



BIKE EAST BAY

Ride On

**PLEDGE TO RIDE
BIKE TO
WORK DAY
MAY 11**

FREMONT: From Sprawling Suburb to Bikeable City

ALAMEDA: Lincoln Middle School Gets Riding

SAN LEANDRO: Women Grow the Movement



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LETTER FROM THE SADDLE

Before Renee Rivera, Bike East Bay's Executive Director, left for a two month sabbatical this March, Bike East Bay passed around a card for her. One message stood out in particular:

*Absence makes the heart grow fonder,
And the team work harder.*

As Acting Co-Directors, we are impressed by how staff have stepped up during Renee's sabbatical. In her absence, Bike East Bay staff have continued to deepen the conversation with members around issues of race, gender, and class equity in bike advocacy. This March, we invited members to participate in a discussion of Bike East Bay's Statement of Values on Equity and Social Justice, which was launched in the previous issue of RideOn. At this forum, we asked, what actions should Bike East Bay take to work for social justice?

With nearly 20 members in attendance, we brainstormed a list of priority actions for the coming year. Members reaffirmed that good infrastructure is key – fixing potholes, repaving streets, adding bike racks – and that Bike East Bay needs to focus on bringing these improvements to low-income neighborhoods.

Members also asked us to reach out to specific communities, including immigrants and refugees, women of color, and faith communities. You asked us to partner with police departments to end biased enforcement. The running theme across all of these ideas was a call to deepen Bike East Bay's relationships with local communities.

As Bike East Bay gears up for our biggest event of the year, Bike to Work Day on Thursday, May 11 (pages 10 and 11), we are keeping in mind this focus on strengthening our relationships locally. In order to reach every corner of the East Bay, we partner with hundreds of groups – including schools, churches, neighborhood groups, business associations, community gardens, and other nonprofits – to staff over 130 Energizer Stations on Bike to Work Day.

This year, we have been particularly successful in bringing new Energizer Stations to central Alameda County. Thanks to outreach by Community Organizer Susie Hufstader, we are bringing on four new Energizer Stations in Hayward, San Leandro, and the unincorporated community of Cherryland. These efforts are part of a larger focus on suburban bike advocacy as we work to reimagine car-centric suburbs as walking and biking friendly cities (page 4, Reclaiming Streets in Fremont).

Bike East Bay's connections with the community frequently begin on Bike to Work Day and develop the rest of the year through our advocacy and education work. See you out there for Bike to Work Day and throughout Bike Month this May!

Ride on,

Ginger Jui, Co-Director and Communications Director
Dave Campbell, Co-Director and Advocacy Director



STUDENTS TAKE THE LANE

How Lincoln Middle School Gets 500 students riding on Bike to School Day

By Susie Hufstader

We were stunned to learn that over 55% of Alameda's Lincoln Middle School students rode on Bike to School Day last year. Their key to success was some good old fashioned community organizing by student leaders in each classroom.

Last year, teacher Joslyn Olsen's leadership class of 28 seventh- and eighth-grade students got serious about Bike to School Day. Each student in leadership is responsible for sharing news and announcements with the home-room they represent, so they used this platform to motivate their classmates for Bike to School Day. Leadership students distributed posters, explained reasons to bike, and got their peers pumped to bike to school.

Strategies for Success

Part of the huge success of Bike to School Day at Lincoln is the leadership class's smart partnerships with the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and Safe Routes to Schools. By asking for help with funding and programming, the class was able to put together a big celebration before the school day.

Just like everyone else on Bike to Work Day, the students love getting free stuff.

"We buy lots of food," said eighth grader Skye Krainer. "Last year we had smoothies, cheese sticks, bagels, granola bars and fresh fruit for kids, plus the PTA plays music and has a group game and activity session on the blacktop. About two thirds of the school comes and participates in some way, whether it is eating the food, filling in the mode chart, playing the



Students in Lincoln Middle's leadership class count bikes on Bike to School Day.

games, or biking."

Darrell Davis, site coordinator for Safe Routes to Schools, met with the leadership class ahead of Bike to School Day in 2016. He helped with the transportation mode chart activity where students could log how they got to school (photo above), and worked with the class to develop outreach methods.

Darrell gives the students all the credit. "These kids are going to be our future politicians and leaders. They're pivotal in getting their fellow students to turn out for events."

