

The West Oakland Link

Meeting 5 out of 5
Placemaking, History & Design

Nov. 7, 2023



West Oaks
Environmental
Indicators
Project

PLACE MAKING / HISTORICAL RESOURCES / DESIGN

NOVEMBER 7, 2023



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Schedule [RSVP to upcoming meetings at woeip.org/events](https://woeip.org/events)

Phase	Meeting	Date	Purpose
1	1: Intro to the West Oakland Link	9/1/2023	Start the community engagement process.
	2: Design Deep-dive	10/10/2023	Explore design elements shaping the path at key locations.
	3: Environmental Justice, Air Pollution & Public Health	10/17/2023	Explore the health and equity implications of the path's location through an area with elevated pollution levels.
	4: Streetscapes, Intersections & Traffic Safety	10/24/2023	Use shared local knowledge to help shape a path that accommodates different modes of transportation for all.
Tonight →	5: Placemaking, Design & History	11/7/2023	Root the Link in local history and create a sense of community.
2	Design Update Meeting 1	2/2024	
	Design Update Meeting 2	6/2024	
3	Design Update and Construction Phase Introduction Meeting	8/2024	
4	Pre-Construction Phase Meeting	3/2025	



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Meeting Expectations

- Please communicate with respect and be mindful of how much space you're taking while engaging those who haven't spoken
- Respect time agreements and stay on topic in order to achieve our meeting goals
- We actively listen with an open mind, respecting multiple points of view
- We assume good faith in giving and receiving feedback, criticism and questions
- We check for diversity gaps (who is missing) and propose solutions for it



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Introductions to presenters



Gavin Lohry
He/Him

*Metropolitan Transportation
Commission/Bay Area Toll
Authority*



Nicole Merino Tsui
She/ her

*West Oakland
Environmental Indicator
Project*



Matt Covall
He/Him

*Perkins and Will Architecture
-Associate Principal*



Dishaddra Poddar
He/him

*Perkins and Will Architecture
-Urban Design*



Sarah Kuehl
She/Her

*Einwiller Kuehl Landscape
Architecture- Principal*



Geo Mayne
They/ Them

*Einwiller Kuehl Landscape
Architecture-Associate*



Fiwasewa Ogundipe
She/Her

*Einwiller Kuehl Landscape
Architecture-Designer*



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Where is the project on a map?



The Bay Area bike path network

Enlargement of the West Oakland Link



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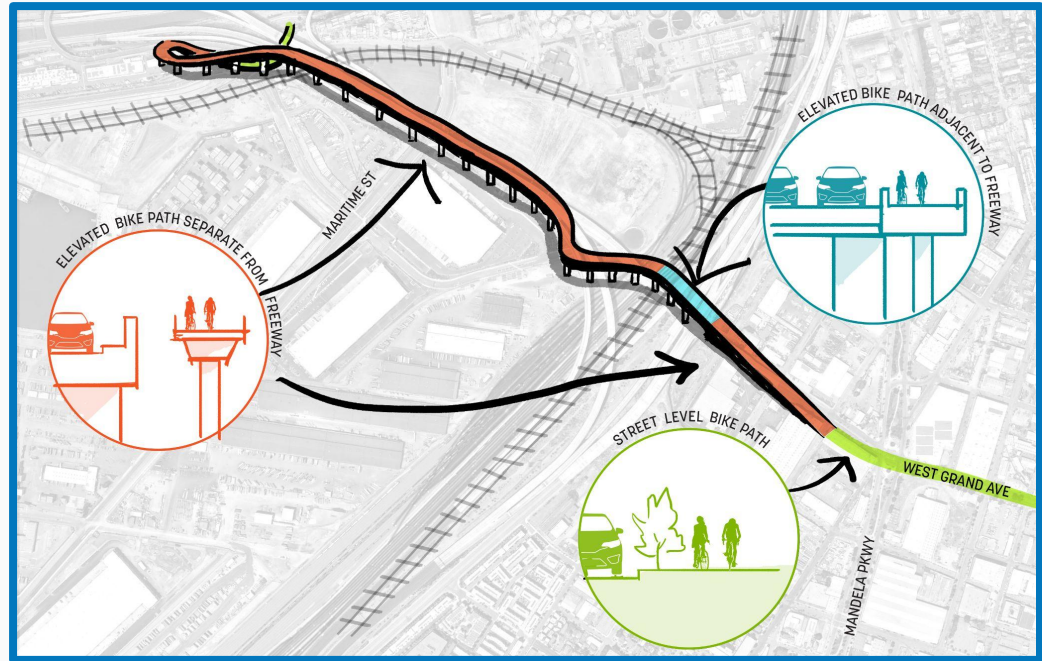


What is the project?

In simple language this is a trail project.

The West Oakland Link of the Bay Skyway will provide a safe connection for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel between West Oakland, the Port of Oakland, and the Bay Bridge Trail.

- 1.1 miles of separated, elevated 15' wide low-stress multi-use path
- Connects with the planned Grand Ave bike lane (to downtown) at Mandela/Grand intersection
- Landscaping and community amenities based on community input



What we've heard (a sample)

Community Process



4 Groups Made Placemaking Maps



Safety, accessibility and environmental exposure are key priorities.

Accommodating multiple modes of transit is critical to accessibility of the space.

Equitable access for and engagement of local residents must be prioritized.

Ongoing maintenance is a fundamental part of keeping the space accessible to all.

Signage and lighting need to be abundant for the path to be usable.

What we are doing tonight

- Understand and build on the local site history.
We will review social, ecological, and transportation histories and how they've impacted the area. We will also open it up for discussion to layer onto.
- Review and discuss what we heard and how that's shaping the composition of the *structure and the ground*.
We'll look at how different elements—such as exposure, safety, and lighting—can improve the Link for residents like you.
- Discuss & document your insight to inform designs.
Go to woeip.org/wolink-survey5 to provide feedback as we go.

Take the survey:



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WEST OAKLAND LINK:

—

KNOWING THE HISTORY OF LAND AND PLACE



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WEST OAKLAND LINK: REGIONAL + LOCAL

—

Many transportation projects in West Oakland have negatively impacted the people who live in the local neighborhood. This transportation project intends to **BOTH** make a regional connection **AND** be a positive amenity for the local neighborhood.



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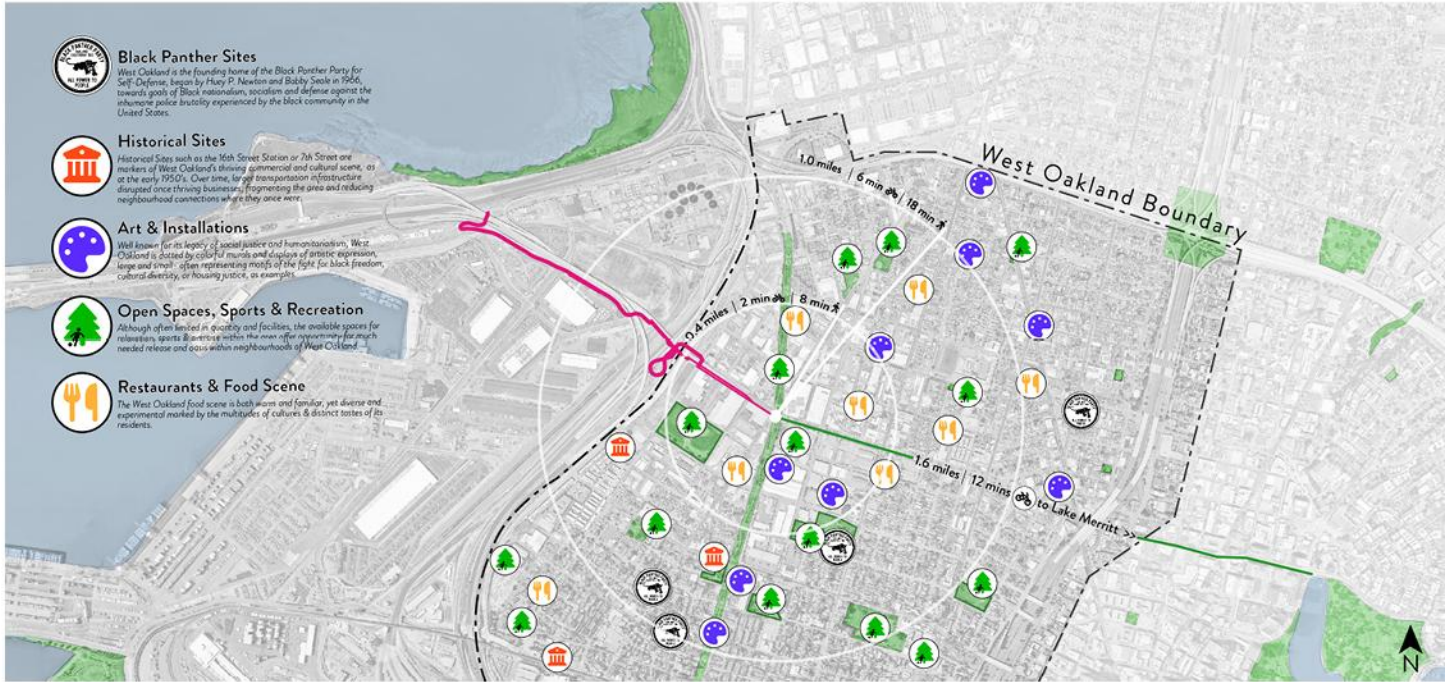
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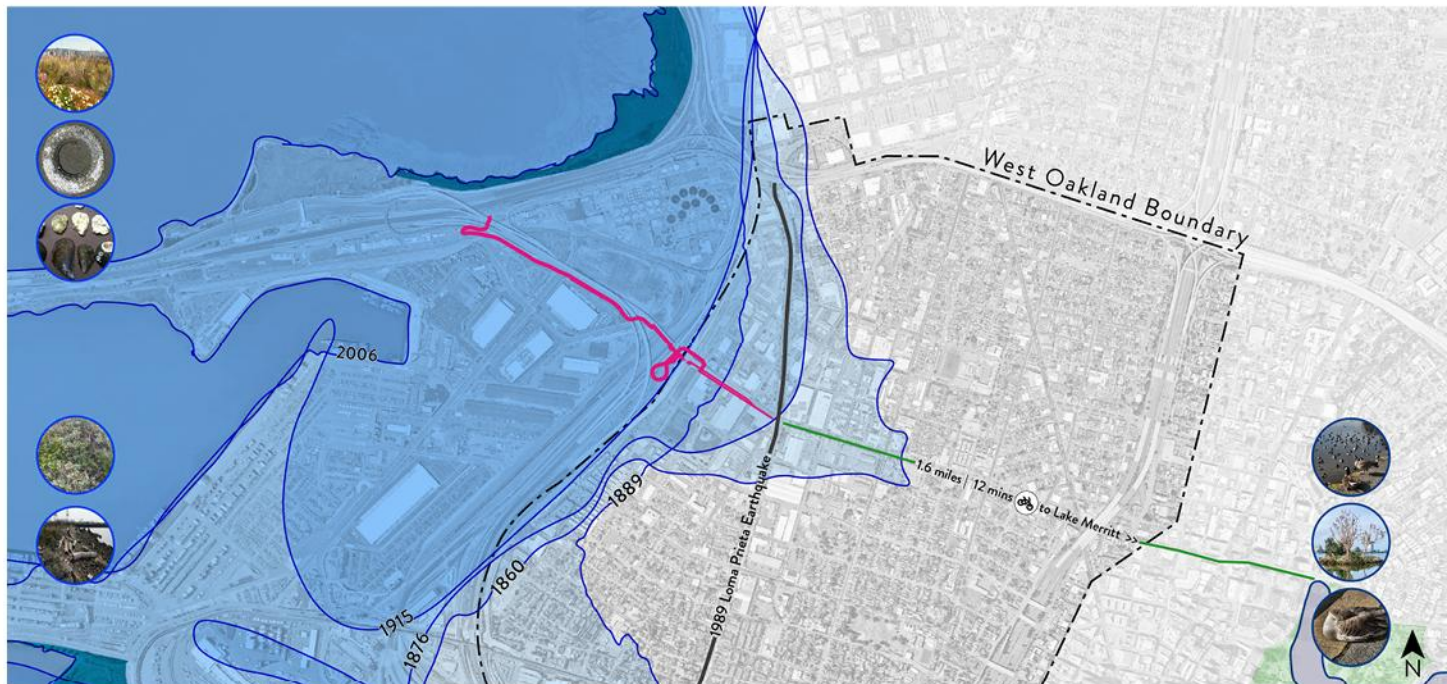
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WELCOME TO WEST OAKLAND



