



## Oakland Measure DD Community Coalition

March 12, 2013

Diane Tannenwald, Project Manager  
City of Oakland, PWA  
250 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza, Suite 4314  
Oakland, CA 94612-2033

Re: Alameda County Transportation Commission Grant application for feasibility study of San Francisco Bay Trail to Lake Merritt Bicycle/Pedestrian Bridge

Dear Ms. Tannenwald:

The Measure DD Community Coalition is writing to voice strong support for a feasibility study for a bridge to connect the San Francisco Bay Trail to the Lake Merritt trails for bicyclists and pedestrians.

The Measure DD Community Coalition is an inclusive coalition of community members, organizations, and agencies that for more than a decade has been providing input to City staff regarding the implementation of Measure DD. The Coalition meets regularly and has been involved in the design process for shoreline public access enhancements at Lake Merritt and the Estuary. In past meetings, we have frequently discussed the need for the proposed bridge as well as the conceptual design issues.

Now that the Measure DD 12<sup>th</sup> St. reconstruction is nearly complete, our Coalition's attention has turned to the connections along the Lake Merritt Channel, including the 10<sup>th</sup> Street and 7<sup>th</sup> Street projects. The proposed pedestrian/bicycle bridge is the critical link that will complete the connection between the Lake Merritt Trail system and the San Francisco Bay Trail system.

The existing freeway and railroad corridors constitute significant obstacles to safe pedestrian and bicycle traffic between the Lake and Estuary, and a new, safe connection is needed to address those obstacles. The planned feasibility study of the proposed bridge is an essential step in this process.

The value to the public of the bridge cannot be underestimated. It will allow local and regional users to safely reach public transport such as BART, AC Transit, Capitol Corridor, and the Alameda-Oakland Ferry. As Oak to 9<sup>th</sup> and the proposed Lake Merritt BART Station Transit village are developed, linkages between our residential centers and public transportation will become increasingly important. Finally, the bridge will be a key element in our shoreline recreational opportunities.

We appreciate the opportunity to express our coalition's support of the bridge concept and this grant application for a feasibility study.

Sincerely,

Measure DD Community Coalition Advocacy Committee  
Naomi Schiff  
Sandra Threlfall