

# VISION 2020



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Cover: Cynthia and Janice ride across the East Span of the Bay Bridge. It's time to move forward with more visionary projects.

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# LETTER FROM THE SADDLE

Earlier this year, the future of transportation in Contra Costa County wasn't looking good. Your Advocacy Director, Dave Campbell, was campaigning hard for a transportation funding plan that would go on the March 3, 2020 ballot.



"The bike funding looks good, but I don't know if we can support it," Dave said.

Dave had already secured a bigger slice of the pie for biking than we had in previous years. The new plan dedicates 10%, or \$35 million, for biking improvements: 6% more than plans from years past. This itself is a huge win—but it is not good enough.

The plan dedicated almost nothing for public transit in Eastern Contra Costa County. Without public transit, Contra Costa County—and the East Bay as a whole—will not be able to meet Bike East Bay's vision for a sustainable and equitable transportation system.

Simply put, transit connections enable more people to walk and bike in our communities. So Bike East Bay went back to the table to fiercely advocate for public transit in this ballot measure. By joining a strong coalition of local transportation, housing, and conservation advocates, we successfully secured a 70% increase in what was originally proposed for transit!

These days, Dave is more optimistic about the future for transportation in Contra Costa County. With solid funding for infrastructure, more people will be able to connect to transit hubs by bike. Fast, frequent, and reliable public transit will make it possible for more people to leave their cars at home—and create more equitable outcomes for everyone who depends on transit to get around, including people with fewer resources and many people with disabilities.

For this measure to win, we have a lot of hard work ahead of us in 2020. Bike East Bay will join our coalition partners to get out the vote for a walking, biking and transit-rich Contra Costa County. Learn more about how you can join our campaign on page 5.

But let's not get too far ahead of ourselves: there is still so much to celebrate in 2019! Hear from the newest riders to join our bicycling community, and our work to create more liveable streets on page 3. Learn about your advocacy team's work in Central Alameda County, changing busy corridors into safe and welcoming streets for people walking and biking (pages 8-9). And, to top it all off, I am excited to share that after decades of advocacy, you'll soon be able to bike across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge. Plan your adventures on pages 6-7!

I am so looking forward to riding across the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge with you soon. Cheers and ride on!

Ginger Jui Executive Director

## CLASSES AT LIFE ACADEMY

## Life-changing skills and more livable streets

By Robert Prinz

"Thank you for teaching us to ride bikes. I was scared but I did it. My teacher did help me balance and it was hard so I tried to lift one leg up and the other one too. I did it. I walked a bit fast with the bike and tried to turn and I did it. I stood the bike carefully and I did it."—Miquel

All of the classes offered through Bike East Bay's free education program are rewarding and powerful, and some are truly life-changing. One such experience started in 2018 when special education teacher Caitlin Christensen invited us to Life Academy in Oakland to teach her class of 17 middle and high schoolers with special needs how to ride a bike.

"The Learn-to-Ride class is amazing, especially for students with special needs. It helps them to learn in a safe and supportive environment." — Nora Dye, Learn-to-Ride instructor

In early 2019 we returned to Life Academy for another amazing Learn-to-Ride session, with a group of instructors including Nora Dye. "Some special needs students might



Students at Life Academy in Oakland during a Learn-to-Ride class

Photo by Caitlin Christensen

have trouble focusing or engaging in school." Nora says, "but biking is a whole body experience which can be therapeutic and rewarding." Over the course of the three-hour class, Bike East Bay instructors worked step-bystep with each student on the basics of balancing, pedaling, and steering. To make sure it was a convenient, comfortable environment for the students, we set up class right on the school blacktop, and brought in a fleet of bikes so everyone could ride. Having plenty of instructors on hand meant that each student got the patient attention every new rider deserves.

"Thank you Bike East Bay for giving me a chance to ride a bike...I had fun with my friends and even made new ones with [the] teacher who was teaching me how to ride."—Henry

Our mission at Bike East Bay is to create healthy, sustainable

communities by making bicycling safe, fun, and accessible for everyone. That means not only providing a great environment for learning how to ride, but better streets to ride, walk, and live on—around Life Academy and beyond.