CONNECTION TO THE BAY



LEGEND

- Bike Lane
- 1989 Loma Prieta Earthquake Impact

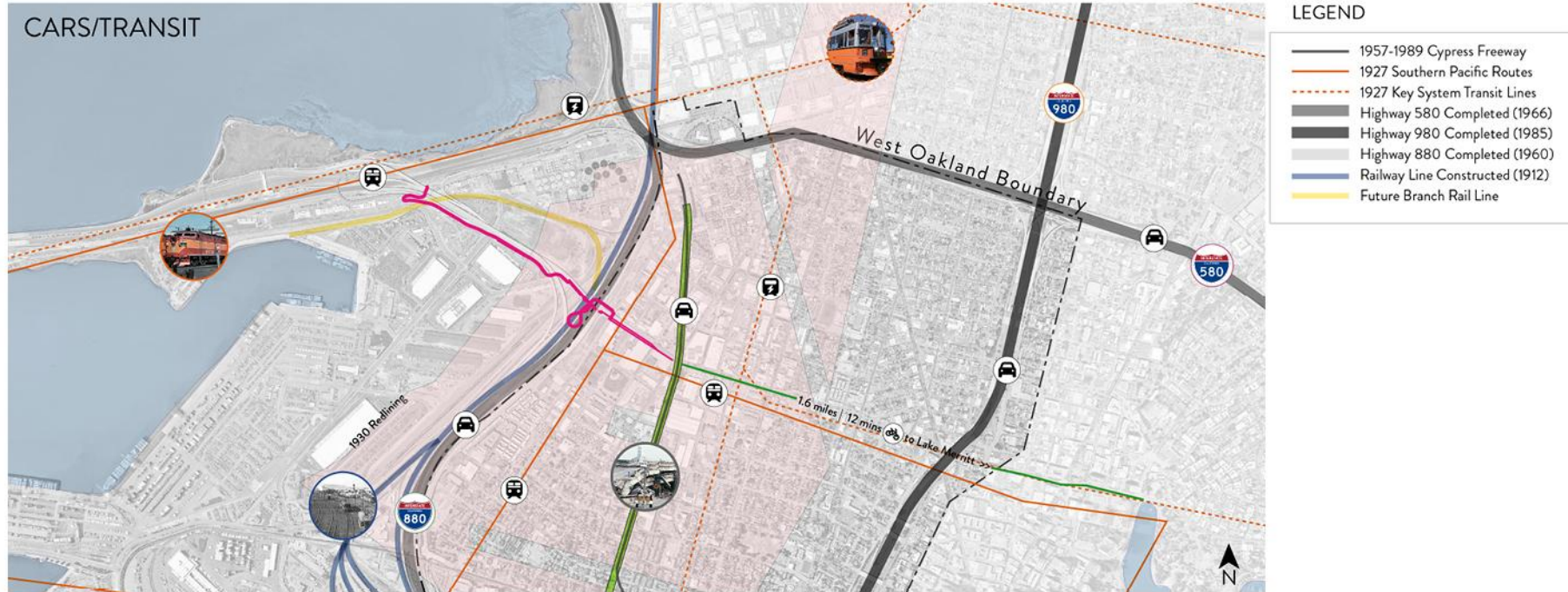
Shoreline Parks

Following the Gold Rush, Oakland's 19-mile waterfront changed continuously as tideland and marsh were reclaimed for construction- the natural shoreline once formerly extending up to the now-San Pablo Avenue.

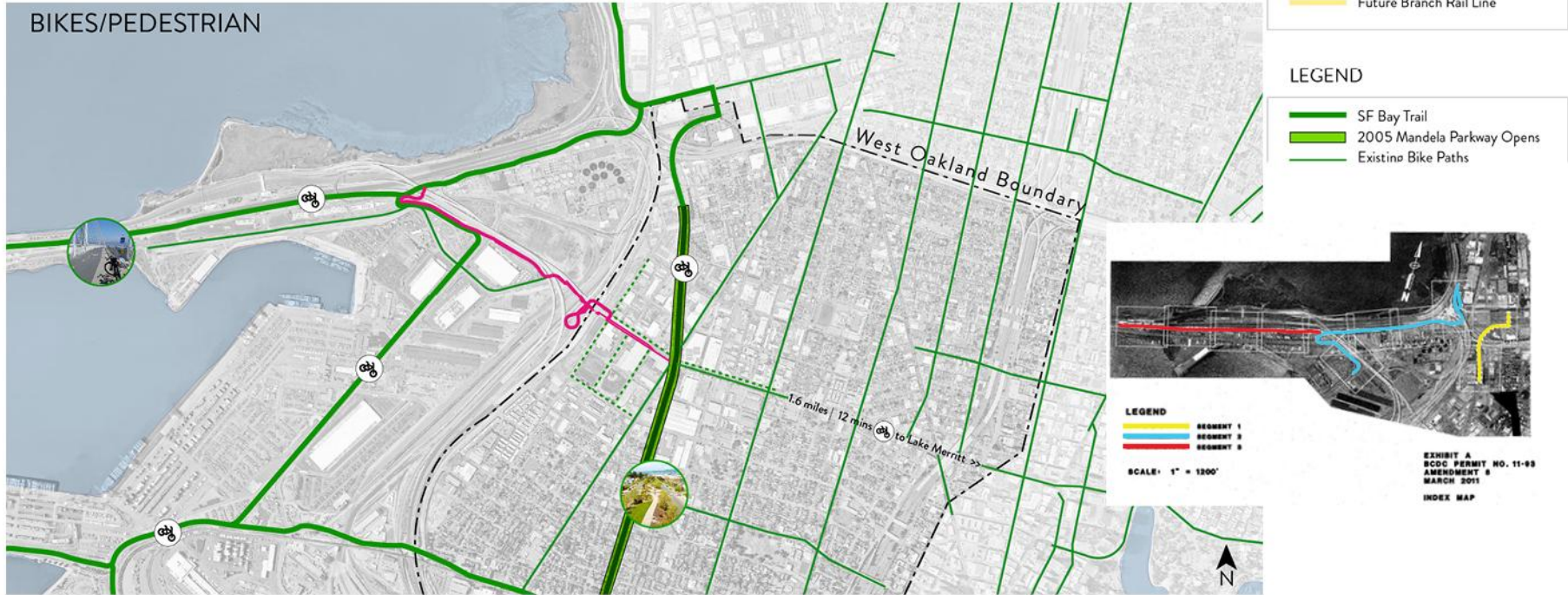
Lake Merritt

Lake Merritt became the 1st Wildlife refuge for migrating birds in the USA, declared by Oakland's Mayor Merritt in 1869.

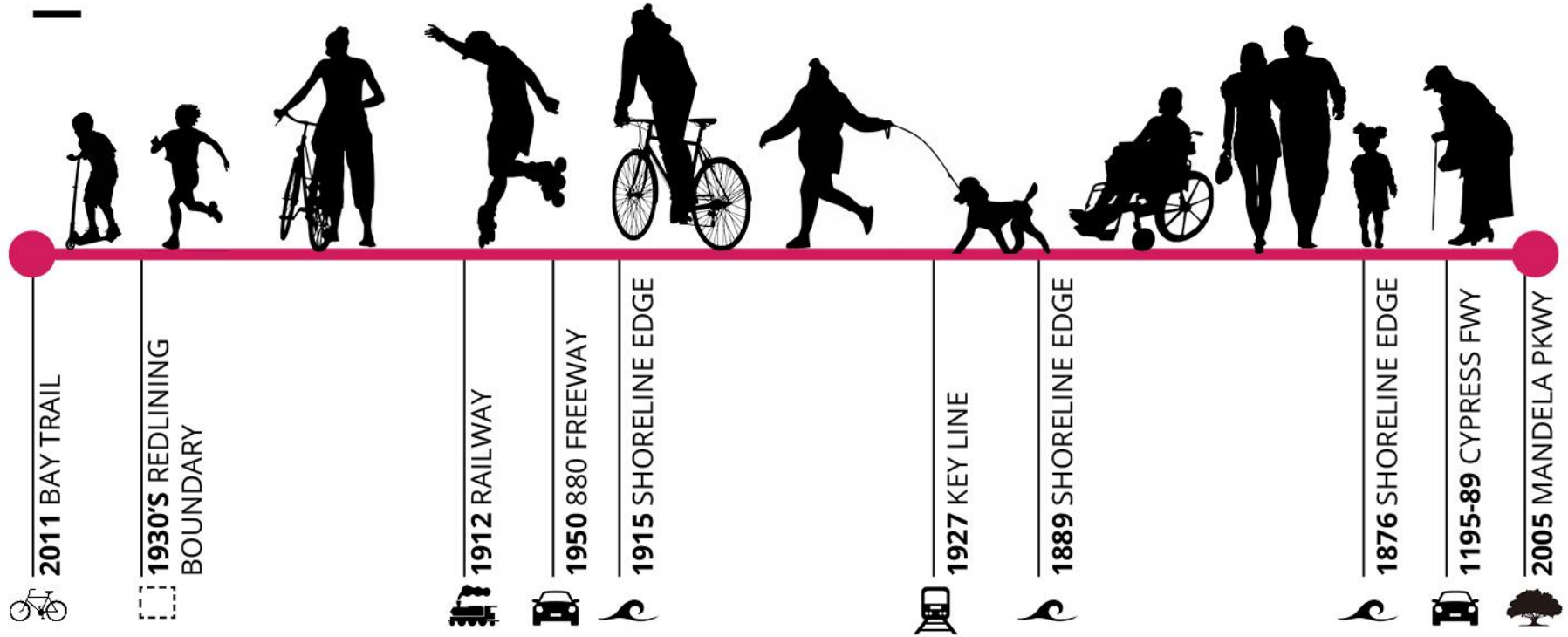
CARS AND TRAINS



BICYCLES



TIME ON A LINE: WHAT SHOULD BE REMEMBERED



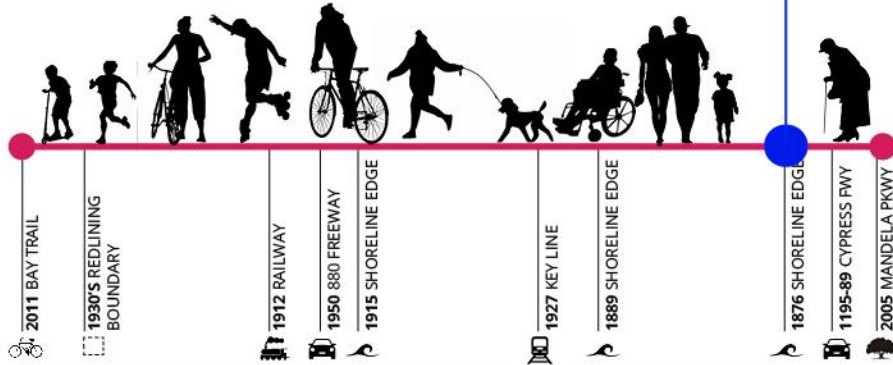
STORY: CHOCHENYO SPEAKING OHLONE PEOPLE'S EARLY HISTORY



Three Ohlone people crossing the waters in San Francisco Bay by Louis Chori

xučyun (Huichin) is the home territory that Chochenyo speaking Ohlone people and it includes the lands that are known as West Oakland today.

