BIKE TO WHEREVER
MAY 21

Make Your Own Zine
Pedaling Out of the Pandemic
New Greenways on Doyle Street
Our cities are reawakening from the long winter of a global pandemic. As spring arrives in the East Bay, I’m looking ahead with hope and curiosity about what changes we will treasure and keep, and what challenges lay ahead.

In the past year, we’ve reimagined urban and suburban streets by creating people-friendly spaces with slow streets, outdoor dining, and emergency bikeways. Bike East Bay is now working with many cities to make these changes permanent, and in some cases, leveraging our advocacy to speed up bikeways that were planned years ago. The city of Emeryville has already made the Doyle Street emergency bikeway permanent (see page 6), and we look forward to many others on the way.

We’ve also had stark reminders that Black, Latinx, Asian, and people of color are not welcome and free in how we move in public space. Ahmaud Arbery, a Black man, was shot and killed while jogging through a white neighborhood. Asian elders are being brutally attacked while walking and shopping in Bay Area Chinatowns, adding to increasing anti-Asian hate incidents nationwide. The race and class inequalities exposed and exacerbated by the pandemic are driving Bike East Bay to deepen our commitment to transportation justice work.

Bike East Bay’s top priority this spring is getting back to on-the-ground community organizing work. We learned early on that it was extremely challenging to do community outreach equitably during shelter in place. We miss talking to neighbors, business owners, parents, and elders face-to-face. We miss the crucial knowledge and experience our communities bring.

To prepare for reopening, we are now hiring four staff positions through spring and summer. This includes new staff who will lead community organizing efforts in Black and Brown communities. Keep an eye on our email newsletters and BikeEastBay.org/Jobs for postings!

I am incredibly excited that we’re able to add capacity to take on even more transportation justice work. All this is made possible by your support as members and donors, and partners including the Hellman Foundation, during a financially (and emotionally) challenging year. This next phase will be one of enormous growth, learning, and optimism. I can’t wait to share the ride ahead with you.

Ride on,

Ginger Jui
Executive Director
All Trails Lead to Ice Cream

From the Dublin/Pleasanton BART station, ride the Iron Horse Trail and quiet neighborhood streets to downtown Pleasanton.

Celebrate your arrival with a cone at Meadowlark Dairy. There you'll find soft serve, slushies, and a small grocery to stock up on breakfast classics. This low-key ride is great for families and kids comfortable biking about 10 miles round trip.

Tour de Fremont

As you roll out of the Fremont BART station, enjoy the East Bay's first partially raised bikeway, connecting to Civic Center Drive. Take a spin along Walnut Avenue, up to Mission Boulevard and back down to Paseo Padre Parkway. Snap a selfie when you're counted on the automatic bike counter! If you are coming from points north, you can also access Walnut Avenue via the Alameda Creek Trail and Mission Boulevard.

Take a pause from bike lane admiration to have a rest at Lake Elizabeth, a family-friendly and bike-friendly destination. Then the bike love continues on Fremont’s trail system. You can either roll further east on the Mission Creek Trail to Mission San Jose Park and back, or head straight south on the East Bay Greenway. This section of the East Bay Greenway is nice and wide, perfect for new learners to practice their pedaling.

Point Pinole

Start in downtown Richmond for a seven-mile ride north via city streets and trails. Take a slight detour near BART and say hi to the folks at Rich City Rides on MacDonald Ave. and 15th St. before heading on your way. New Bay Trail connections along Goodrick Avenue make for breezy biking north of the Richmond Parkway.

The Dotson Family Marsh Staging Area at the start of Point Pinole Regional Park is a great alternative for a totally car-free trail ride. Almost all the trails at Point Pinole are open to bikes; most are unpaved but bikeable fire roads. Pack a picnic and tuck in under any of the shady eucalyptus groves.

View details, zoomable maps, and tag us in your adventures!