For two years in a row, Bike East Bay has partnered with Life Academy to get students up and running on bikes. However, Life Academy is located on 35th Avenue, a designated high injury corridor in Oakland with a long history of crashes. Even with great riding skills, students still need safe streets to bike on.

Earlier this year, as the second Learn-to-Ride class was being taught at Life Academy, the Bike East Bay advocacy team was at work to bring bicycle and pedestrian safety improvements to the 35th Avenue corridor: expediting a street safety grant to add bike lanes near Fruitvale BART, and street crossing upgrades around Life Academy. Those improvements are important first steps in making the neighborhood more accessible for everyone trying to get to school: those just learning to ride, expert bike riders, and pedestrians alike.

"I want to go to the park and ride the bike there. It will be fun...thank you for coming to our school."—Julan

Learn about the latest updates coming to Oakland: BikeEastBay.org/ OaklandBikeways



## Urban Cycling 101

Learn to ride in the city! Bike East Bay's Urban Cycling 101 starts in the classroom and then takes you on the road with League Certified Instructors.

Sign up for a free class today! **BikeEastBay.org/Education** 

2

**BIKE EAST BAY • FALL 2019** 

### **OPENING SOON**

Terrific new infrastructure coming to you in 2020

#### **Building the Berkeley Network**

Piece by piece, we're working to close the gaps in Berkeley's bikeway network. Hearst Avenue, Adeline Street, Dana Street, and Milvia Street are all getting upgrades to protected bike lane segments soon. Stay tuned in 2020 for more updates.

#### **Bus Rapid Transit**

Bus rapid transit from Downtown Oakland to San Leandro BART using primarily East 14th Street and International Boulevard has been twenty years in the making. Rapid service will make combining biking and transit much smoother for folks traveling through central Alameda County-plus you can wheel your bike right on board. See pages 8-9 to learn how this fits into the expanding biking network south of San Leandro.

#### **Cross Alameda Trail**

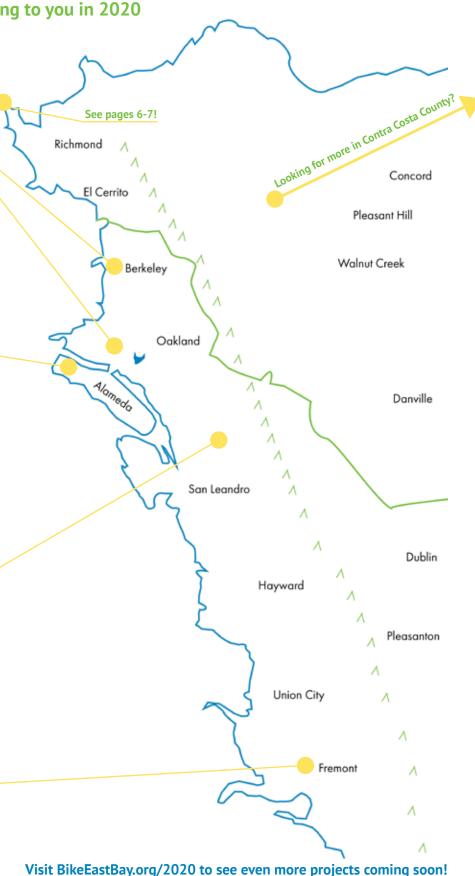
The Cross Alameda Trail will be a low-stress. four-mile biking and walking corridor across the island from west to east. Bike Walk Alameda has been working on the vision for years, and we are one step closer with the grand opening of a one-mile segment along Ralph Appezzato Memorial Parkway, connecting to the new Jean Sweeney Open Space Park. With unanimous approval of an on-street cycle track on Clement Avenue by City Council in September, the Cross Alameda Trail is coming together, piece by piece.

#### 90th Avenue Scraper Bikeway

When Bike East Bay learned 90th Avenue in East Oakland was slated for repaving with new bike lanes, we turned to leaders in the community and got the Scraper Bike Team to the table. The Scraper Bike Team knew ordinary bike lanes were not the right fit for the neighborhood. Together, Bike East Bay and the Scraper Bike Team proposed a wide bike lane running down the center of 90th Avenue filled with brightly painted Scraper Bike wheels. Visit ScraperBikeTeam.org for the latest!