...AND CHOCHENYO SPEAKING OHLONE PEOPLE IN OAKLAND TODAY



Cafe Ohlone Sound Posts



"Living On Ohlone Land" East Bay Express



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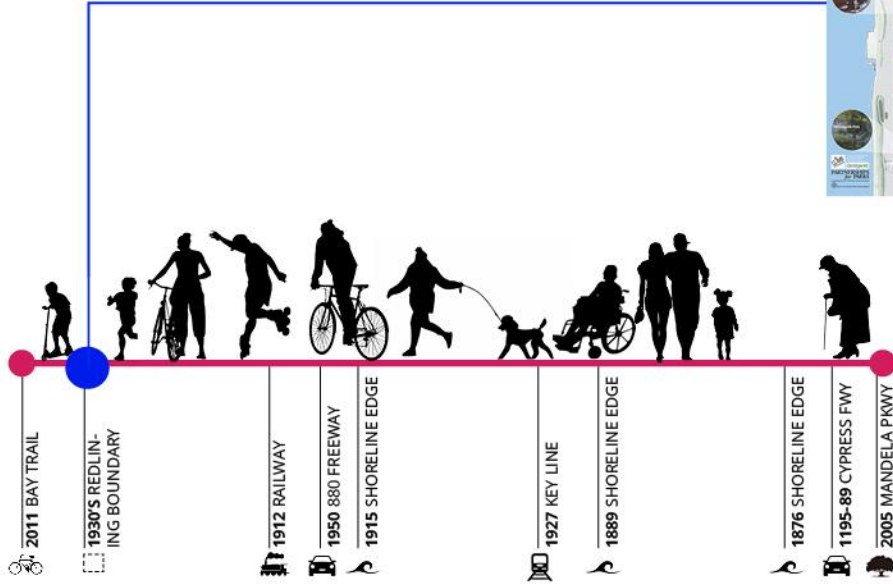
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STORY: REDLINING

-City Life Is Moving Bodies
(CLIMB) community group



Systemic discrimination was implemented in the 1930s by the Home Owners' Loan Corporation (HOLC), a government-sponsored corporation which rated neighborhoods for lending based on anti-immigrant and racist policy.



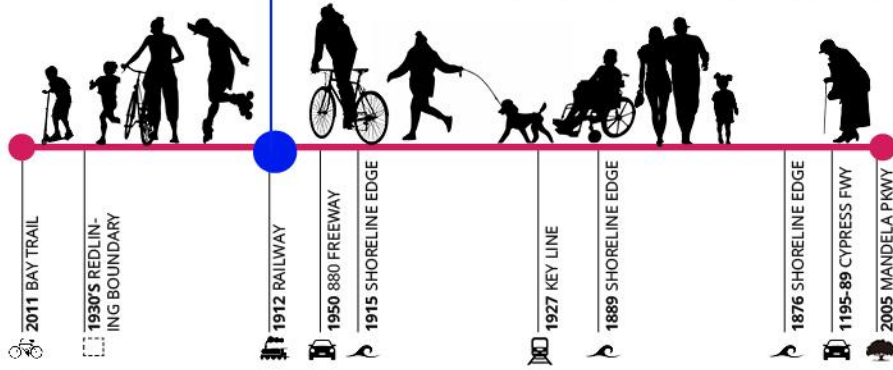
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STORY: PULLMAN PORTERS



The catalyst that transformed (West Oakland) from a transcontinental rail terminal into a true settlement was the arrival of the railroad porters, employed by the Pullman Palace Car Company as early as 1867.



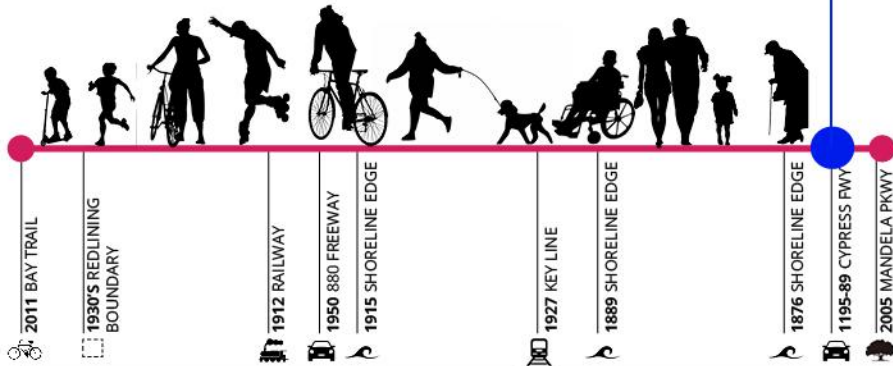
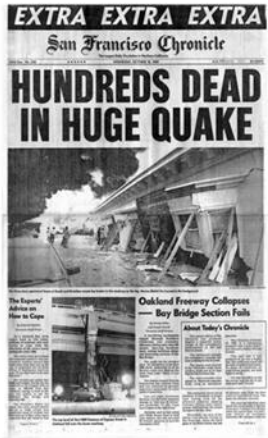
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STORY: THE CYPRESS FREEWAY CONSTRUCTION AND REMOVAL



1957: "The general trend in modern highway construction, say experts, is toward grade separations to eliminate congestion and increase safety. This picture of the Oakland approaches to the San Francisco-Oakland Bridge in California illustrates one of the latest designs in express highways."

2021: "You are all here today to witness history," said Gina Belafonte.....shared the origin story of the Black Panthers as an organization. "Public art is incredibly important. It is a way in which we can build a dialogue around telling accurate history." Oaklandside 10/25/21



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STORYTELLING

STORIES CAN BE SHARED IN MANY WAYS



1. MONUMENTAL

2. PROCESSIONAL

3. IMMERSIVE

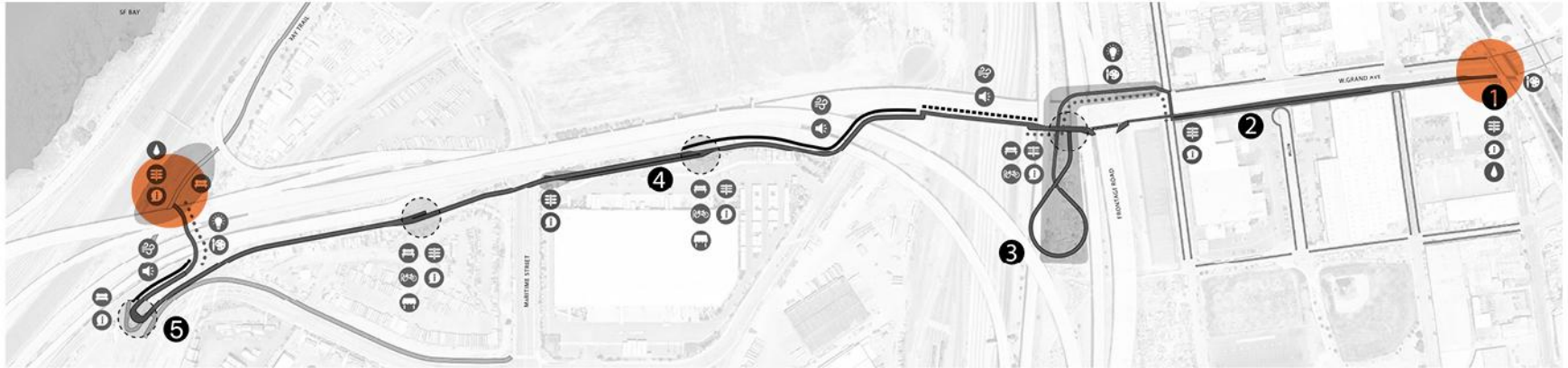
4. INTERACTIVE

5. BIOLOGIC/ ECOLOGY

6. INFORMATIVE



TRAIL HEADS



WHAT SHOULD THE TRAILHEAD IDENTITY BE ?



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HOW CAN FUNCTIONAL ELEMENTS BE MORE INCLUSIVE?



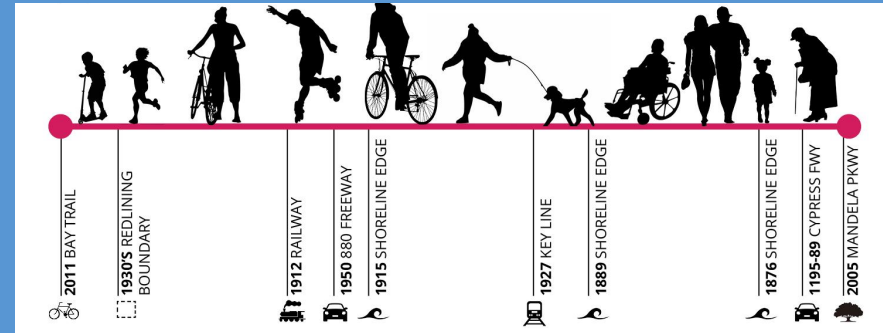
WOL DISCUSSION:

— 5-10 Mins

PLACE KEEPING:

1. *WHAT SHOULD SHOW UP ON THE TRAIL AS SOMETHING TO BE REMEMBERED OR A LOCAL STORY TO BE TOLD?*

2. *ARE THERE STORIES THAT WOULD MAKE THE TRAIL MORE INVITING AND WELCOMING TO PEOPLE WHO MIGHT FIND REGIONAL PROJECTS DON'T FEEL INCLUSIVE?*



WEST OAKLAND LINK



TAKING A LOOK AT THE STRUCTURE



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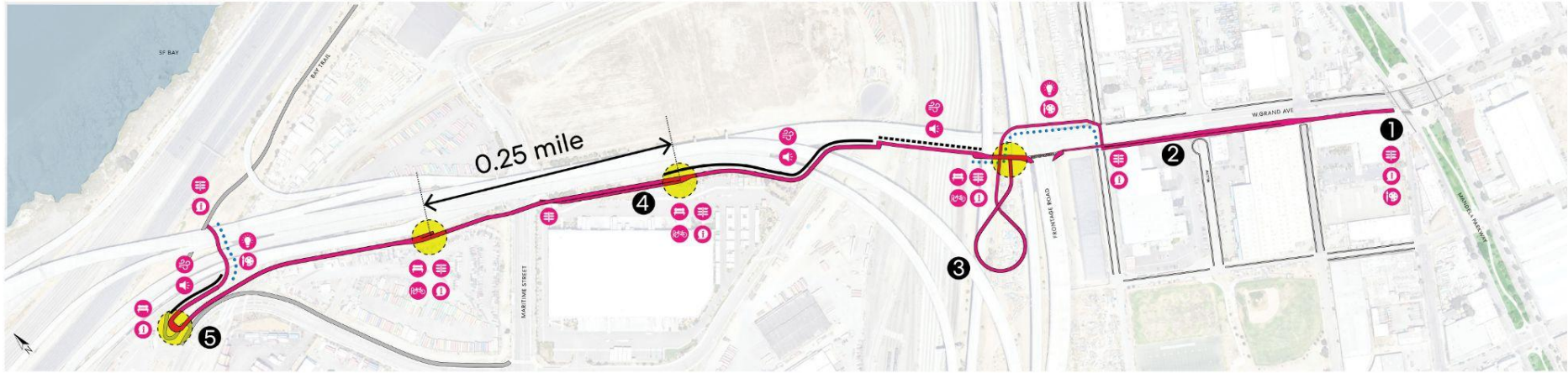
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The Elevated Path










