It is a sunny Sunday morning in 2025 and you are headed out your front door for a ride around the Bay. Your friends Janet and XinYi are meeting you in San Francisco, so you hop on the Bay Trail and warm up on the gentle climb up to the Bay Bridge. You spin across Yerba Buena Island and cruise onto the brand new 15-foot wide bike path cantilevered off the West Span of the Bay Bridge.

At the touchdown in San Francisco, you meet your friends and ride out together along the waterfront to the Golden Gate Bridge. Crossing into Marin, you stay on bike paths through Larkspur and all the way to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Riding on the upper deck’s bike path, your third bridge of the day, you ride home through Richmond on the Bay Trail. After a round of high fives, your friends peel off to finish the ride back over the Bay Bridge into San Francisco.

Fiction? Fantasy? We don’t think so. With the Richmond-San Rafael bridge opening to bicyclists and pedestrians in 2017, the Yerba Buena touchdown happening in a matter of months, and with progress now being made on feasible new designs for the path on the West Span of the Bay Bridge, a Three Bridges ride could become a reality in the coming decade.

Continued on page 3
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LETTER FROM THE SADDLE

What does it take?

What does it take to stripe a bike lane in your town? What does it take gain bike access on our Bay Area bridges? What does it take to create a network of world-class bikeways in the East Bay that welcome all riders, whether you’re 8 years old or 80?

New bikeways are made of much more than new paint and pavement. On page 6 of this issue, we highlight six projects that are hitting the ground around the East Bay, as well as the months and years -- and sometimes decades -- of advocacy work it took to bring these projects to fruition. Whether it is the dedication of volunteers, securing new funding sources, or support from local businesses, new bike infrastructure represents hundreds of hours of dedicated work by a community of advocates, city and regional staff, and individuals working towards a bright future for bicycling in the East Bay.

On our cover, we highlight our decade long campaigns to bring bicycle access to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and the West Span of the Bay Bridge. Our work (then as the East Bay Bicycle Coalition) on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge dates to the ‘80s and earlier. Many individual advocates have taken up and passed the baton of leadership on this project. Many different organizations have worked hard on winning this path for bicyclists and pedestrians: Bike East Bay, Marin County Bicycle Coalition, Bay Area Bicycle Coalition, TRAC, the Bay Trail, CalBike and more. We have had many setbacks along the way, yet we never gave up. Dozens of volunteer advocates and hundreds of hours of impassioned advocacy have gone into this project.

We honor one advocate in particular on Page 5 of this issue of RideOn. The last time I saw Deb Hubsmith, the founder of the national Safe Routes to School movement, was at a meeting at the Metropolitan Transportation Commission a year ago. At that time, we were fighting hard for a 10-foot path on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. We knew the path proposed by Caltrans, which was just 4.75 feet wide, was dangerous and wouldn’t be used.

This was the first meeting Deb went to after she had taken time off for her health. Her hair was just starting to grow back after chemo and I was glad to sit next to her and point to my own half-inch-long do in short hair solidarity. She spoke so eloquently on the need for this path connecting Contra Costa and Marin counties. I know she personally worked on this project for 20 years or more. It meant so much to me that she came to that meeting.

A few weeks later, I heard her health had taken a turn for the worse and she wouldn’t be able to do any more work. Sometimes it takes a passionate and inspiring leader who keeps us all on the path towards change to steer a project through opposition to success. In Deb’s honor, we here at Bike East Bay vow to never give up. I hope to see the new path on the Richmond-San Rafael bridge named after Deb Hubsmith, who did so much to make this project a reality.

Ride on,
Renee Rivera, Executive Director.
These successes have been a long time coming. In 1997, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission (MTC) voted unanimously against a bike-ped path on the new East Span of the Bay Bridge, then under discussion for construction. Less than two years later, thanks to Bike East Bay’s relentless advocacy, MTC voted again unanimously to support the path. Today you can ride the brand new path on the East Span, and on to Treasure Island next year.

Similarly, in 1999, the answer was ‘no’ to allowing bikes on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge and re-establishing bike access between Marin County and Richmond (lost after ferry service was discontinued when the bridge was built). The opposition came from then State Attorney General Dan Lungren, who ruled incorrectly that bike access was not required by the California Coastal Act as part of upcoming bridge seismic work.

Progress stalled for over a decade. Then in 2012 Steve Heminger, Executive Director of MTC, announced at our Biketopia member party that he was going to work to open the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge to bikes. This project was funded and approved last year and in 2017, you will finally be able to ride your bike from Richmond to San Rafael.