#### **Walnut Avenue in Fremont**

A fully raised and separated cycle track is coming to Walnut Avenue in Fremont, from Paseo Padre Parkway to Mission Boulevard. The bikeway, which also includes multiple protected intersections, will connect to BART, libraries, and other public services.



**FUND THE FUTURE IN CONTRA COSTA** 

COUNTY

#### New bike lanes, improved transit, and more could be funded in 2020

By Eileen Rice

Exciting projects are just waiting for funding in Contra Costa County. The list is long: the first permanent cycle track in Walnut Creek, a safe bikeway to Mount Diablo, separated bike lanes in Pittsburg, connections from the Richmond Greenway to the Bay, and more. Bike East Bay and our local partners have spent years organizing support for transformational plans, only to get stopped short.

Time and again, we hear from city staff that there's simply no funding certainly not for exceptional bikeways. On March 3, 2020, residents of Contra Costa County will have the opportunity to change all of that. A new measure on the ballot will fund significant improvements to how you travel. But the measure didn't start out with well-rounded support for biking, walking, and taking transit. A coalition of advocates worked hard, pushing for



Improvements for public transit and bikeways in Contra Costa County are long overdue

big-picture transportation wins, and a better potential future for Contra Costa County.

The measure proposes an additional half-cent sales tax, raising \$3.5 billion over 35 years, to improve roads, public transit, and infrastructure for bicycles and pedestrians across Contra Costa County. We secured 10% for biking and walking, and that's just the start.

To make the measure even better, we worked in collaboration with more than a dozen like-minded organizations to create innovative components, including:

• Launching four \$15 million innovative transit-bike projects by 2024 with complete streets policies, proposed by Bike East Bay

 Reducing total vehicle miles traveled through project evaluation, proposed by 350 Bay Area Project

 Prevent displacement of current residents, championed by Transform and the Greenbelt Alliance

But the increase in funding for public transit really sets this measure apart. Bike East Bay championed and won a 70% increase over what was originally proposed to fund transit service improvements—a huge win for everyone's commute.

Why push for more transit funding when we had already won 10% for bicycle riders and pedestrians? We know we have to improve transit on the same busy streets where you bicycle in order to reduce traffic and make way for protected bike lanes. Plus, combining biking and transit for trips is a no-brainer, especially in a county where safe and accessible bicycle improvements are not yet on the ground, and folks are still piecing together their trips.

We're ready to push exciting projects forward: in Walnut Creek, on Mt. Diablo, along the Richmond Greenway, and across Contra Costa County. Join the campaign: BikeEastBay.org/CCTEP



# A NEW WAY TO THE NORTH BAY



A view of Richmond from the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge Photo by Contra Costa Transportation Authority

#### Are you ready to ride across the Bay? We are!

By Rachel Jacobson

A bicycle and pedestrian path on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge has been in the works for decades. Throughout this project, Bike East Bay pushed for more: we won an additional \$500,000 for bike lane and trail improvements to connect Richmond neighborhoods to the bridge, the waterfront, ferry service, and each other.

The lane barrier was installed in October and we expect the path to open later this year. We can't wait to ride with you across the bridge! With the help of our social media followers, we've schemed up some pretty excellent adventures by bike. Catch them all, and we'll catch you on the bridge.

#### Day Trip: Fairfax/Museum Day (30 miles, no big hills)

Fuel up for the day at Red Bay Coffee Richmond, just a block from BART. Head to the Richmond Greenway, then onto the newly connected trails to the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge! Ride about 15 miles to Fairfax and the Marin Museum of Bicycling (open 11am-5pm, \$10). Featuring gorgeous old cycles and revolutionary thinking in mountain bike design, step through history and see how changing times have influenced the beautiful machine.

For lunch after the museum, Bike East Bay member Dylan McReynolds recommends **Gestalt Haus** for sausages and craft beer. When you're sated, head back across the bridge to the **Rosie the Riveter Museum** to learn about the WWII Home Front along the water in Richmond, recommended by Jake Jenz (15 miles, museum open 10am-5pm, free).