-  NODE
-  SOUND BARRIER
-  LATER PHASE SOUND BARRIER
-  LIGHTING





- REST  
- ART, SIGNAGE, STORYTELLING   
- EXPOSURE   
- UTILITIES 



The Elevated Path



- REST  
- ART, SIGNAGE, STORYTELLING   
- EXPOSURE   
- UTILITIES 

-  NODE
-  SOUND BARRIER
-  LATER PHASE SOUND BARRIER
-  LIGHTING



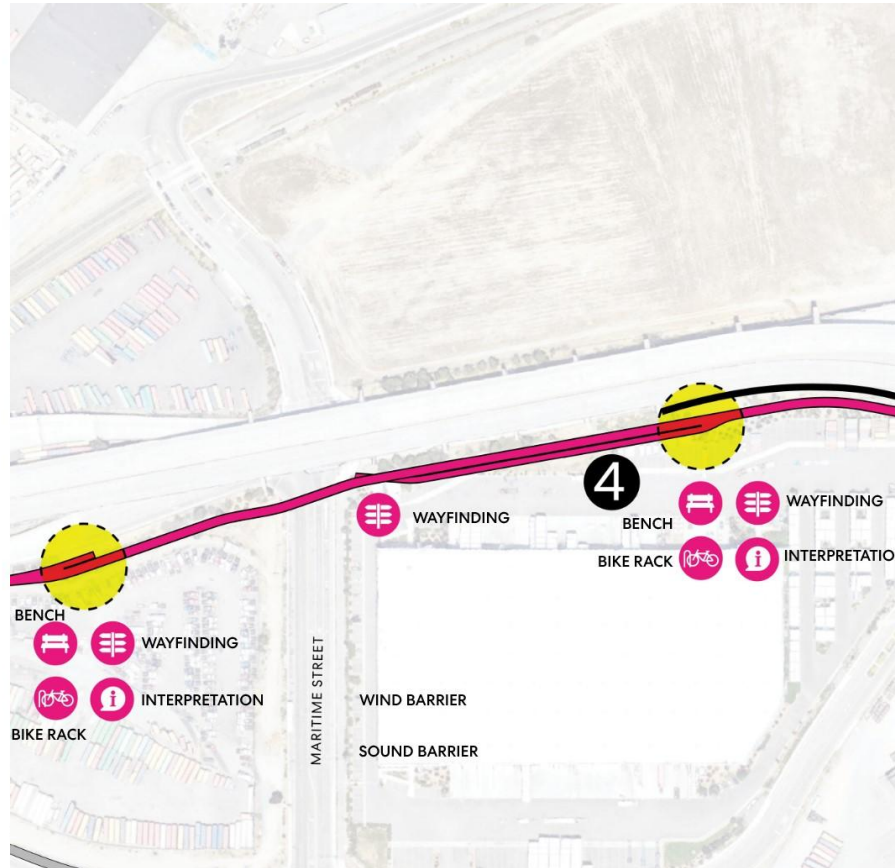
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The Elevated Path



- REST  
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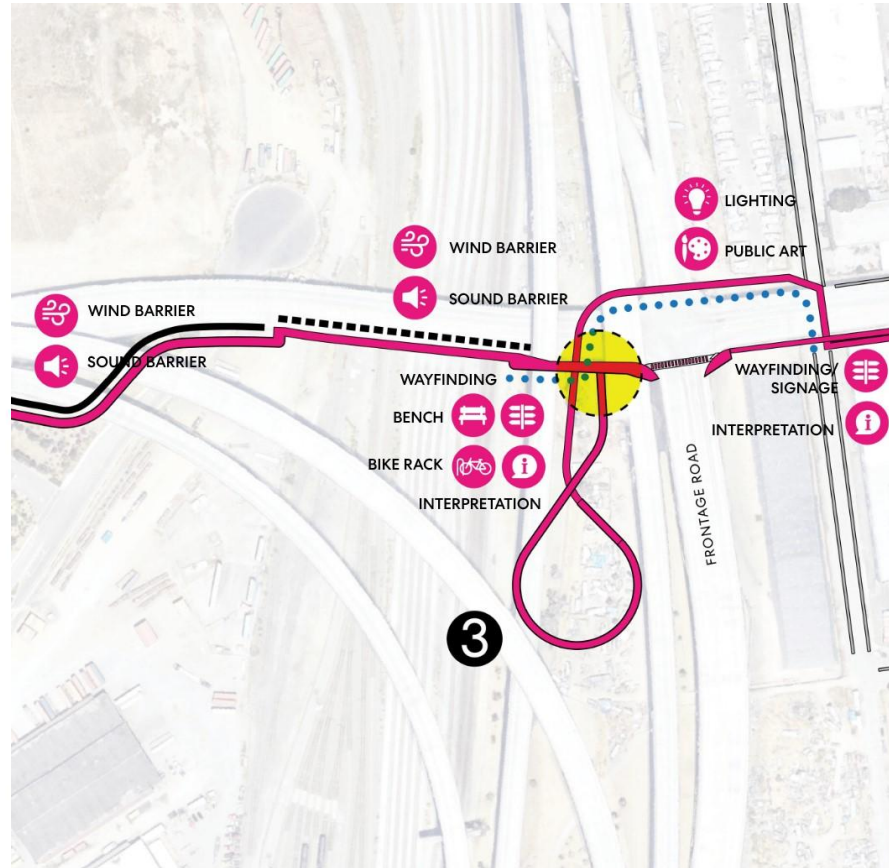
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The Elevated Path



- REST  
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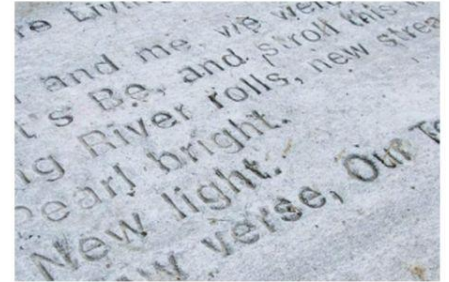
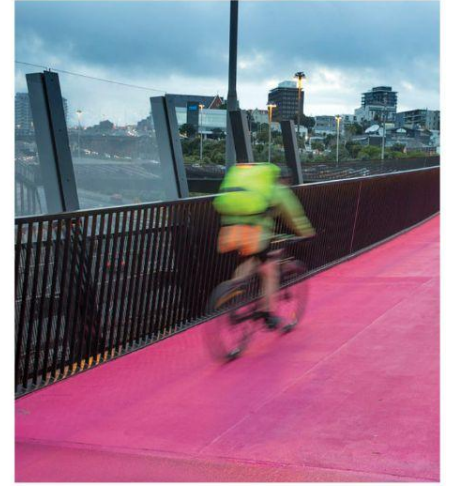
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The community wants the path to stand out

- Walking and Biking Experience
- Durability
- Sustainability
- Color/Finish

Walking and Biking Surface



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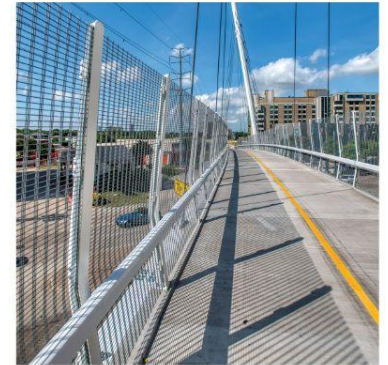
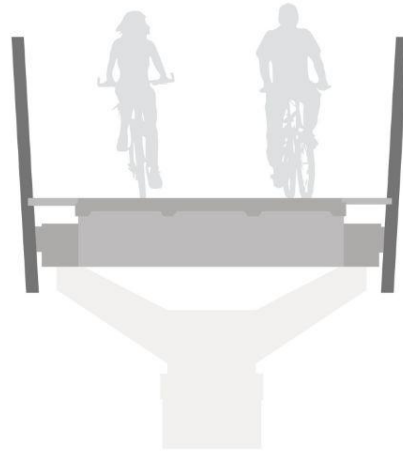




The community wants
the path to be simple
and elegant

Railing

- Safety
- Accessibility
- Durability
- Sustainability
- Color/Finish
- Storytelling



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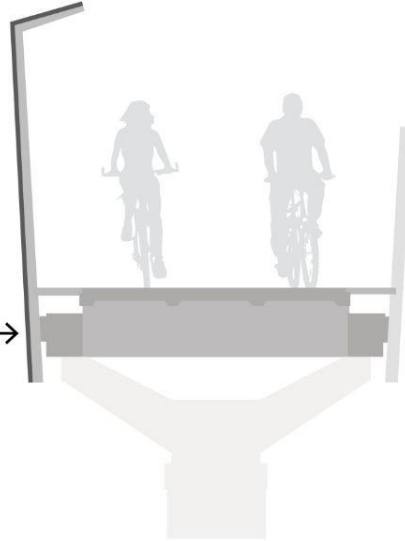
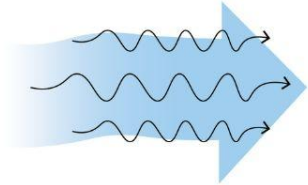
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We heard that exposure screening is crucial

Sound and Wind Barrier



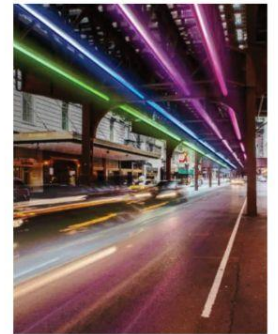
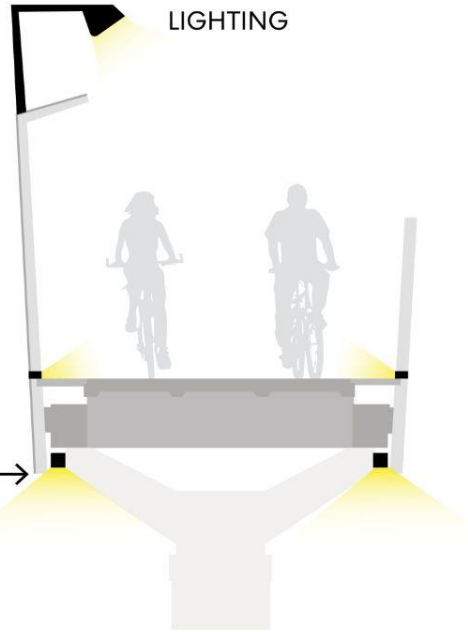
- Sound Insulation
- Durability
- Sustainability
- Color/Finish
- Storytelling





The community wants to feel safe on the path at all times

- Safety and Visibility
- Durability
- Sustainability
- Color
- Form and Beauty



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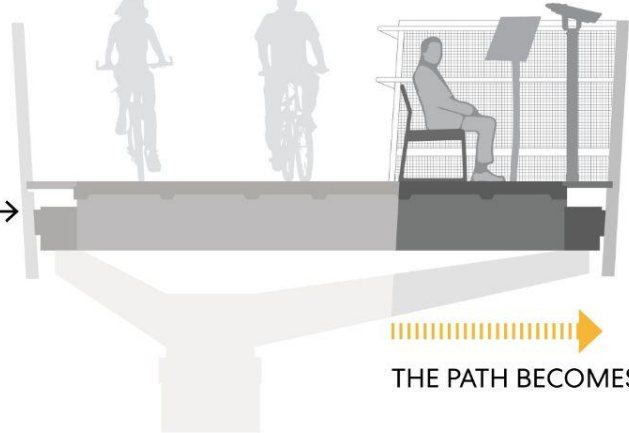
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MOMENTS OF PAUSE

