECT SURVEY DATA

Excel spreadsheet with full survey responses. Link to spreadsheet