Round out the day by relaxing on the sun-baked patio at **Armistice Brewing** and discussing what you've learned over one of their creative brews.



Photo courtesy of the Marin Museum of Bicycling



Photo courtesy of Super Duper Burgers

#### Day Trip: Two and a Half Bridges! (45 miles, some hills)

Gather your crew at **Bicycle Coffee** in Oakland, then take the ferry to San Francisco (bikes welcome, no extra charge).

Pick up local goodies at the **Ferry Building** or fresh delights from the farmers market (Sat. 8am-2pm). Ride along the waterfront, with views of Alcatraz and Angel Island, five miles to the **Golden Gate Bridge**. Take the iconic span, then continue for 16 miles skirting the Bay, pausing for lunch at **Super Duper Burgers** in Mill Valley: organic food and homemade pickles recommended by Andy Manuel.

Then, on to your second bridge of the day, the **new path on the Richmond-San Rafael Bridge** with even more epic views of the Bay. From there, cruise down the Bay Trail all the way to Emeryville (10 miles). Take the path out onto the **East Span of the Bay Bridge**. You can ride down to Treasure Island and sip a beer from **Woods** while you envision the future path on the West Span, or call it a day at 2½ bridges and ride home.

#### Overnight Trip: China Camp (15-20 miles one way, low rolling hills)

A great spot for mountain biking and a more accessible campsite for those newer to camping by bike, **China Camp State Park** in San Rafael has group sites, family sites, and hiker-biker sites for \$5/night if you're feeling impulsive and want to arrive under your own power.

Pack light with room for supplies and take the **Richmond-San Rafael Bridge**, stopping for groceries at Trader Joe's or Whole Foods in San Rafael.

Set up camp among the oaks, and store your food so racoons can't get it! Then explore trails on foot or by mountain bike. Plus, you can wade or swim in one of the warmest parts of the Bay at the **historic Chinese shrimp fishing village**, or just relax around your campfire (wood available for purchase).



Photo courtesy of Rachel Jacobson

Photo courtesy of Nicasio Valley Cheese Company

#### Two-Night Mini-Tour: China Camp & Samuel P. Taylor

Want to take your weekend even further? Make it a mini-tour! From China Camp, head to **Samuel P. Taylor State Park** for a second night of adventure.

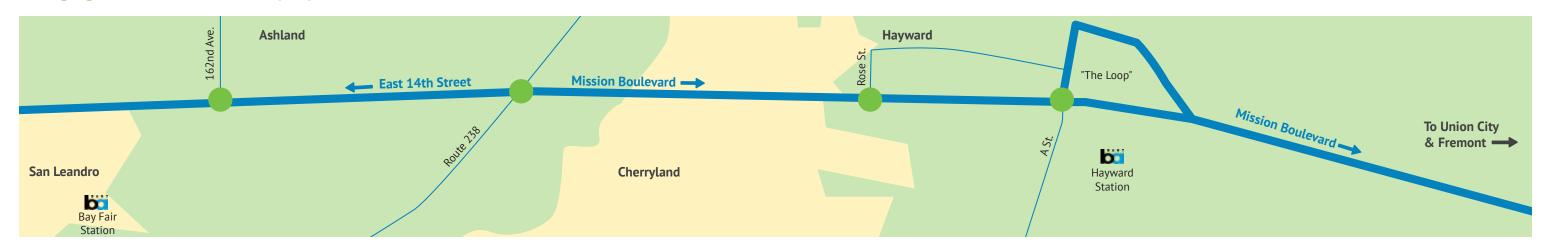
On your way out of China Camp, stop by **Sol Food** in downtown San Rafael (recommended by DC Carr and Evan Tschuy) for Puerto Rican food that's worth the wait. Camp in the redwoods at Samuel P. Taylor State Park (hiker-biker sites available), then tour local industry with a visit to the **Nicasio Valley Cheese**Company (recommended by Martin) and oysters on Tomales Bay.