BikeEastBay.org/BikeMonth2021
BIKE SHOPS IN 2020

The East Bay bike community rallies and wrenches on

By Hyeran Lee

Sports Basement

When Sports Basement reopened two weeks after shelter in place began, three-quarters of online orders were bikes and bike accessories. Gino Cancilla, the bike shop manager at the Walnut Creek location says the trend hasn’t subsided since then. “We pretty much sold every bike we had, and not one bike was selling better than another.” From kids’ bikes to expensive mountain bikes and road bikes, he never knew what he was going to sell each day. In his more than ten year career at the store, Gino had never seen the bike shop this busy: they were selling, building, fixing, and renting bicycles non-stop. Despite Sports Basement having to furlough most of their floor employees, Gino was able to bring the bike shop staff back to full capacity and hire even more thanks to the high and consistent demand.

People have also been taking advantage of Sports Basement’s bike rental program during the pandemic. When customers weren’t sure about purchasing a bike, they’d rent one for a day, week, or month to try out.

Whether folks are buying or renting, it’s clear biking has never been more popular. Around the Walnut Creek store, Gino has witnessed a huge increase in biking on the Contra Costa County canal trails, Mt. Diablo, and other mountain biking trails. “The road closure on Mt. Diablo would be one of the greatest times for cyclists, not having to worry about cars on the mountain. You always bump into someone you know,” he adds.

He’s hopeful that this trend will continue well beyond 2021. “I don’t see it slowing down at all...I hope we continue to stay busy. It’s awesome to see this many people enjoying bikes.

Bikes are awesome.” Gino commutes daily to and from the shop. You can find him on gravel trails on his days off.

The Bikery

Since the doors opened 12 years ago, the Bikery has been first and foremost an education and community workshop. The Bikery is operated by the East Bay non-profit Cycles of Change. The emphasis has never been on bike sales, rather it’s a space where people can borrow tools and learn how to fix a bike themselves for a fraction of the regular price. Before the pandemic, the Bikery was open only three days a week, usually during after-school hours to serve youth in the East Oakland community. When the lockdown was announced, Cycles of Change had to suspend all education programs, and Benji Rouse, manager of the Bikery, started transforming the store to meet the new public health requirements. It took three weeks of hard work: staff ordered personal protective equipment, created an online appointment system, and implemented protocols to diligently sanitize all surfaces.

Since then, Benji says “the Bikery has been busier than ever before.” To accommodate the rush, staff trained Cycles of Change educators to jump into the Bikery sales floor operations. As supplies and parts for refurbished bikes became more scarce, resourcefulness was key. “We had to apply this recycling mentality to everything we did. It was a fun challenge but also stressful,” Benji adds.

Most customers were coming to biking for the first time since childhood, or for the first time ever. The most popular bikes were for customers between 4’11” and 5’5” looking for a simple and affordable getaround bike. “Any small bike would go out the door in a day or two,” Benji says. They remark that the popularity of those bikes is a reflection of communities served by the Bikery. “We see a lot of women and people of color buying a bike for the first time here.” Benji adds that people come to the Bikery because they don’t always feel welcome at typical bike shops. The Bikery offers a space that is welcoming, inclusive, and more affordable than other retail shops. Bikery customers are often looking for

Gino gets down to work at Sports Basement in Walnut Creek

Bike mechanic San Saephan wrenches at the Bikery
a bike for less than $300 which, Benji says, is totally doable.

Increased sales from the Bikery have helped fund Cycles of Change education programs, which have moved online for the time being.

Benji hopes that the bike boom continues after the pandemic. "The more people bike, the more other people will bike…we could get to a point where it feels accessible to more people."

My Buddy’s Bike Shop

Before the pandemic, a typical day at My Buddy’s Bike Shop in Livermore was chill and mellow. On a busy day, about fifteen people would come in, which was manageable by two full time employees and the owner, Chris Beratlis. When shelter in place started and bike shops were categorized as essential businesses, it only took Chris three days to reopen the shop. Blue tape marked seven feet along the floor and hand sanitizer was placed everywhere. Since then, the line in front of the store has been non-stop, with an average of 100-200 customers each day, only letting up when the shop closes for the night. Record sales continued even in winter months, almost equivalent to the best summer months at My Buddy’s before the pandemic.