- Safety
- Comfort
- Durability
- Form and Beauty
- Interpretation



THE PATH BECOMES WIDER



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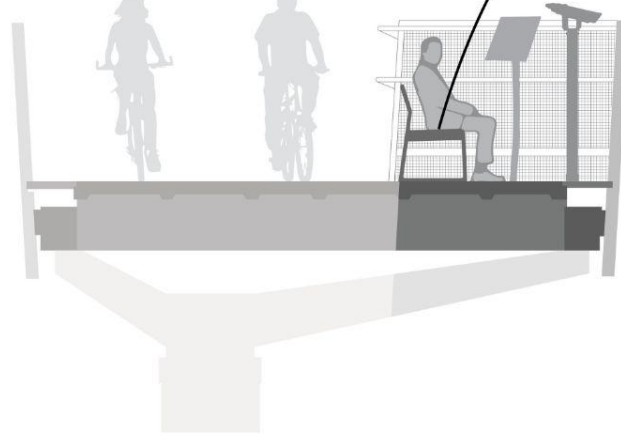




The community wants to have moments of rest along the path

- Safety
- Comfort
- Durability
- Form and Beauty
- Interpretation

MOMENTS OF PAUSE



Seating



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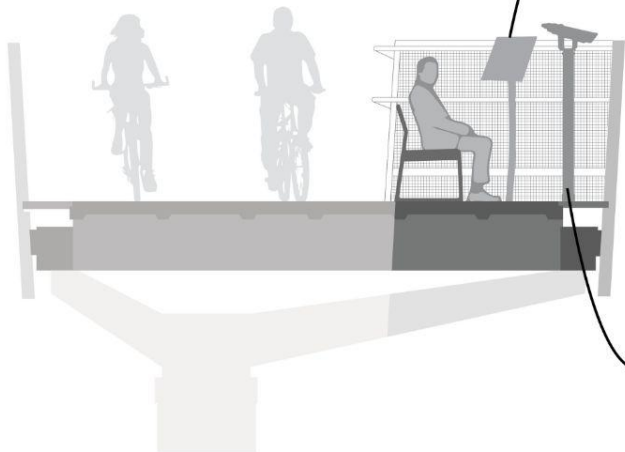




The community wants easy wayfinding and interactive fun along the path

- Safety
- Comfort
- Durability
- Form and Beauty
- Interpretation

MOMENTS OF PAUSE



Maps and Signage



Binoculars



Interpretation and Engagement



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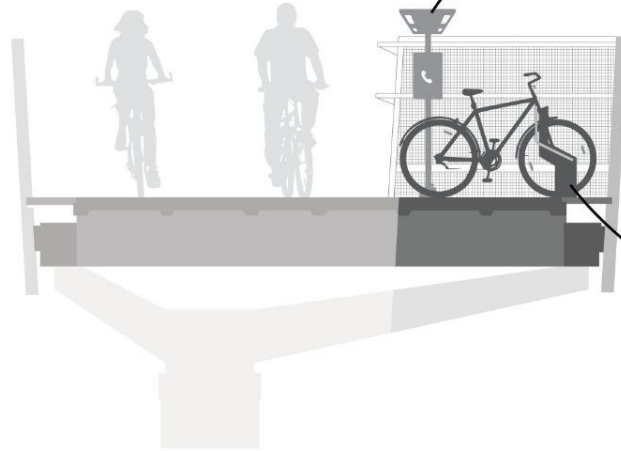




The community wants to feel safe on the path in case of emergencies

- Safety
- Emergency support
- Durability

BIKE PULLOUT



Call Box



Bike Racks



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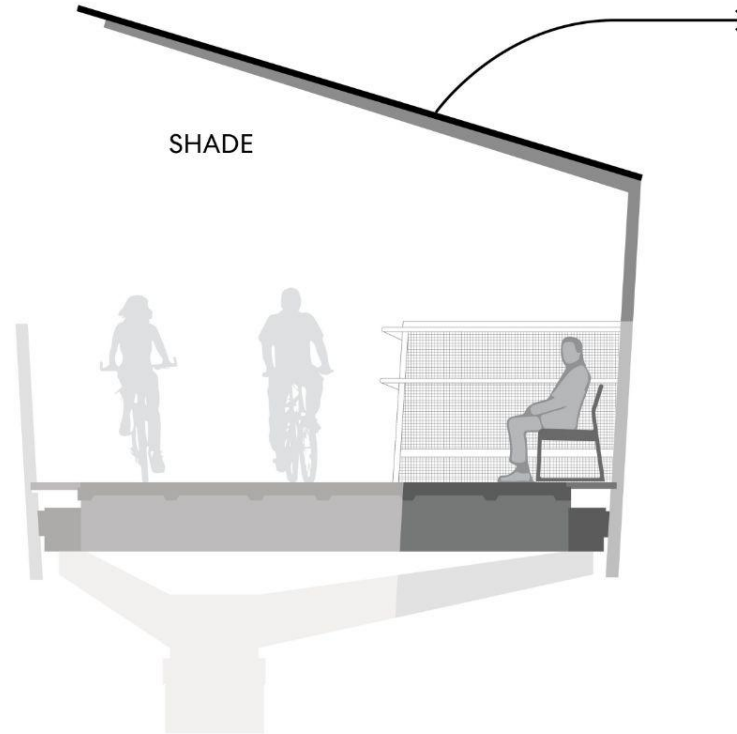
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We heard that exposure screening is crucial

- Comfort
- Durability
- Sustainability
- Form and Beauty



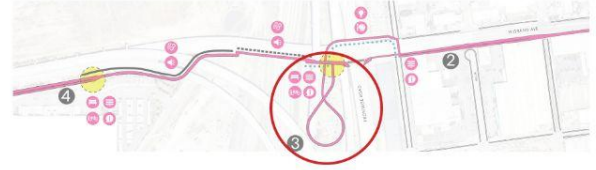
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The Loop



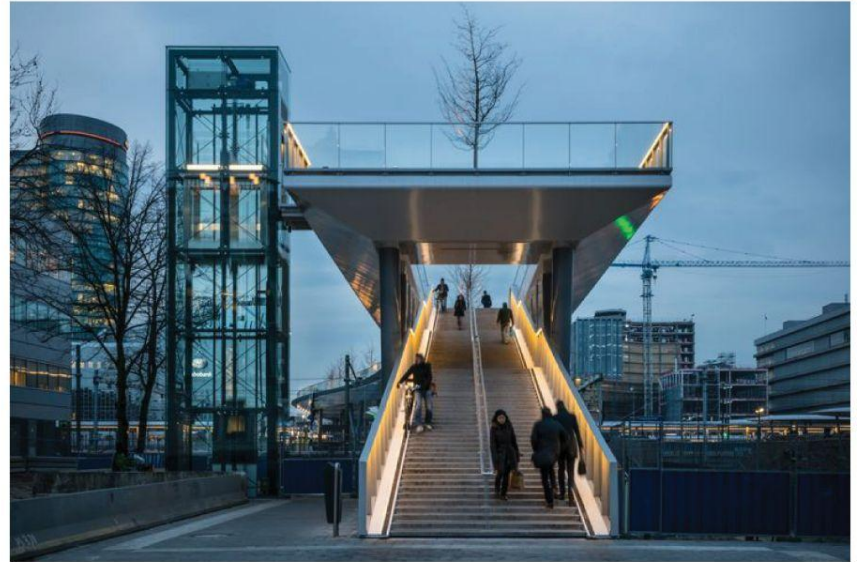
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Stairs



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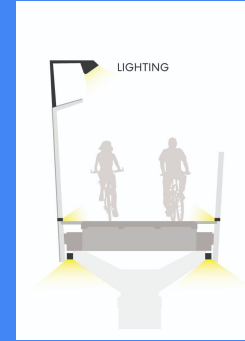
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Q&A

1. Help us identify any elements of the path structure that needs to be added, modified or removed?
2. Does any element need more attention than the others.
3. Help us identify at which locations would the following Exposure screenings make most sense -
 - Sound Barriers
 - Wind Barriers
 - Shade
4. How do we make the stairs more accessible and welcoming ?



WEST OAKLAND LINK:

TOUCHING DOWN AND CONNECTING TO THE LOCAL NEIGHBORHOOD



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STITCHING IN: EACH TIME YOU TOUCHDOWN THE LANDSCAPE IS DIFFERENT



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ALL TOUCH DOWNS SHARE SOME ELEMENTS

MAP



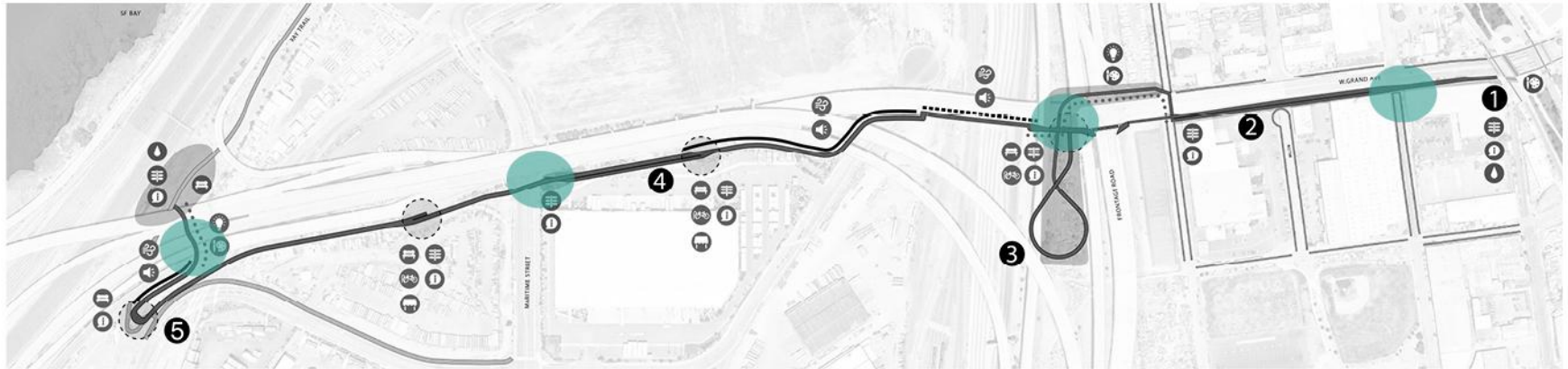
REST AREA



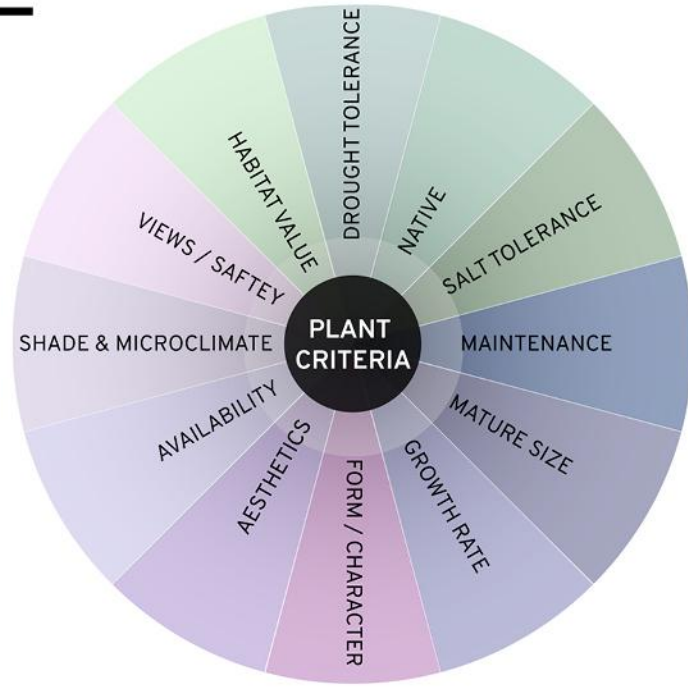
AQI DATA



PLANTING



PLANTING ON THE GROUND



PLANTING CONSIDERATIONS

PLANTING ON THE BRIDGE

PLANTING: AN EXAMPLE OF PROS AND CONS



OAK TREE PROS

- SYMBOL OF OAKLAND
- HELP PURIFY THE AIR
- GOOD FOR NATIVE INSECTS AND ANIMALS

OAK TREE CONS

- **SALT SENSITIVE**
- **BROAD CROWN** =POOR **VISIBILITY** AT DIFFERENT ELEVATIONS
- **SIZE REQUIREMENT** MEANS THEY MOST LIKELY COULD ONLY BE PLANTED AT A FEW LOCATIONS ON THIS PROJECT
- REQUIRES MAINTENANCE FOR LEAF DROP AND PRUNING



CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM PROS

- USED ON THE BAY BRIDGE
- SALT TOLERANT
- GREAT VISIBILITY GREAT FOR SAFETY
- CAN SUCCEED IN SMALL SPACES
- EASY MAINTENANCE

CANARY ISLAND DATE PALM CONS

- DOES NOT CLEAN THE AIR
- IS NOT A SYMBOL OF OAKLAND
- EXPENSIVE

THE GROUND LEVEL EXPERIENCE

—

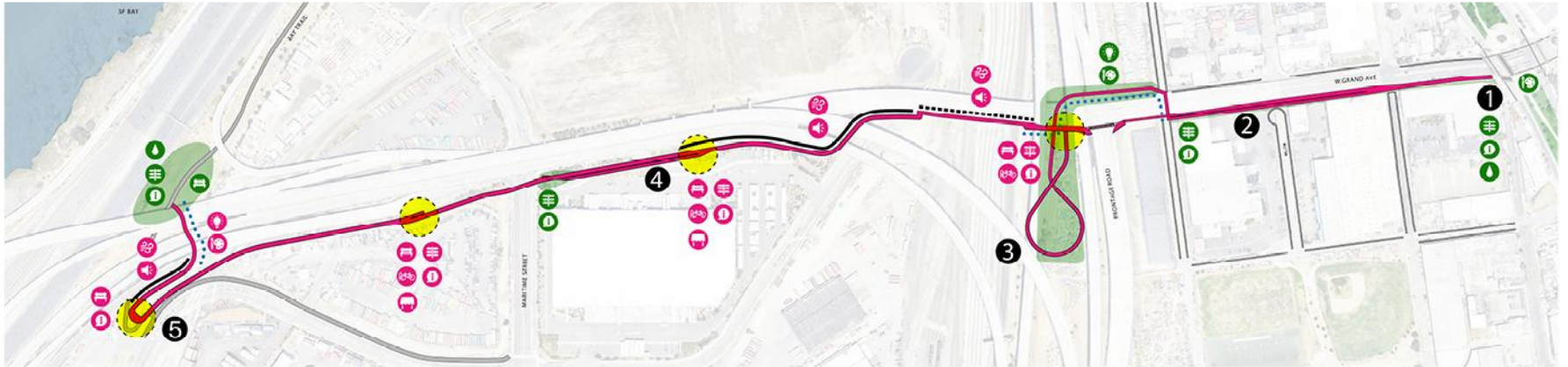
REST



ART, SIGNAGE,
STORYTELLING



UTILITIES



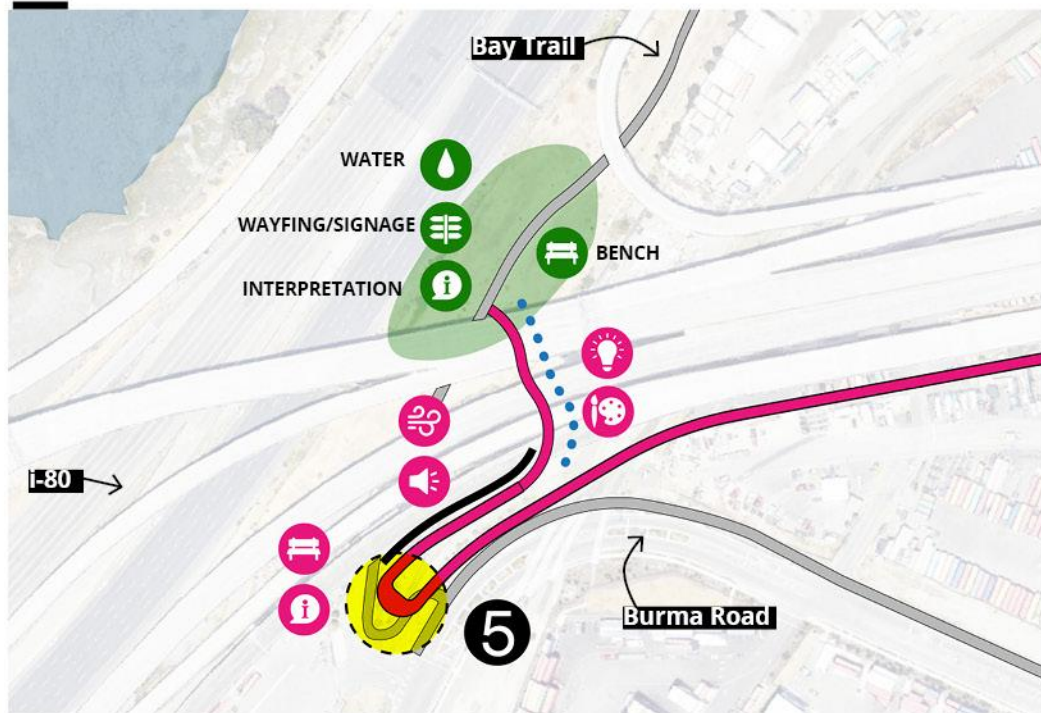
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TOUCHDOWN 5 | PLAN



WHAT WE HEARD:

Signage Strong Lighting Place to rest Planting

- Urban forest
- Digital display counter (bike+ped)
- Opportunity for play (mini golf)
- Accessibility for people w/ disabilities
- Memorial plaques (military/army)
- View point (scenic view)
- Bench

TOUCH DOWN 5: WELCOME TO OAKLAND



- Trailhead Marker
- Pull Out Space
- Planting



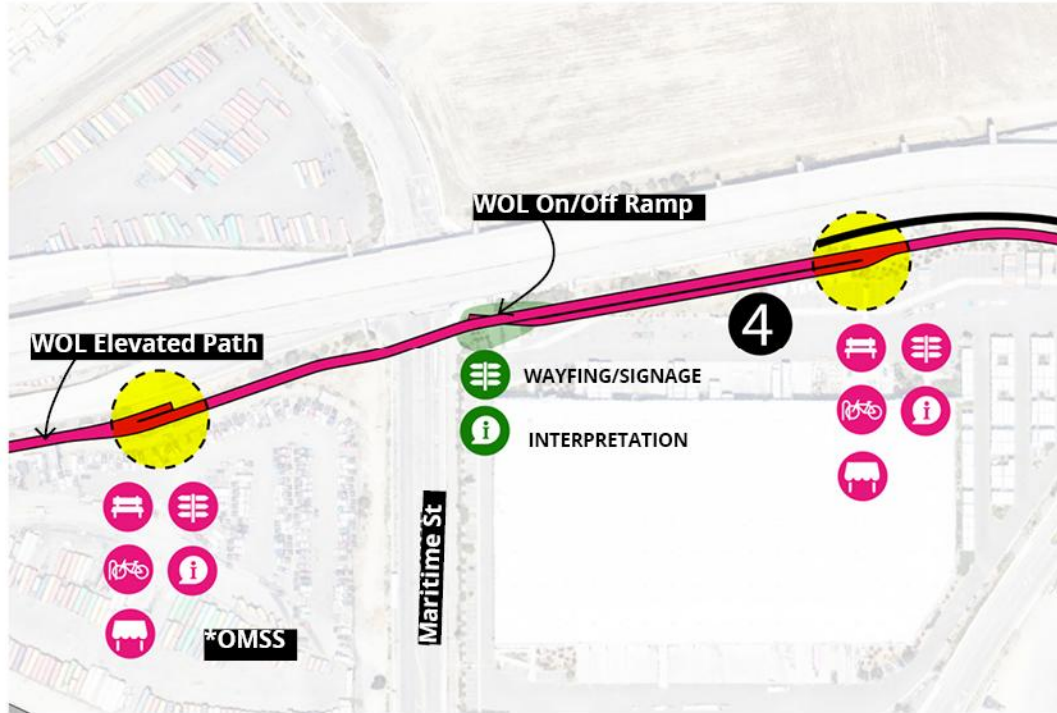
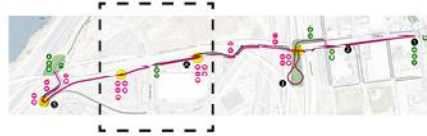
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MARITIME 4 | PLAN



WHAT WE HEARD:

- **Wayfinding**
- **AQI**
- No hostile seating (bench)
- Interactive space
- Bike counting device
- Gateway design for the port
- Linear Art
- Planting
- Intersection safety



MARITIME 4: CHARACTER

- Air Quality Marker
- Map and Signage



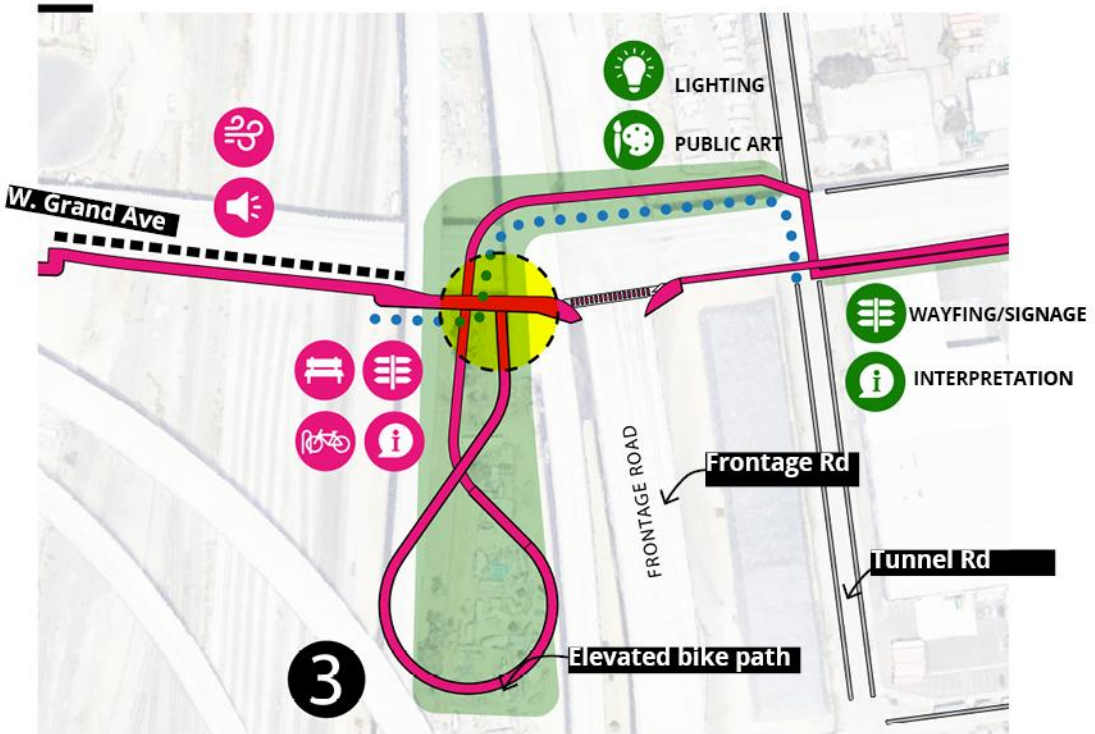
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FRONTAGE LOOP | PLAN