Design work has begun for a West Span Pathway on the Bay Bridge to get you from Oakland to San Francisco. ARUP and HNTB bridge design teams are hard at work coming up with an affordable option. Again, thanks to your advocacy support, a 2001 Feasibility Report showed that a West Span Pathway could work. Thanks to a huge phone blitz by Bike East Bay members to MTC in 2009, further design and cost options were evaluated.

By the end of this year, the consultant teams working on the West Span Pathway will host at least one public meeting to present and get feedback on options for the path, and for the touchdowns in San Francisco and on Yerba Buena Island. Watch your Bike East Bay e-Newsletter for announcements of this meeting. We need you there to weigh in on which option will work best.

A preferred West Span option will be selected in 2016 and then we will ask for your help getting out the vote in 2018 to raise bridge tolls to pay for it. We’ll need your volunteer help on that campaign, which will likely include funding for additional projects such as a new road deck on the West Span, seismic work in the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge, and possibly transbay BART upgrades. There is still a lot of hard advocacy work ahead for staff, members, and volunteers to gain bike access to bridges, but the future looks bright for a Three Bridges ride in 2025.
EDUCATION PROGRAM COULD REACH 5,000 IN 2015

Since our very first class in 2001, Bike East Bay’s free education program has grown each year, reaching more people, in more cities, and on more topics every season. Recent accolades include a Best Free Bike Classes award from the East Bay Express and a front page feature in the Wall Street Journal. In 2015, with 150 classes provided in multiple languages, we are very close to reaching 5,000 participants for the first time ever in one year, but we need your help to get there!

Our program takes a “butts on bikes” approach to education, meaning that we want to cover whatever topics help people make more trips by bicycle and have fun doing so. In some cases, this means providing instruction on the rules of the road and bike handling skills, helping individuals gain confidence, and empowering them to ride in various conditions. It also means classes that teach people how to avoid bike theft, to ride as a family, and even to ride for the first time as an adult. The thousands of additional safe bike trips that follow these classes make our streets safer for you via the proven “safety in numbers” effect, and lead to more supporters of future bike infrastructure improvements.

So how can you help? It’s easy: just show up for one of our free and fun workshops and bring a friend! You’ll leave with some valuable tips, freebies, and maybe even a new bike buddy. Visit BikeEastBay.org/education to find an upcoming class on a topic you’ll both enjoy, or send in a request to host a free class at your company, school, club, or other community organization.

INSTRUCTOR PROFILE

MAYA CARSON

Maya loves teaching youth and families, as well as adults who are getting on a bicycle for the first time or back on a bicycle after many years. She grew up in Berkeley where she was able to bike to high school everyday, and she never stopped riding. A co-founder and collective member at Cycles of Change, Maya enjoys working with adults and families as an instructor with Bike East Bay.

Meet more awesome bike educators at BikeEastBay.org/instructors, and sign up for a free class today!

CHECK OUT OUR FULL SCHEDULE OF CLASSES ON PAGE 8
IN REMEMBERANCE

DEB HUBSMITH, LEADER OF SAFE ROUTES MOVEMENT

The bike advocacy movement has lost a visionary leader with the passing of Deb Hubsmith this summer. In her 46 years, Deb made a huge impact. As a leader first in Marin’s bicycle movement, Deb’s work was formative locally. However she is best known for founding the National Safe Routes to School program. Deb is best known for taking Safe Routes to School national to give kids across the country the option of biking and walking to school safely. She has been a continued inspiration to Bike East Bay throughout the years.

Waiting for a Larkspur Ferry in 1997 after riding in Marin County’s first critical mass, Deb said to our Advocacy Director Dave Campbell, “I’m going to form a bicycle coalition in Marin.” She had recently launched the Go Geronimo program, an early community rideshare system that helped residents in San Geronimo get to San Rafael. But she had her sights set on much bigger things.

Deb Hubsmith will be remembered as a leader in the Bay Area and national bike movement.

In 2003, the California Bicycle Coalition hosted the first Walk Bike Conference in California, right here in Oakland. Deb stole the show and laid out why we should all be doing the work we would do in the years to come. Her speech, which closed the conference, was full of energy and motivation. More importantly, she spoke directly from her heart. Deb brought passion to us advocates and to our work.

Deb was at her best working the crowds of politicians and staffers at the National Bike Summit in Washington, DC in 2010. She made sure the Safe Routes to School Program survived every attempt to be cut by car-focused national politicians. Her crowning achievement is her success in getting thousands of kids to walk and bike to school every single day.