"People want to do something in their spare time. And the only sport they could do with their family safely is to bike, hike, or jog." Chris says. Since the pandemic began, Chris hired more employees to increase their capacity.

Although there was a major delay in cargo shipping from China, Chris says the record-low stock shortage was actually beneficial to smaller mom-and-pop bike shops like My Buddy’s Bike Shop. Without an online store to manage, they had more availability in-store and an easier walk-in system than their larger competitors. "We want people to be able to get services they need without making appointments," Chris adds.

These days, most people are looking for bikes under $1,000. He sees a lot of parents trying to get bikes for themselves and their kids. E-bikes are also growing in popularity despite the steeper price tag. Chris sees growing opportunities for folks of all ages to get back on trails and outdoors thanks to e-bikes. Chris says "everybody that lives under the sun wants to ride a bike. It's that good." He has seen an increase in the number of mountain bikers in the Tri-Valley and all around the East Bay Regional Park system. Chris even started a petition to open more trails for mountain biking.

"Giving out the Bike to Wherever Day bags to customers was the single best thing we did last year" he says. "It gave us an opportunity to introduce what's happening yearly and raise awareness to new folks." Chris is excited about this unexpected boom, and is hopeful that the bike base nationwide continues to grow after the pandemic. "We got a bigger base than we have ever had before. A lot of people will continue biking and it's a win win for everyone in the community."

Meet more friendly faces
BikeEastBay.org/CommunityShops
NEW GREENWAYS ON DOYLE STREET

A slow street goes from temporary to permanent in Emeryville

By Robert Prinz

Emeryville’s Doyle Street Greenway was first imagined in the early 2000s as a way to creatively reuse an abandoned railroad line which once ran north-south through the city. Plans envisioned Doyle Street as a livable, people-friendly corridor, partly on a separated path and partly on slow, calm neighborhood streets. The separated greenway path has been popular since opening, but the Doyle Street bike boulevard segment, where people who walk and ride had to share the road with car traffic, remained a challenge. It would take many more years, a worldwide pandemic, and a whole community effort before the greenway would reach its goal as an all ages and abilities facility.

Emeryville Senior Civil Engineer Ryan O’Connell recalls “as the pandemic started in 2020, shelter in place restrictions were put on everyone in this area, and people were looking for a safe place to recreate.” The city’s parks and recreation and bicycle and pedestrian committees saw the need for a more bikeable, walkable Doyle Street. Emeryville’s village greens and greenways program recommended reallocating street space away from cars and back to people. The groundwork for a people-first Doyle Street was laid and the need was clear. It was time for action.

Council member Ally Medina, who introduced the village greens program a few years prior, had already been talking about Doyle Street with her fellow council member John Bauters. “If you give the two of us a map and a highlighter bad things happen…I mean, amazing things happen,” she says. The initial concept included temporary barricades which created protected on-street spaces for biking and walking right next to the many parks that line Doyle Street.

By focusing on Doyle Street, the city was able to communicate about the project despite the pandemic limitations. Outreach included taking the time to talk with residents at every address along the street. For council member Bauters “it wasn’t about the number of streets, we wanted to be really deliberate about doing [a project] that would be sustainable, permanently.” Last fall, Emeryville combined funding from a new Alameda County Transportation Commission (Alameda CTC) quick-build program with a paving project already planned for Doyle Street. Temporary barricades were upgraded to a permanent cycletrack with posts and green paint. Additional car diverters and on-street shared spaces for people who walk and bike were added.

Medina was thrilled to observe seniors now using the middle of the completed street to do tai chi in the morning. “It’s amazing to see how people use space when it’s given back to them,” she says. Bauters also sees a shift in how young people interact with the street. “When children start to see that the street is also for them, and they can do things in the street, that’s how we change long-term behavior,” he says.

