

# West Oakland Link

## Bay Bridge Trail to Mandela Parkway



### PROJECT OVERVIEW

The West Oakland Link project is a proposed walking and bicycling facility that will safely connect residents of West Oakland with the existing Alex Zuckermann Path along the East Span of the Bay Bridge and the greater San Francisco Bay Trail network. Planned within an area of heavy industry, port activity and freeway infrastructure, the trail will create a safe passage for people traveling on foot or bike between West Oakland's residential neighborhoods and the Bay Bridge Trail, which will eventually connect to downtown San Francisco.

The West Oakland Link will connect the Bay Bridge Trail to Mandela Parkway via an elevated Class I bicycle and pedestrian path that will weave through existing freeways, railways and industrial areas. The elevated structure will extend 6,000 linear feet, with a maximum grade of 5%. Notably, by extending the Bay Bridge Trail to Mandela Parkway, the trail will close a large gap in the regional trail network, connecting the San Francisco Bay Trail's highest-profile trans-bay route with its East Bay routes.

Once complete, the San Francisco Bay Trail will be a continuous 500-mile bicycling and walking path circumnavigating the entire San Francisco Bay. It will pass through 47 cities, all nine Bay Area counties and seven toll bridges. More than 350 miles of the Bay Trail have been developed, connecting neighborhoods, schools, parks, business areas and transit centers, and providing a unique alternative commuting corridor.

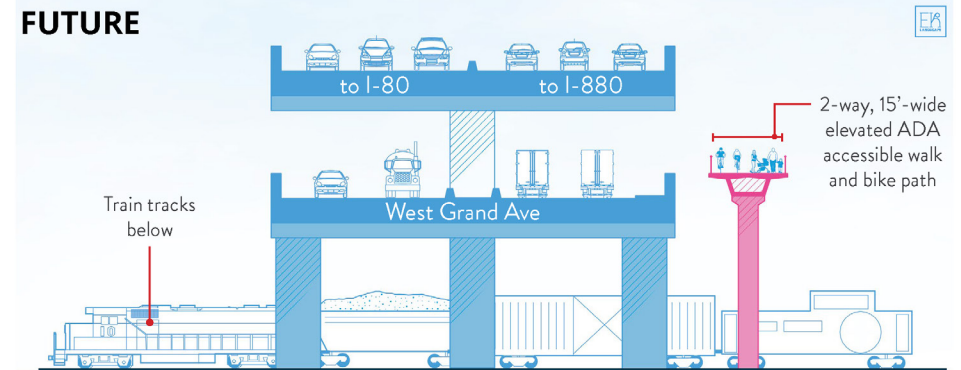
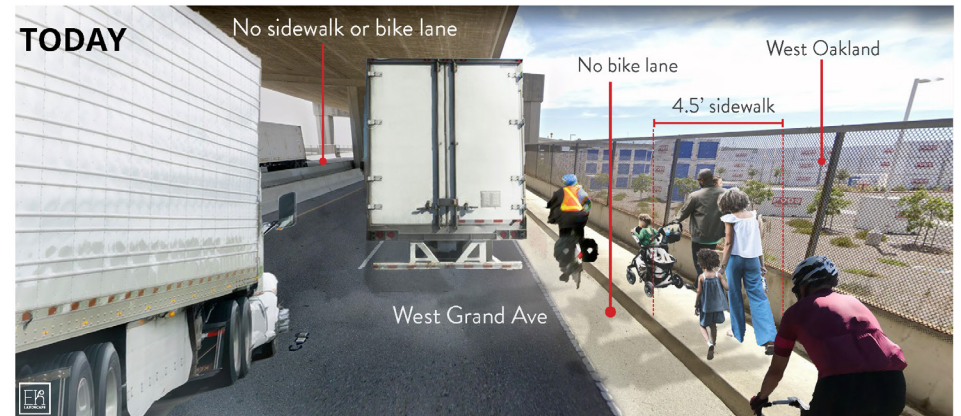
The West Oakland Link is one of 13 projects that the Bay Area Trails Collaborative has prioritized as critical to completing its 2,700-mile regional trail network. The Bay Area Trails Collaborative is a Rails-to-Trails Conservancy TrailNation™ project—a nationwide initiative to create model regional trail networks that demonstrate the powerful impact trails have on communities.