Deb Hubsmith was a pleasure to work with, an inspiration, and someone we always looked forward to working with again.

Good bye Deb, and thank for all you have done.

BIKE RODEO/FAMILY WORKSHOP PARTICIPANTS

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Bike East Bay’s education program benefits significantly from Deb Hubsmith’s groundbreaking work. Alameda County runs one of the most successful Safe Routes to Schools programs in the country, serving over 100 schools and tens of thousands of students in every city in the county. These numbers are poised to increase even further thanks to the passage of 2014’s Measure BB. Above is just a small example of the success of these programs, showing the number of participants Bike East Bay has reached in recent years via Safe Routes-funded Bike Rodeos and Family Cycling Workshops.

Find more info online at www.AlamedaCountySR2S.org.
First Protected Bike Lanes Along a Major Commercial Corridor in the East Bay

Location: Telegraph Avenue, Oakland

Bike East Bay volunteers took on a year-long campaign to build community support for Telegraph Avenue’s bike-friendly transformation. Volunteers spent hundreds of hours walking Telegraph Ave to convince neighbors, sign on local businesses, and lobby city staff. Our grassroots campaign paid off when Oakland City Council approved the project with unanimous support. One year later, protected bike lanes are due to hit Telegraph Avenue any day now.

More Grand Openings

Bay Bridge Bike Path to Yerba Buena Island – After decades of persistent advocacy, the bike path on the east span of the Bay Bridge will finally touch down on Yerba Buena Island late 2015 or early 2016.

Two-way protected cycle track on Christie Avenue in Emeryville - Bikeway improvements cannot happen without funding, so Bike East Bay joined Transform and Safe Routes to School to establish the One Bay Area Grant Program. This project will connect the Bay Trail with Shellmound Street bike lanes.

Concord’s first green bike lanes on Detroit Avenue – Also funded through a program we pushed for, Safe Routes to Transit, but made a reality through persistent advocacy by us and our partners Bike Concord and Monument Impact.

Bike Lanes on Olympic Boulevard in Walnut Creek – Complex projects take years to complete, but sometimes we need bike improvements now. With full houses at two community planning meetings and a bike advocacy ride to highlight dangerous existing conditions, Bike East Bay secured new bike lanes on Olympic Boulevard, with long term plans for a two-way cycle track to connect the Lafayette-Moraga Trail with the Iron Horse Trail.

Keep Your Bike Advocates Rolling!

Make a donation using the included envelope or online at bikeeastbay.org/donate
MEMBER PROFILE

RAVEN WILLOUGHBY

A chance meeting brought Raven Willoughby to Bike East Bay’s offices this spring. She was here to interview us as a host for summer interns from the Oakland Unified School District, but quickly turned the conversation around to learn how she herself could get involved. After being hit by a car while biking in downtown Oakland, she was eager to learn more about our work in bike advocacy and how she might work to increase the visibility of bicyclists of color on the road.

For Raven, being part of the bike movement intersects her passions for bicycling and social justice. “People say the roads weren’t built for bikes. That’s like saying the Constitution wasn’t written for Black people,” she says. With this powerful metaphor, Raven inspires our continuing work to bring transportation equity to cities in the East Bay.

In between stuffing envelopes at volunteer night this August, we sat down with Raven to learn more about what she gets out of being a member of Bike East Bay.

What bike do you ride?
I ride a single speed bike. I can’t even tell you what the brand is. I got it in Davis, where I went to school. It started with gold rims. I come out of the library and it’s got no rims. Now it’s got black rims. I love my bike. I put stickers all over it and now I’m running out of space. It’s kind of an obsession, I’m always looking for stickers. I’m thinking of getting a mountain bike with bigger tires because, you know, the roads in East Oakland are so bad!

Where do you ride?
I work with four Oakland schools and I ride to work every day. I ride from East Oakland to West Oakland back to Deep East. For the most part my bike is my transportation. It gets me everywhere I need to go.

What inspired you to join Bike East Bay?
I was hit by a car while biking. I needed to get with the bike movement to make biking in Oakland acceptable. We need [to bring] more visibility to brown people on bikes. With all the changes coming to Oakland, we need to show biking is for all people. Not many people I know ride a bike and [joining Bike East Bay] is a way to build a community around something that I love.
BIKETOPIA
Thursday, November 12
6:30 to 10pm
Impact Hub, 2323 Broadway, Oakland
Join us for Bike East Bay's annual fundraiser and member party. Come celebrate and raise a glass to the victories of 2015!