For O’Connell, the Alameda CTC grant was critical to the project’s success. It involved a streamlined way to get the funds and start construction, and no local match requirement for small cities to contribute some of their own money. “This grant was set up in the best way I’ve ever experienced. I’d love to see it as a model for quick-build grants going forward,” says O’Connell.

Emeryville’s remaining wish list for Doyle Street includes extending existing upgrades such as the cycletrack along more of the corridor, and adding amenities like street art, benches, and planters.

Staff and elected officials have their eyes on other streets for transformative projects to make the city easier to get around by biking, walking, and transit. Have a street in mind? Tweet your ideas to @BikeEastBay.
It’s one year into the COVID-19 pandemic. We’re taking stock of how the Bay Area transportation landscape has changed, and what Bike East Bay and our partners are doing about it. The past year has contained an extraordinary amount of grief and loss—in the East Bay, our country, and around the world. While the stories on this page and pages 4-5 are overwhelmingly hopeful about the possibility of more people riding, transit emerging stronger, and community-focused safety growing in our East Bay communities, we acknowledge and hold that these bright spots don’t eclipse the real hardship people have faced this year. However you relate to reaching the one year mark of the COVID-19 pandemic, we see you, and we’re here for you.

Pandemic Bike Boom
Over the past year, walking and biking have emerged among the most popular forms of recreation and exercise. According to research from People for Bikes, 61% of people across the country said they’re walking more, and 44% said they’re biking more during the COVID-19 pandemic. But you know it just by walking outside: you’re seeing friends and neighbors on bikes, some for the very first time. Bike East Bay is making sure new riders are ready for the road. We quickly brought our free bicycle education classes online, and between March 2020-March 2021, more than 1,500 people attended a class. A record-breaking sixteen new protected bike lanes came on the ground in 2020, along with upgraded infrastructure projects to welcome all levels of riders. More openings are on the way in time for Bike to Wherever Day on May 21!

Transit Funding
Keeping transit funded and running is crucial as the Bay Area recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. As restrictions lift, reliable, safe, well-funded transit means more people will opt for modes of transportation that reflect our sustainable and accessible future. Bike East Bay has been working with the Metropolitan Transportation Commission on infrastructure projects to encourage more bike-friendly quick-build connections to transit. Funding recommendations on those upgrades will be announced later this spring, and projects could come on the ground as soon as early next year. We’re ready to go further with public transit and bike-plus-transit trips, not back into cars on traffic-jammed streets. We applaud our partners at Voices for Public Transportation, who work to ensure transit workers have adequate protective equipment, vaccine access, and that operators get needed funding to sustain essential service during the pandemic.

Reimagining Public Safety
Following the national uprisings for racial justice in 2020, Bike East Bay joined the City of Oakland’s Reimagining Public Safety Task Force to contribute our knowledge and vision on how to improve traffic safety without relying on armed police. We targeted this issue because traffic stops are the most common reason for police interaction with individuals—with outcomes that are both inequitable and life-threatening for Black and Brown communities. After months of research and deliberation, the traffic enforcement working group recommended that the city move most traffic enforcement away from police and to the Oakland Department of Transportation. This strategy was named as a top recommendation in a thorough analysis by the Anti-Police Terror Project-led Defund Police Coalition. Conversations move forward this spring in Oakland, Berkeley, Richmond, and Hayward. How can less enforcement and safer streets improve your ride? Get involved: BikeEastBay.org/ReimaginePublicSafety.
TEACHING THROUGH THE PANDEMIC

Catching up with lead instructor Dan Hernandez

By Robert Prinz

Like everything else, Bike East Bay’s popular bike education program was disrupted significantly in 2020. When shelter in place was first announced we had to cancel 50 in-person classes. We immediately set out to reinvent our program with online webinar sessions and in-person outdoor classes, using new protocols to meet and exceed county health guidelines.

Since then we have reached over 1,500 attendees at nearly 100 free classes on many topics, thanks in large part to the amazing efforts from our program instructors. Lead Instructor Dan Hernandez, who has been teaching classes with Bike East Bay and other local groups for 15 years, played a huge role in seamlessly bringing free classes back online and in-person.

