

CITY OF OAKLAND



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May 12, 2016

Mr. Bob Alvarado, Chairman
California Transportation Commission
1120 N Street, MS-52
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Support for the City of Oakland's application to the California Transportation Commission for the Lake Merritt to San Francisco Bay Trail Gap Closure Project

Dear Chairman Alvarado:

On behalf of the City of Oakland I want to express our support of the City of Oakland's application to the California Transportation Commission for the Lake Merritt to San Francisco Bay Trail Gap Closure Project.

This is the crucial missing link for bicycles and pedestrians to safely traverse between the 500 mile regional Bay Trail and the Lake Merritt trail systems. The State and Region's concept of connecting the various paths that are around Lake Merritt to the Estuary is well conceived and has been in various plans for decades. The City of Oakland is excited about moving forward with this much needed final project.

The massive I-880 corridor and the Union Pacific railroad tracks divide the two attractive and extensively utilized trail systems. Unfortunately, since it is the most direct route between Lake Merritt/Laney College and the waterfront, people trade their personal safety for expediency, dodging trains, large trucks and cars, to cross illegally from one side to the other.

In addition, the proposed bridge will allow local and regional users to safely connect to public transportation such as BART, AC Transit, Amtrak Capitol Corridor, and the Alameda-Oakland Ferry. Students at Laney College and the Jack London Aquatic Center along with other pedestrians and bicyclists will be able to reach developing areas such as the Brooklyn Basin, Jack London Square and the proposed Lake Merritt BART Station Transit village. A well designed safe ADA Accessible Class I Multi-Use Path that closes this gap in the city's bicycle and pedestrian systems will act as a destination and will draw local and regional users.

I thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Libby Schaaf'.

Libby Schaaf
Mayor of Oakland