EAST BAY BIKE PARTY
Friday, November 13 - 7:30pm
Location TBA
Get out and ride with the East Bay Bike Party. Follow Bike Party rules: Stay to the right; Stop at lights; Ride straight; Don’t hate; Pack your trash; and Don’t get smashed.

OAKLAND BPAC MEETING
Thurs, November 19 - 6 to 8pm
Oakland City Hall, 1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Participate in a meeting which advises the City Council on programs and projects related to walking and bicycling.

BIKE EAST BAY ANNUAL MEMBER MEETING
Tuesday, December 8
Sports Basement, 2727 Milvia St, Berkeley
Join other members to vote on our 2016 slate of board members. The night also includes a guest speaker (TBD), holiday bike decorations, and drinks on us (after the vote). Members will also receive a 20% discount on the entire Sports Basement store!

WHOLE FOODS 5% DAY
Thursday, December 17 - All day
230 Bay Place, Oakland
Your holiday shopping can benefit Bike East Bay in a big way! We have been selected to be Whole Food's 5% Day recipient, where 5% of the day's profit goes to a local nonprofit. Stop by and say hi - we’ll be there all day.

4TH ANNUAL SOLSTICE RIDE - RICHMOND
Monday, December 21
Location TBA
Rich City Rides welcomes you for a celebration of bikes, lights, and music on the longest night of the year. Ride usually ends with a party at Urban Tilth.

UPCOMING FREE BIKE EDUCATION CLASSES
Visit BikeEastBay.org/Education for full details and registration.

URBAN CYCLING 101: CLASSROOM WORKSHOP
Learn new skills to bike with confidence. For adults and teens, no bike required. Free reflective vest for participating at some classes.
Berkeley: Nov 2, 6:30-8:30pm; Dec 7, 6:30-8:30pm
San Leandro: Oct 19, 6-8pm
Union City: Nov 8, 2-4pm

URBAN CYCLING 101: ROAD CLASS
Learn bike handling skills and crash avoidance maneuvers. For adults and teens, bikes and helmets required. Prerequisite: Urban Cycling 101 Classroom.
San Leandro: Oct 24, 10am-3:30pm

ONE HOUR WORKSHOP
Go in-depth with one of our certified instructors on a specific topic. For adults and teens, no bike required.
Berkeley: Nov 3, 6-7pm (night riding); Dec 5, 2-3pm (shopping by bike)
Oakland: Oct 22, 12:30-1:30pm (how to choose/buy a bike)

FAMILY CYCLING WORKSHOP
Learn about biking together as a family. For parents and kids in grades 2-6, bikes and helmets required
Albany: Nov 8, 1-3:30pm
Union City: Nov 14, 10am-12:30pm

FAMILY BIKE RODEO
Kids and parents learn safe cycling skills with our certified instructors. Bikes and helmets provided, or bring your own! Course takes about half an hour for each child to complete.
Pittsburg: Oct 17, 10am-1pm, Nov 7, noon-3pm

FOR EVEN MORE EVENTS AND CLASSES VISIT BIKEEASTBAY.ORG/CALENDAR
A BIG THANKS TO ALL OUR AMAZING VOLUNTEERS!

PEDALFEST 2015 ROCKED!

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Photo by Michael Roberts
It’s been a great year for biking in the East Bay: protected bike lanes are coming to Telegraph Avenue in Oakland, bike access to the Richmond/San Rafael Bridge has been approved, and new green bike lanes are coming to Concord for the first time. Join us on November 12 to celebrate these achievements at Biketopia, our annual member party and fundraiser.

The party returns this year to the Impact Hub Oakland in Uptown, a perfect venue to eat, drink, dance, and mingle with folks from the bike community. Attendees will enjoy delicious bites catered by Whole Foods as well as a wide selection of beer and wine. We will toast to the victories Bike East Bay has seen this year and look forward to 2016 as a year full of great potential.

The centerpiece of this member-only party is a silent auction full of unique items. Get ready to bid on vacation getaway packages, beer and wine tours, awesome bike accessories, and one-of-a-kind experiences like a private tour of Oakland City Hall’s clock tower and historical jail. Tickets to Biketopia are expected to sell out, so make sure to register early to have a shot at these and dozens of other auction items.

Biketopia is Bike East Bay’s biggest fundraiser of the year, with proceeds fueling our many advocacy projects in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties. Many thanks to our generous sponsors for making this event possible including our presenting sponsor, the Law Office of Daniel H. Rose.