Those who have attended one of our free webinars may recognize Dan. Over the past months, he has worked to reach class attendees from wherever he was: broadcasting online classes from bike shops, a friend’s garage, and even from a houseboat!

We caught up with Dan to hear about his teaching experience during the pandemic:

[Robert Prinz] What classes have you been teaching, and have you noticed any change in audience participation?

[Dan Hernandez] I’ve been teaching lots of Zoom webinars, Adult Learn-to-Ride sessions, on-bike Urban Cycling classes... I feel attendees are even more motivated than ever before to learn. It’s awesome!

[RP] How has the teaching process changed during the pandemic?

[DH] First, wow, I’ve learned a lot! We had a new starting place, figuring out how to teach classes in a socially-distant, COVID-smart manner. But we had the same “destination” as before: imparting a whole list of bike skills. So the challenge involved plotting a new route to help get folks from start to finish.

[RP] Can you share any insights you’ve gained about teaching in these challenging times?

[DH] I value the limited time I get to spend with class attendees, maybe because I know how much bike riding has meant to me during shelter in place, and I want them to be able to share in that experience. So despite the literal distance and barriers between us, I find myself trying hard to connect with each participant and provide useful information.

[RP] Is there anything else you would like people to know about the work you’ve been doing with Bike East Bay’s education program?

[DH] I love what I do. I get to encourage people to do more with their bike, something that saves them time, adds years to their life, makes them smile, keeps them healthy, betters their community, gives them hope...I am really, really happy to be teaching again.

Meet Dan and our other fantastic instructors: attend an upcoming class this spring! Sign up or request a free class at BikeEastBay.org/BikeEdOnline.
MEET DANI SOLIS
Your new Education Coordinator
By Eileen Rice

Dani Solis’ housemate calls her an “avid dabbler.” Her mom and grandmother might call her a great cook—improvising in the kitchen while learning her family’s Panamanian recipes. And now you know her as Bike East Bay’s Education Coordinator.

The Education Coordinator keeps our award-winning bike education program humming: scheduling classes, communicating with attendees and instructors, spreading the word around the East Bay, and more. Dani is really excited to help connect people in this role: particularly to a love of joyful movement. Growing up in San Jose, California, most days Dani would walk an hour along busy roads to get to school. When she came to Berkeley for college, she says, “I really started noticing how the infrastructure was so different.” That change in infrastructure changed how she saw people interacting with the street. “I see people biking to farmers markets—and biking on streets—which I never thought that I would be doing until my junior year when I bought a bike. I just went on it and it was so much fun!”

Connecting people through engaging virtual events is a skill that Dani brings and is excited to grow. “I think for the future of accessibility, virtual facilitation that is really participatory and engaging is something that’s going to need to be developed...when I was in [Bike East Bay’s] Bike Theft webinar, I really enjoyed that Robert put up these polls so people could give answers...I think it really helps the audience be engaged,” she adds.

Strike up a conversation with Dani on nearly any topic and her “avid dabbling” shines through. Whether she is partnering with researchers to develop culturally relevant materials in her graphic design work, or building out a business plan to celebrate her identity and the indigenous, Black, and Caribbean roots of the food she grew up with, Dani’s multifaceted interests make her an engaging thought partner, educator, and a great addition to the Bike East Bay team. Welcome Dani!

CALENDAR of EVENTS

APRIL - JUNE

Bike To Wherever Day
Friday, May 21, all day
Find your Energizer Station, Bike to School events, and routes to ride at BikeEastBay.org/BTWD

Bike to the Moon
Thursday, May 10-14, all day
The Alameda County Safe Routes to School’s team is organizing a virtual challenge to Bike to the Moon. Ride bikes together with your family and friends, and add your miles to 238,900 mile trip to the moon. BikeEastBay.org/B2SD

The Crucible Fix-A-Thon
Sunday, May 16, 12-3pm
Repair your bike for free at The Crucible Studio. During this five-hour event, volunteers and staff fix as many bikes as possible. TheCrucible.org/Events