Protected Bike Lane Gets Students to School

Many students at Lincoln Middle School are able to bike to school using the first protected cycle track in the East Bay, which was built on Ferside Boulevard in 2008. The protected bikeway connects to the Bay Farm bike bridge. Students can ride from home on Bay Farm Island without ever mixing with cars.

"Alameda is safe," said eighth grader Erik Wölfl, "especially with the help of the curb on the outside of the bike lane."

These great bikeways, along with some serious community organizing



The two-way protected bike lane on Ferside Boulevard.

from the leadership class, have fostered a culture of biking to school at Lincoln. "Mornings are beautiful," said Skye. "Biking by the bay is gorgeous."

This year, leadership students are gearing up for an even bigger Bike to School Day. Ride on, Lincoln Lions! BikeEastBay.org/B2SD



Noe Veloso rides on Fremont's first protected bike lane on Grimmer Boulevard.

FREMONT'S FUTURE IS BIKEABLE

By Cynthia Armour

Change is in the air in Fremont, and we're not just talking about the new BART station at Warm Springs. The city has set the ambitious goal to shed its image as a sprawling suburb and become a walkable and bikeable city. In 2012, the city adopted this vision in the General Plan:

"Fremont will serve as a national model of how an auto-oriented suburb can evolve into a sustainable, strategically urban, modern city."

If successful, Fremont will create a roadmap for how communities around the East Bay – and the United States – can become home to a growing population without adding drivers to already congested roads.

Challenging Conditions

Even with this grand vision, James Rardin, owner of CentriPEDAL Bikes in Fremont, believes that Fremont has a long road ahead before bikes are seen as more convenient than cars. Downtown Fremont is dominated by enormous parking lots serving strip malls, BART, and office buildings. Bike racks are few and far between. Those who do bike ride on the sidewalk to avoid intimidating traffic conditions.

These challenges are reflected in Rardin's mainly recreational customer base. Very rarely does he see commuters come into the shop.

"Most of our riders have a hard time getting themselves to ride on the streets," wrote Rardin. "The complaints I hear are around how bike lanes are inconsistent and that there is a lot of flat-causing debris in the bike lanes."

Planning for Biking

The city's soon-to-be-adopted bicycle master plan calls for a dramatic redesign of the suburban streetscape. The backbone of the plan is a network of a dozen bikeways across the city serving bicyclists of all ages and abilities.

Not only is this design visionary, it is extremely doable. Like most post-war suburbs, the town is criss-crossed by high-traffic, high-speed streets that pose major barriers for people walking and biking. These streets are easily wide enough for installing protected bikeways, which will have the added benefit of calming traffic and improving safety for both pedestrians and bicyclists. This people-oriented street network can be built within five years using Alameda County's Measure B and BB funds.

City staff are excited to be leading this work. Noe Veloso, Principal Transportation Engineer and Fremont resident, came to work for the city in 2015, drawn by the ambitious General Plan. Noe says, "I wanted to work on impactful projects and drive change." CentriPEDAL Bikes' James Rardin welcomes this energy, and says he is "thrilled to see the city become more bike friendly."

Tapping Local Knowledge

To make the plan even better, Bike East Bay tapped local knowledge in order to find out what changes bicyclists would like to see in their city. We partnered with both the Fremont Freewheelers Bicycle Club and local advocacy group Bikeways for Fremont to audit the proposed bike network and make suggestions for future bikeways. We also helped recruit new members for the Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Committee and supported them stepping up to this important civic role.

You too can help lead the city into its bike-friendly future. From happy hours to advocacy rides, Bike East Bay and Bikeways for Fremont are busy bringing people together. Get involved at BikeEastBay.org/Fremont

BIKE MOM LEADS IN FREMONT

Melissa Avery is a Fremont mother of three who bikes with her kids around town. She is also one of the newest members of Fremont's Bicycle and Pedestrian Technical Advisory Committee (BPTAC). She was motivated to apply mainly because, she says, "you can only complain so much" before acting.

"I ride in one of the neighborhoods where bicyclists in my city have the most collisions," Melissa said. "I want to make my city safer for my little kiddos to ride their bikes."