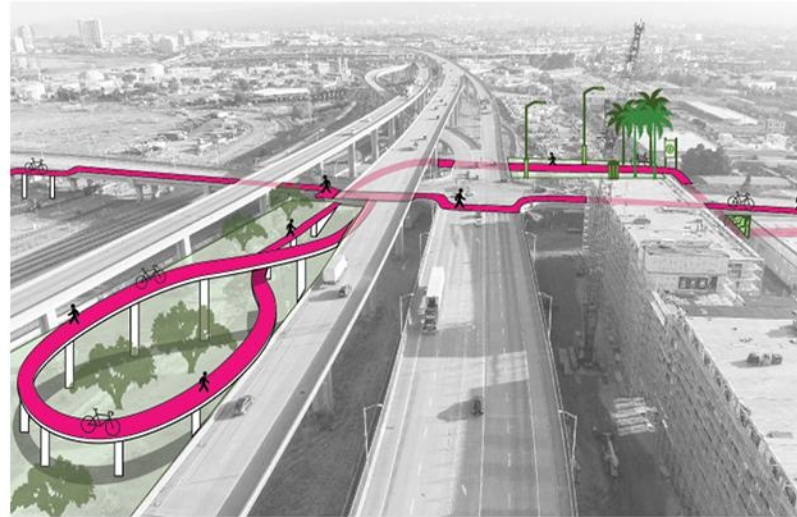
WHAT WE HEARD:

- **Make the path stand out visually**
 - **Stronger Lighting**
 - **Visually appealing underpass**
 - **An attraction**
-
- Street art on columns
 - Make space for dancers or other performing groups
 - Lighting
 - Sound
 - Dog Friendly
 - Picnic table
 - Wayfinding
 - Fun intuitive

FRONTAGE LOOP 3: CHARACTER



- Lighting + Safety
- Activation
- Planting



West Oakland
Environmental
Indicators
Project

PLACE MAKING / HISTORICAL RESOURCES / DESIGN

NOVEMBER 7, 2023



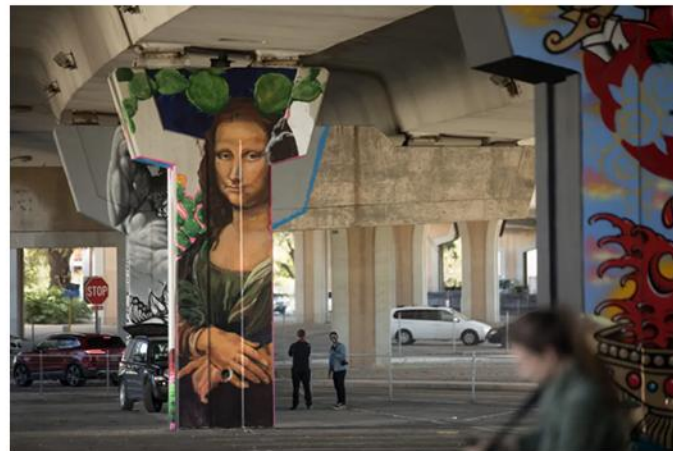
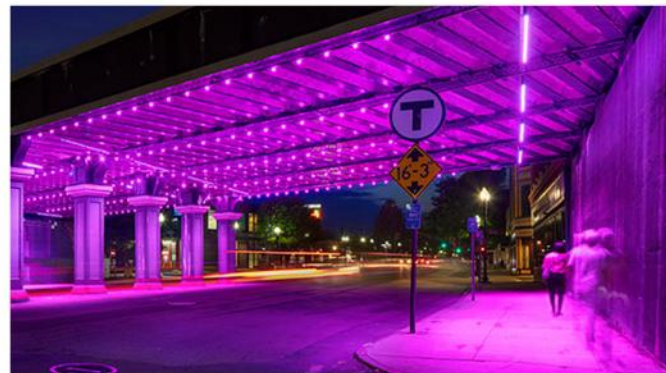
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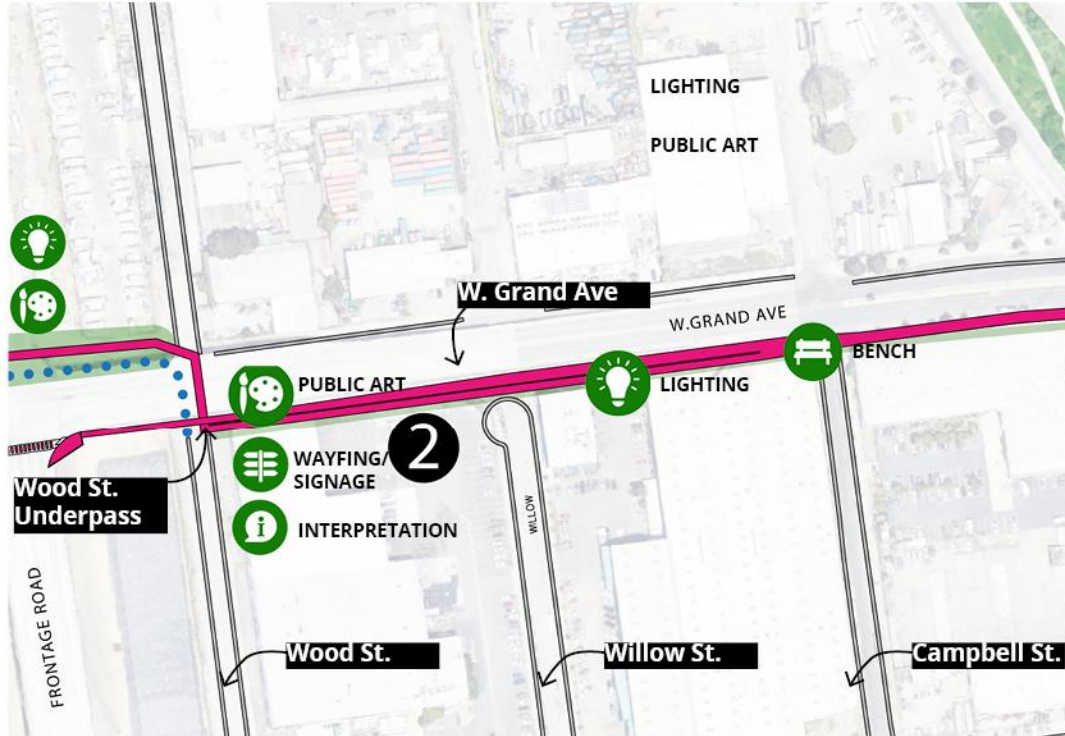
WOOD ST. TUNNEL | SECTIONS



Wood Street Tunnel Elevation Proposed + Pedestrian Path



WEST GRAND ALLEY + WOOD ST. TUNNEL 2 | PLAN



WHAT WE HEARD:

- Street Lighting
- Safety
- Gathering space
- Lunch Area
- Clear view sights no blind spots
- Left unmaintained this corridor could be a disaster
- Bench
- Cameras
- Linear park
- Walking path connected to Mandela Pkwy
- Safety while walking alone + while crossing Frontage

2. WEST GRAND ALLEY CHARACTER:



- Lighting + Safety
- Rest Area + Seating
- Planting



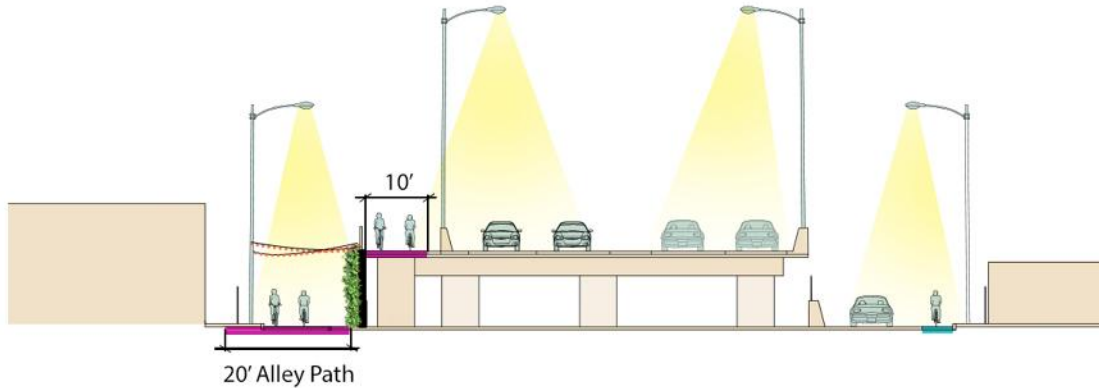
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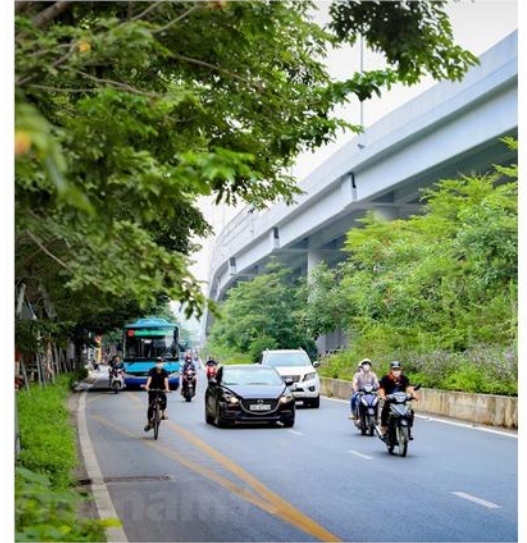
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2. WEST GRAND ALLEY | SECTIONS



West Grand Alley bike path and elevated West Grand Ave bike path



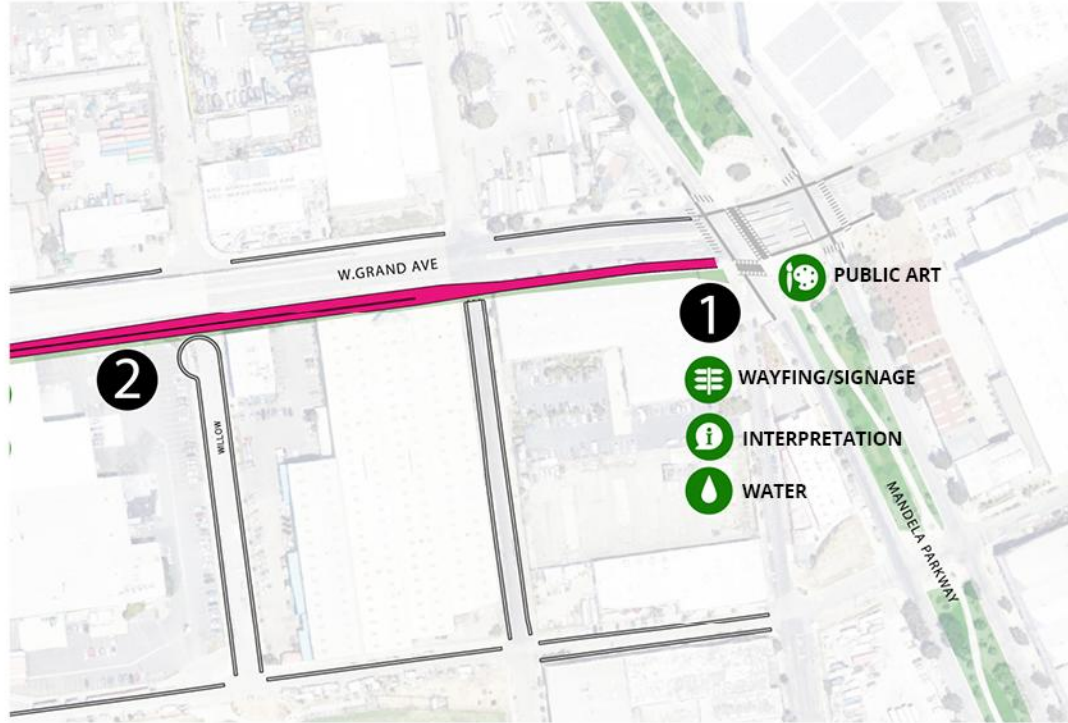
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1. MANDELA PARKWAY x W. GRAND AVE | PLAN