Hiking, beaches, and quirky Marin secret spots abound if you don't mind tackling some big hills—plan your own route and see what treasures you uncover. End your tour with a victory ride home across the **Richmond-San Rafael Bridge**.

Let us know how you'll use the bridge! Send us your stories at: Membership@BikeEastBay.org

### TRANSFORMING CENTRAL ALAMEDA COUNTY

#### Changing car-first corridors into people-first streets



By Susie Hufstader

When it comes to transforming major corridors, sometimes the best way to achieve visionary change is to take the project piece by piece. In Alameda County, East 14th Street and Mission Boulevard create one of the most important corridors in the region: together they create the major bus route and central business districts for San Leandro, Ashland, Cherryland, and Hayward.

Like on San Pablo Avenue, the Alameda County Transportation Commission is working on a study for E. 14th Street and Mission Boulevard. The study will analyze transit, walking, biking, and vehicle traffic along the corridor to propose a long-term vision for mobility in Alameda County. Meanwhile, your bike advocates are forging relationships to push for protected bike lanes as part of smaller local projects. With the first piece under construction in South Hayward, we're working with partners to advocate for excellent projects in North Hayward, Ashland, and Cherryland. Taking the corridor one local project at a time, we're pushing forward a long-term vision of complete protected bike lanes, rapid bus transit, and connected community in Alameda County.

#### **Ashland & Cherryland**

As urban unincorporated communities, Ashland and Cherryland have experienced a long history of political underrepresentation and difficulty fostering cultural identity. As residents organize and advocate for increased representation and local investment, E. 14th Street /Mission Boulevard has served as the physical and social spine of the community.

Successfully advocating for a protected bike lane on E. 14th Street in Ashland (162nd Street to Route 238) is just one of many community-driven changes coming in the area. A new public art piece adorns the Route 238 overpass; REACH Ashland Youth Center artists are completing murals for local businesses; new parks and

affordable housing are coming; and residents are organizing to promote a tree planting program for the community.

"East 14th is a major economic and transportation lifeline," says Tyler Dragoni, Ashland resident and community organizer. In his eyes, advocating for safety, public art, and protected bike lanes are all part of an ongoing community-building process. "Residents are getting a taste of the results of self-governance and community organizing," he says.

Now that residents are organized and have successfully won bikeways, bus facilities, and pedestrian improvements on E. 14th Street in Ashland, the design process will kick off this fall for Mission Boulevard in Cherryland (Route 238 to Rose Street).

"The streetscape project with protected bike lanes, green shrubbery, and accessible bus stops has been crucial for the future of [building] community...

it's an obvious step forward towards environmental justice for the Ashland and Cherryland community."

-Tyler Dragoni, Ashland Resident & Community Organizer

#### Hayward

As construction continues on Mission Boulevard in South Hayward, we are working with city staff and local partners to develop a design for a much trickier section in North Hayward (Rose Street to A Street). With only 80 feet of road width, the challenge is to create a separated bikeway design that also leaves open the opportunity for future bus-only lanes.

The first impulse for traffic engineers

was to assert that there was no space for bike lanes. After some pushing, engineers suggested removing space from the existing sidewalk to create narrow bike lanes. Knowing that smaller sidewalks and cramped bike lanes on a busy four-lane street was a lose-lose situation, Bike East Bay advocates pushed further, and the city is now exploring a raised, sidewalk-level bikeway that separates bikes from traffic. This concept allows for comfortable but narrower space between bikes and other users than usually recommended for protected

bike lanes.

As design refinements continue, Bike East Bay is working with Community Resources for Independent Living (an organization serving people with disabilities) and AC Transit to ensure that the street redesign will prioritize access for people with disabilities, riding transit, walking, and biking. Together, we have advocated for improved curb ramps, pedestrian safety features, and expanded bus boarding areas—making sure the street works for all travelers.

#### **Up Next**

Piece by piece, this important corridor is becoming a people-first street. The next major challenge will be to address bike and pedestrian access in "The Loop": the much-reviled oneway configuration that surrounds Hayward's business district.

While serious challenges lie ahead, tackling the corridor piece by piece is an opportunity to collaborate with partners and local organizers, making sure community is at the forefront while we advocate to make E. 14th Street/Mission Boulevard a street for everyone.