Bike to Wherever Day at the Lake
Friday, May 21, 3-6pm
Celebrate Bike to Wherever Day with Walk Oakland Bike Oakland, Bike East Bay, and the City of Oakland at Lake Merritt. Ride to the lake and enjoy an afternoon of distanced outdoor activities. WOBO.org/Bike-to-Work-Day-2021

We Bike Book Club
First Thursdays, 6:00pm-7:30pm
Everyone is invited to discuss biking, feminism, and the intersection of the two. Co-hosted online with the Oakland Public Library. BikeEastBay.org/WomenBike

BIKE EAST BAY EDUCATION CLASSES

Free workshops in the East Bay taught in multiple languages, providing everyone with an engaging way to learn skills for smart cycling. BikeEastBay.org/Education

Urban Cycling 101
Webinar workshops and on-the-bike sessions to learn rules of the road and hone your bike handling skills.

Adult/Teen Learn to Ride
Learn the basics of balancing, pedaling, and steering in a secure, non-judgmental environment.

Family Cycling
A day of fun games, drills, and skills building for parents and kids in grades 2-6. Complete details on these classes and more at BikeEastBay.org/Education
Friday May 21, 2021

Let's Celebrate Bike to Wherever Day!

High Five!

Friday May 21, 2021
Let's Celebrate Bike to Wherever Day!

Step 1: Pledge to Ride

Pledge to ride and get all the details: BikeEastBay.org/Pledge

Step 2: Find Your Energizer Station

Ride to your nearest Energizer Station

Step 3: Map Your Route

Bike East Bay is bringing you safe, socially distanced celebrations for Bike to Wherever Day. Celebrate and show our cities that bikes count. Pledge to ride for all the details!

Step 4: Renew Your Membership

Renew your membership online before you go, or pull up our website on your smartphone and renew on-site at selected locations. Show your email receipt at a membership station on May 21 for a BIGGER bag. Plus you'll be entered to win a new bike!

BikeEastBay.org/Join

Step 5: Digital Goodies

All the goodies inside your bag are going digital! With less waste and coupons available at your fingertips, it's a win-win! Pledge to ride to get the digital goody bag delivered to your inbox.

Step 6: Tell a Friend

Share your Bike to Wherever Day plans with a friend! Draw your perfect bikey day in the space above.

You made it!

Share your Bike to Wherever Day zines and adventures:
BikeEastBay.org/BTWD

@BikeEastBay

#BTWD

You made it!

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You made it!
...MAKE A BIKE TO WHEREVER DAY ZINE!

Test ride the instructions below using page 10

1. Arrange the paper lengthwise. Fold along the middle (veggie-dog style).

2. Open the folded paper. Fold widthwise along the middle (hamburger style).

3. Keep the paper folded. Fold back the right-hand edge to the seam of the fold.

4. Flip the paper over and repeat on the other side.

5. Clasp the two separate flaps you've just expertly made. Pull the folds away from each other and down.

Lay the paper out flat, with the center sticking up.
Cut from the spine of the fold down towards the table. Stop when you reach the folds you made in step 3.

Zine cartoon inspiration: Coyote Central, coyotecentral.org

Thanks to our Bike to Wherever Day sponsors:

Alameda County Public Works
City of Dublin
City of Emeryville
City of Livermore
City of Newark

City of Pittsburg
City of Pleasanton
City of Richmond
City of San Leandro

City of San Pablo
East Bay Regional Parks
Lyft: Bay Wheels
Port of Oakland

Spin Scooters
Veo
Walkup, Melodia, Kelly & Schoenberger
Washington Hospital Healthcare System

BIKE EAST BAY • SPRING 2021
Ambitious Projects Start Today

- A connected, protected San Pablo Avenue
- Pedestrian paths on the Bay Bridge to San Francisco
- In-town biking networks in your neighborhood
- And more!

BikeEastBay.org/MonthlyGiving
Let’s move forward.