### PROJECT DATA

- **Total Project Miles:** 1.1
- **Miles Completed to Date:** 0
- **Total Estimated Cost for This Segment:** \$65 million
- **Funds Secured for This Segment:** \$15 million

### PROJECT ACTION PLAN

- Secure an additional \$50 million needed for final design and construction (project developers recently applied for \$3 million in funding through California's Active Transportation Program).



### PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS



## TRANSFORMATIVE IMPACT

**Vital Trail Connections:** The West Oakland Link would provide safe, equitable access for people living in West Oakland to the vital network of regional shoreline trails and waterfront open spaces. Within a half-mile of this planned trail segment, there are seven [communities of concern](#), 66 acres of parks/open space, more than 2,300 jobs at major employment hubs, and three schools.<sup>1</sup> As a key component of the Bay Skyway Project, a system of paths that will eventually connect West Oakland and downtown San Francisco, the West Oakland Link will increase the Bay Bridge's capacity by enabling active transportation commutes between the East Bay and San Francisco.

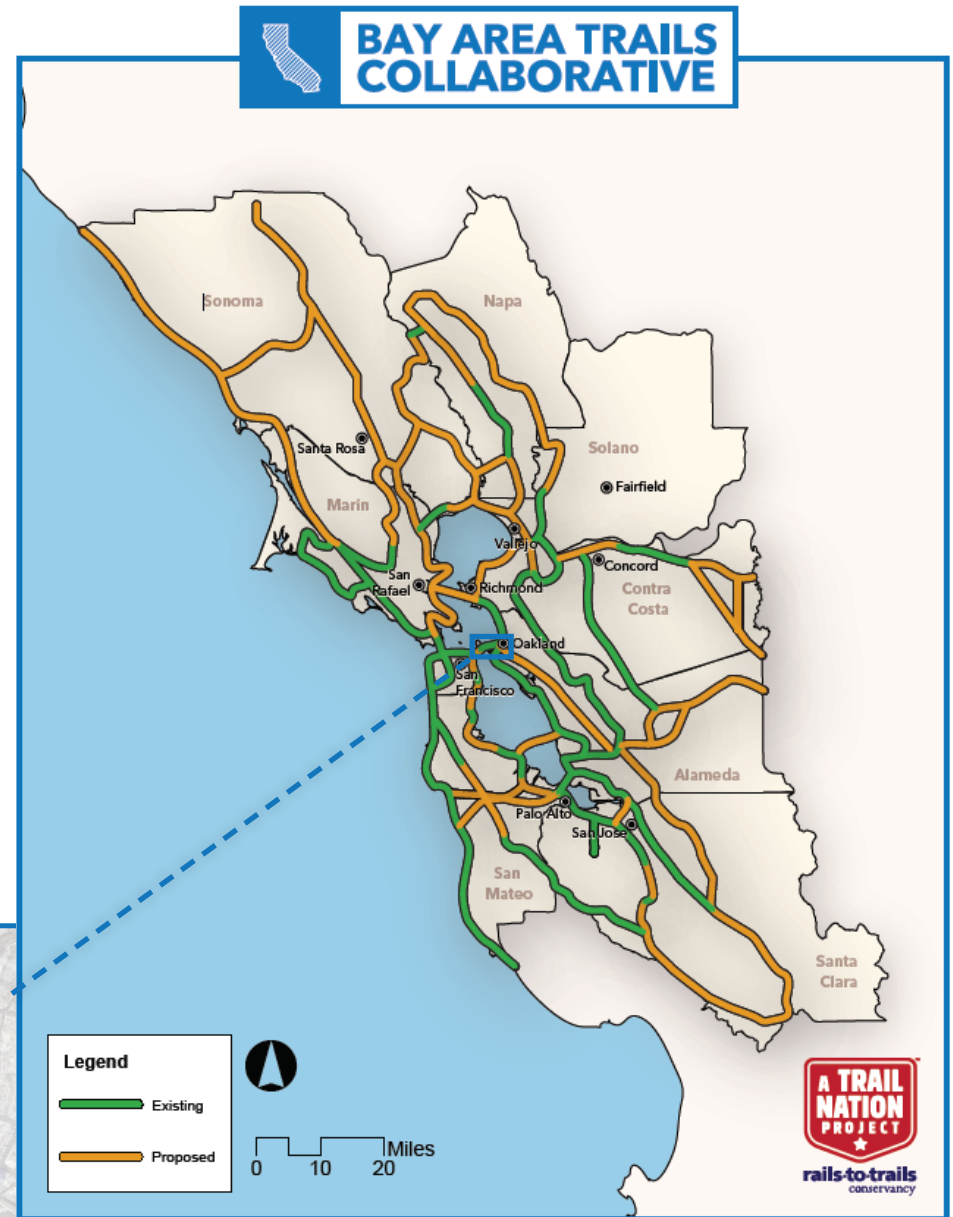
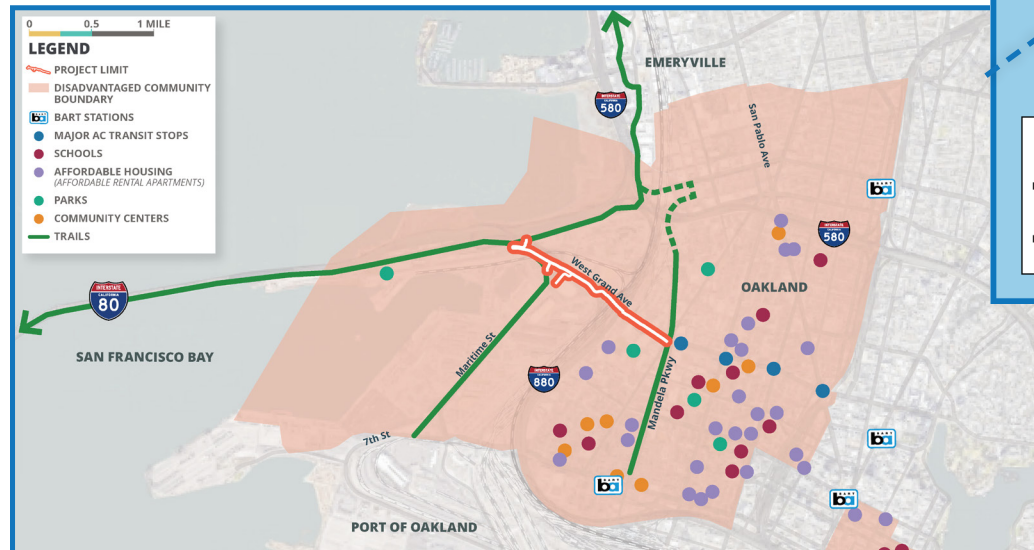
**Environmental and Transportation Justice:** West Oakland has a high prevalence of poverty and a larger population of People of Color than surrounding communities. According to the Alameda County Public Health Department, residents of the Oakland