



NEWS FROM:

Public Works Agency

Community & Economic Development Agency

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Media Contact: Kathryn Hughes
(510) 238-6493 or
Margot Lederer Prado
(510) 238-6766

City Celebrates Grand Opening of Third Street Extension *Project Connects Jack London District to Bay Trail, Brings Street Improvements*

OAKLAND, Calif. (April 14, 2005) – The City of Oakland will mark the completion of the Third Street Extension Project with a public **grand opening celebration** at the corner of Third and Magnolia streets on April 21, 2005. Slated to begin at 9:30 a.m., the celebration will feature a ribbon-cutting ceremony with Oakland City Councilmember Nancy Nadel and Public Works Agency Director Raul Godinez II officiating. The Third Street Extension Project provides a vital link in the regional Bay Trail connecting the Jack London District to West Oakland’s Mandela Parkway, a thoroughfare which serves as a major entry point into Oakland from Emeryville.

“I look forward to the street opening so that pedestrians and bicyclists from West Oakland will be able to more easily access the Jack London District and the trail beyond without having to navigate through dangerous overpasses and freeway ramps,” said Oakland City Councilmember Nancy Nadel.

As part of the Bay Trail through West Oakland, the extension project included the creation of bicycle lanes in each direction, installation of sidewalks and the planting of trees. Mandela Parkway, which previously terminated at Fifth Street, was extended to Third Street. The City of Oakland’s Public Works Agency secured \$900,000 from the California Department of Transportation to fund the project. The agency also oversaw construction of the extension project.

AMTRAK, a project partner, provided an additional \$250,000 to construct the bike lanes, sidewalk and roadway adjacent to their new Train Maintenance Facility in West Oakland.

“The Public Works Agency is proud of our role in planning and constructing this vital link to the Bay Trail in West Oakland,” said Raul Godinez II, Director of the City of Oakland’s Public Works Agency. “From Jack London Square to the Emeryville border and beyond, the public will enjoy a beautiful corridor with trees, new sidewalks, bike access and historic markers.”

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