NEW EVENTS MANAGER JOINS BIKE EAST BAY

This year’s Biketopia will see a new addition to the Bike East Bay team: Dave Mann has joined us in the role of Events Manager.

Raised in Santa Cruz, Dave took a detour to Chicago, where he worked on events that opened the city’s lakefront and boulevards to thousands of bicyclists. But the Bay Area lured him back with its beautiful open spaces and great weather, and he is excited to be joining us for Biketopia, Bike to Work Day, Pedalfest, and more. Welcome to the team Dave!
CITY COUNCIL APPROVES AMBITIOUS VISION FOR SOUTH RICHMOND

On September 15, Richmond’s City Council passed the South Richmond Transportation Connectivity Plan (SRTCP). This plan was borne out of the need to adapt to several major changes to South Richmond: the development of the UC Berkeley Global Campus, re-opening of ferry service to San Francisco in 2018, and anticipated additional mixed-use development.

The plan is notable for its recommendation of an expansive network of protected bikeways. The network, which will include both one- and two-way protected bikeways on major corridors, connects to existing and future off-street bike paths as part of both the short- and long-term implementation plan. While the short-term plan calls for temporary physical buffers (e.g., planter boxes or bollards), the long-term plan calls for raised bikeways and permanent physical buffers.

BikeEastBay.org/SRTCP

PLENTY OF SUPPORT FOR ADELINE STREET PROTECTED BIKE Lanes

The south Berkeley community is coming together with universal support for protected bike lanes along the Adeline Corridor, and you can help fill in the rest of the vision. As an unusually wide street (180 feet), the corridor has the potential to become a great place to bike and walk. Over the next two years, you can be part of a creative reimagining of Adeline Street from Shattuck Avenue to the Oakland city line. Do you want to add open space, affordable housing, transit improvements and new great bike lanes? Join the process by stopping in at the Idea Center on Adeline St at the Firehouse Art Collective, 3192 Adeline St, any Mon, Thurs or Sat.

BikeEastBay.org/AdelineOptions

MEASURE J2 UPDATE

Bike East Bay is working hard to bring a new measure J2 with an added Complete Streets Program to Contra Costa Voters. Treat Boulevard, in Pleasant Hill, is a great example of why this new program is needed. Funds from the original Measure J were allocated to study bicycling and walking improvements on Treat Boulevard between Main Street and Jones Road, right at the Pleasant Hill BART Station. Early plans showed an option to do a road diet bringing the busy thoroughfare down from eight lanes to six lanes with separated bike lanes. The design included a protected intersection at Treat Boulevard and Oak Road. It was a plan that would encourage hundreds of people to walk and bicycle to Pleasant Hill BART.

However, traffic forecasts showed that a road diet would intolerably delay drivers, as would removal of many of the auxiliary right turn lanes that are so dangerous for pedestrians and bicyclists. The project keeps all eight lanes and proposes bicyclists ride on a ten foot wide shared sidewalk to cross I-680.

Our proposed Complete Streets Program would avoid the need for this poor compromise by including transit improvements in projects and additional freeway operational improvements to relieve pressure on nearby arterials. A comprehensive approach would allow Treat Boulevard to be reduced to six travel lanes and handle traffic just fine, while encouraging more walking and bicycling trips.

BikeEastBay.org/MeasureJ

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION GRANT PROGRAM

Statewide staff recommendations have been announced for the Active Transportation Grant’s Cycle II. Of the eight projects recommended in the Bay Area, three are in Contra Costa and two are in Alameda County.

We’re excited to see Berkeley’s 9th Street path expansion recommended, as well as Pogo Park’s incredible Yellow Brick Road project in Richmond, which will transform a historically underserved community. Other important projects, including Telegraph Avenue’s plan for protected bikeways, the East Bay Greenway, and San Pablo’s Rumrill Boulevard, did not make the cut for statewide funding. These still have a second chance in the regional round of funding. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission has over $30 million to disburse for the next three fiscal years. The agency will announce more regional recommendations later this fall.

BikeEastBay.org/ATP_2015
JOIN OR RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP TODAY

1. Get DISCOUNTS at over 70 bike shops and local businesses.

2. Support a staff of BICYCLE ADVOCATES working for better bicycling in your neighborhood.

3. CONNECT with over 4,000 members and ten local working groups across the East Bay.

RIDE WITH US!

BikeEastBay.org/Join