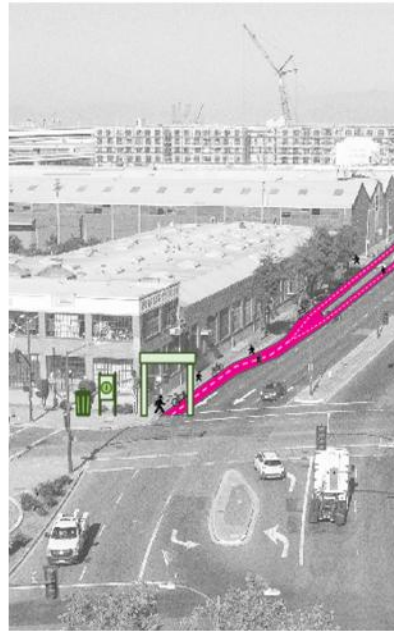


WHAT WE HEARD:

- Archway
- Welcoming entry
- Map
- Storytelling
- Could it span over West Grand?
- Gateway
- Restrooms
- Shade structure
- Food + Water
- Safe intersection to enter
- Continuity with the rest of the community & future development

1. MANDELA PARKWAY CHARACTER

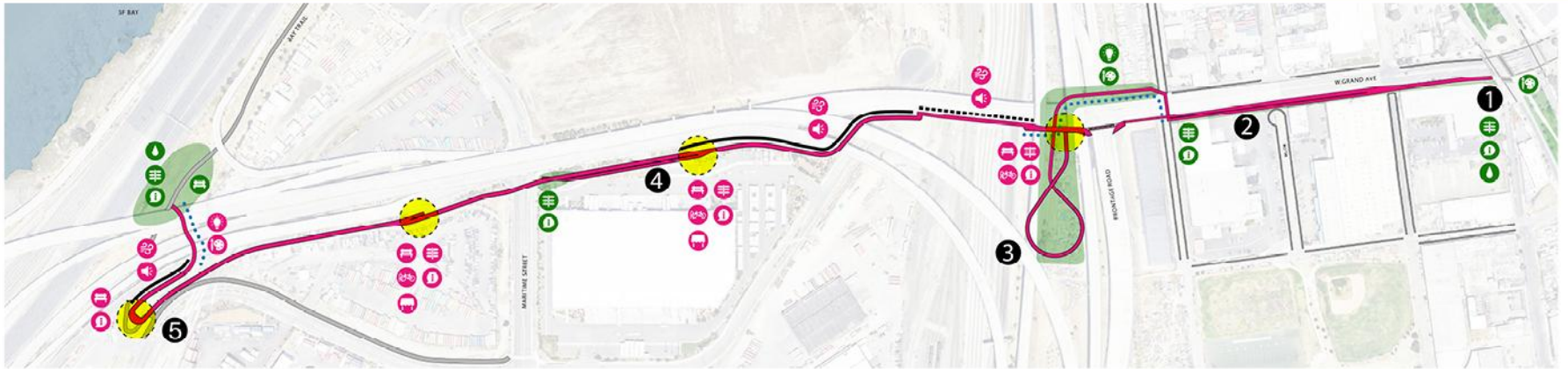
- Trailhead Marker
- Map
- Safe Intersection



WOL DISCUSSION:

1. DID WE GET THINGS IN THE RIGHT PLACES?

2. HOW CAN THE TYPE OF AMENITIES AND THE LOCATION BE MORE INVITING AND ACCESSIBLE TO LOCALS?



WEST OAKLAND LINK:

A SPECIFIC QUESTION ABOUT BIKE PATH WIDTH



West Oaks
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PLACE MAKING / HISTORICAL RESOURCES / DESIGN

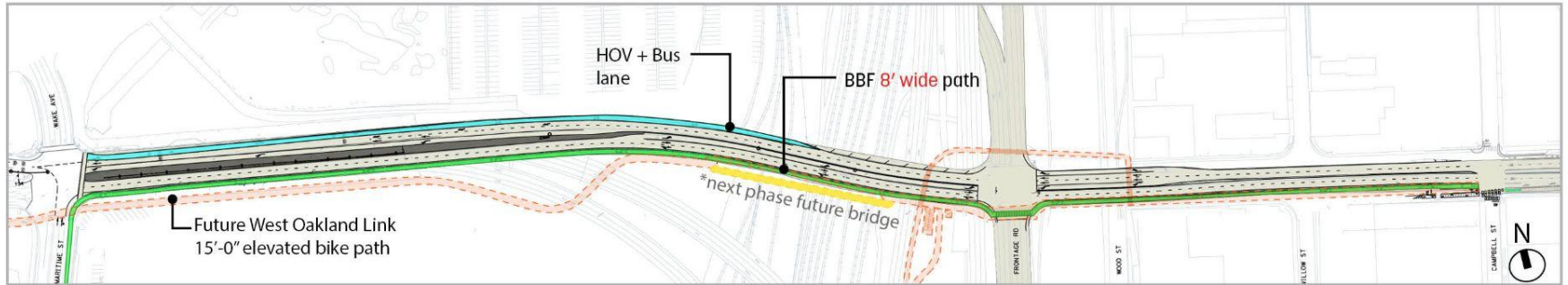
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WEST GRAND OPTIONS | BAY BRIDGE FORWARD (BBF) PLAN



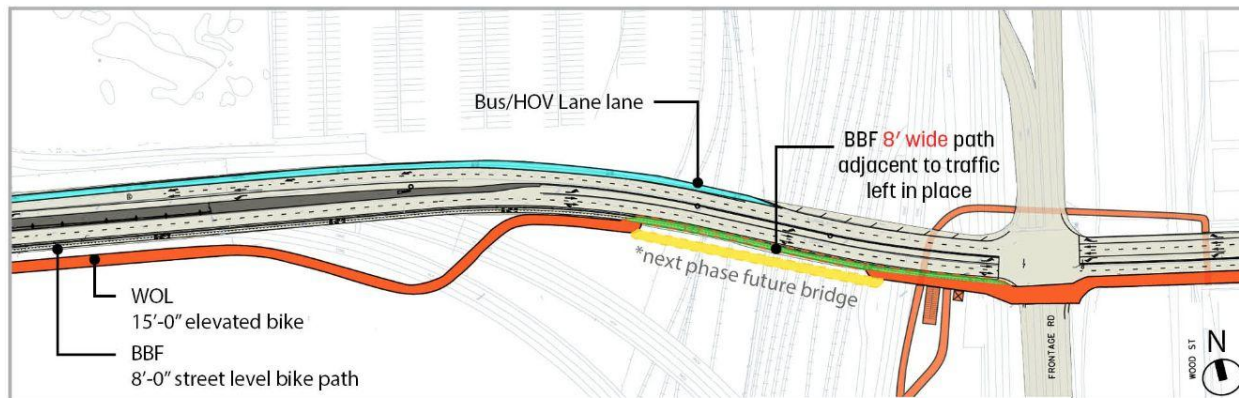
8'-0" Bay Bridge Forward Bike Path

- 2,200 ft Bus/ HOV lane
- Reduces peak hour Bus/ HOV travel time by 18 mins

WEST GRAND OPTIONS | DESIGN COMPARISONS:

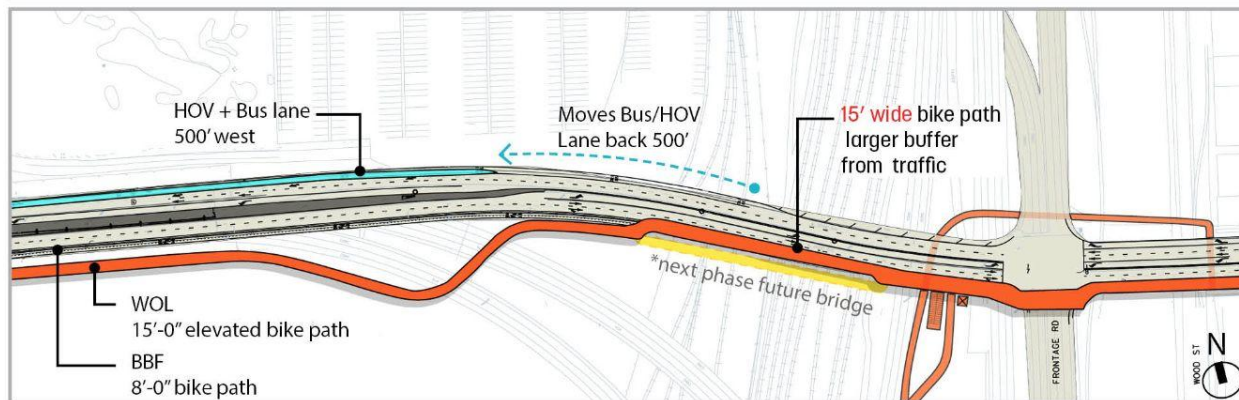
8'-0" BBF Path Left In Place

- 2,200 ft Bus/ HOV lane
- Reduces peak hour Bus/ HOV travel time by 18 mins



15' WOL BIKE PATH OPTION

- 17,000ft Bus/HOV lane
- Reduces peak hour Bus/HOV travel time by 16.5 mins



CLARIFYING QUESTIONS:

Is there anything which is unclear or you would like additional information about?

Please fill out the survey:
woeip.org/wolink-survey5



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NOVEMBER 7, 2023



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Phase 1
35% Design

SEP 12 2023	OCT 10 2023	OCT 17 2023	OCT 24 2023	NOV 7 2023
Community Engagement Kick-Off	Design Meeting #1 -Design Detail -Elements	Design Focus Meeting #2 -Environmental Justice -Air pollution -Public health	Design Focus Meeting #3 -Streetscape -Intersections -Traffic Safety	Design Focus Meeting #4 -Place making -Design -Historical resources

Next Event: Nov. 19 In Person

West Oakland Farmers Market
10AM-2PM, 18th Street & Peralta Street

To stay tuned for further events join this mailing list <http://mtc.ca.gov/west-oakland-link>



West Oakland Link Timeline

Engagement Opportunities
Community Input Journey

For Schedule Updates
Visit <https://mtc.ca.gov/west-oakland-link>

Phase 2 65% Design	Phase 3 90% Design	Phase 4 100% Design
FEB TBD 2024	JUN TBD 2024	SEP TBD 2024
Design Update Meeting	65% Design Update Meeting	Design Update & Construction Phase Introduction Meeting
		MAR TBD 2025
		Pre-Construction Phase Meeting

Are there other organizations or people we should contact?

Red Bike and Green?