Hills neighborhoods are expected to live up to seven years longer than residents of West Oakland. This is a significant public health disparity and environmental justice issue that the trail project will help to address by improving local access to outdoor recreation and active transportation.<sup>2</sup>

**Pedestrian and Bicyclist Safety:** In 2018, the City of Oakland's Department of Race and Equity produced its first-ever Equity Indicators Report to advance citywide equity goals through strategies focused on racial and ethnic disparities. The report documented 12 indicators that received the lowest possible score, revealing the most extreme levels of inequity between groups. One of these 12 indicators was pedestrian safety. The West Oakland Link will increase both pedestrian and bicycle safety by providing West Oakland community members with safe access to the Port of Oakland, the Bay Bridge and the vital network of regional trails and open spaces.

<sup>1</sup>Figures derived from a 2018 Rails-to-Trails Conservancy proximity analysis of the West Oakland Link

<sup>2</sup>How Pollution Impacts Health in West Oakland," Environmental Defense Fund, <https://www.edf.org/airqualitymaps/oakland/pollution-and-health-concerns-west-oakland>.

<sup>3</sup>Baldwin, James, *Oakland Equity Indicators* (California: City of Oakland, 2018), <http://www2.oaklandnet.com/oakca1/groups/cityadministrator/documents/report/oak071073.pdf>.



## PROJECT LEAD

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