Get updates on central Alameda County at BikeEastBay.org/Eden





(Top) Current conditions at East 14th Street and 163rd Avenue. (Below) Rendering of potential future improvements along the East 14th Street/Mission Boulevard corridor. *Photo Bellecci & Associates* 

## CALENDAR of EVENTS

#### **OCTOBER - DECEMBER**



#### **BIKETOPIA**

Thursday, November 14 6:30pm-10:00pm Ed Roberts Campus 3075 Adeline St., Berkeley

Break out your party hats! Join your best bike friends at Bike East Bay's annual member party and silent auction fundraiser, presented by the Law Office of Daniel H. Rose and Lyft • Bay Wheels. Bid on the 100+ piece auction and raise a glass to our big advocacy wins in 2019! BikeEastBay.org/Biketopia

Family Cycling Rodeo
Saturday, October 26, 10:00am-1:00pm
Shadow Cliffs Park
2500 Stanley Blvd., Pleasanton

The family that rides together thrives together! Join Bike East Bay's certified instructors for a day of fun games, safety drills, and skills building. BikeEastBay.org/Education

Wheels for Meals Ride Saturday, October 26, 7:00am Shadow Cliffs Park 2500 Stanley Blyd.. Pleasanton

Join the 10th Annual Wheels for Meals Ride, a charity bike ride to support Meals on Wheels programs which deliver 2,200 nutritious meals to homebound seniors in Alameda County every day. 15 mi, 35mi, and 70mi routes available. FeedingSeniors.org

Climate Ride Meet & Greet Wednesday, December 4 6:30pm-8:00pm 466 Water St., Oakland

Looking for a way to challenge yourself and raise funds for bike advocacy? Thinking about doing Climate Ride? Meet Team Bike East Bay riders from past years as they share laughs, touching moments, and revelations from their Climate Ride experience at this fun social and informational event. Bring your questions and your excitement. We'll have snacks. BikeEastBay.org/ClimateRide

#### Bike East Bay Member Meeting Thursday, January 16, 6:30pm-8:00pm 2727 Milvia St., Berkeley

Meet your fellow members and cast your vote for Bike East Bay's 2020 slate of board members. All members will receive a 20% discount at Sports Basement.

BikeEastBay.org/MemberMeeting

#### **RECURRING EVENTS**

Volunteer Nights October 22, November 26, 5:00pm-8:00pm 466 Water St., Oakland

Volunteer with Bike East Bay and meet fellow members and supporters helping to make the magic happen at the Bike East Bay headquarters. Snacks and dinner provided. BikeEastBay.org/Volunteer

Community Happy Hour Third Wednesdays, 6:00pm-7:30pm 1517 E. 14th St., San Leandro

Join your neighbors with Bike Walk San Leandro for a monthly community happy hour! All are welcome. Facebook.com/ Groups/BikeWalkSanLeandro Year End Phone Banking December 11, 12, 16, 17, 18, 5:00pm-8:00pm 466 Water St., Oakland

Make friendly calls to our bike-loving Bike East Bay members, reminding them to renew their memberships. We provide great food and a fun atmosphere. BikeEastBay.org/Volunteer

Women Bike Book Club November 7, December 5 6:00pm-7:30pm Golden Gate Branch Library, Oakland

Everyone is invited to discuss biking, feminism, and the intersection of the two. Co-hosted 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





PRESENTED BY
BIKE EAST BAY
THE LAW OFFICE
OF DANIEL H. ROSE
LYFT • BAY WHEELS

## **THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14, 2019**

SILENT AUCTION | MEMBER PARTY | FUNDRAISER 6:30PM - 10PM | ED ROBERTS CAMPUS, 3075 ADELINE ST, BERKELEY BIKEEASTBAY.ORG/BIKETOPIA





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**NOVEMBER 14, 2019 | 6:30-10:00PM** 

MEMBER PARTY | FUNDRAISER | SILENT AUCTION ED ROBERTS CAMPUS | 3075 ADELINE ST. BERKELEY **BIKEEASTBAY.ORG/BIKETOPIA** 

# **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.