Melissa brings to her new position both a love of adventure and a passionate voice for Latino/as in the outdoors. The name of her blog, ChasquiMom.com, is a nod to her Peruvian family roots. Chasquis were



New Fremont BPTAC member Melissa Avery loves to explore the outdoors by bike.

extremely physically fit messengers who connected the Incan Empire, at times crossing high mountain roads in the Andes. Melissa's blog shows her kids are likely chasquis in training, growing up hiking and biking in beautiful places across California.

"My son loves to ride bikes, so we had a biking birthday party at Coyote

Hills Regional Park," wrote Melissa. "We attempted an organized ride but the kids were having so much fun just riding around the party that we didn't end up having a "ride". Cake, presents, piñata, and bike riding."

Meet Melissa at the next BPTAC meeting or catch her riding around town with her kids.



Urban Cycling 101

Learn how to ride in the city! Part I starts in the classroom with safe riding skills, bike theft prevention, and your rights as bicyclists. In Part II, you'll practice your new skills on the road with League Certified Instructors.



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

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CALENDAR of EVENTS

SPORTS BASEMENT BREWFEST

Saturday, April 29, 3pm-6pm

Sports Basement, 2727 Milvia St, Berkeley

Unlimited tastings from a stellar group of local breweries, all for just \$5. All proceeds benefit Bike East Bay. BrewFest2017.Eventbrite.com

7TH ANNUAL RIDE FOR A REASON

Saturday, April 29

Join hundreds of bicyclists on this ride from Oakland to Sacramento to support public education.

RideForAReason.Weebly.com

BIKE TO WORK DAY

Thursday, May 11

Ride to an Energizer Station in the morning to get your free Bike to Work Day bag and celebrate at a Bike Happy Hour after work. Find a station near you at

BikeEastBay.org/Energizer.

BIKE TO SCHOOL DAY

Thursday, May 11

Schools all over the East Bay will be celebrating the Bay Area's biggest day for bikes. Find your school at BikeEastBay.org/B2SD

CYCLOFEMME

Sunday, May 14

Find a CycloFemme ride near you and join women around the globe in creating community on bikes.

BikeEastBay.org/CycloFemme

BIKE TOUR: FREMONT AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Saturday, May 20, 10am-1pm

Fremont Bart Station

Flat, 10-12 mile bike tour as part of East Bay Housing Organizations' Affordable Housing Week. Contact Mia at EBHO, 510-663-3830.

SESSION FEST

Saturday, May 20, 1-5pm

Jack London Square, Oakland

Sample session ales from over 30 California breweries at this festival presented by Drake's Brewing

Company. All proceeds benefit Bike East Bay. Tickets at

SessionFest2017.Eventbrite.com

OAKLAND BIKE LIBRARY FLEET LAUNCH PARTY

Saturday, May 27, 10am

Main Library, 123 14th St

Ride around Lake Merritt with Oakland's new bike libraries. Ends at the Lakeview branch with smoothies, crafts, and music.

OaklandLibrary.org/Events

FREMONT ADVOCACY RIDE

Saturday, June 3, 10:30am

CentriPedal Bikes, Fremont

Bike East Bay leads an advocacy ride highlighting upgrades to the city's bike infrastructure.

CALIFORNIA CLIMATE RIDE

June 9-13, 2017

Bike East Bay's Climate Ride team will bike the California coast from San Francisco to San Luis Obispo. Make a donation to support bike advocacy at

BikeEastBay.org/ClimateRide

WOMEN BIKE EVENTS

Join women and gender nonconforming folks in a supportive environment.

BikeEastBay.org/WomenBike

RIDE LIKE A GIRL

Sunday, June 11, 10am-1pm: How to Choose a Bike

September 9-10: Bike Camping

Walk Oakland Bike Oakland presents a bicycling skills workshop and ride series that aims to get more women comfortable and confident on bicycles.

I CAN HANDLE THAT: ADJUSTING BRAKES

Saturday, June 24, 1-4pm

Spokeland, Oakland

Learn to tune up your brakes! Presented by Hard Knox Bikes and followed by a relaxed ride around town.

WOMEN BIKE BOOK CLUB

Second Thursdays, 6-7:30pm.

Location varies

Discuss books addressing biking, feminism, and the intersection of the two. Co-hosted with the Oakland Public Library. All are welcome.

WOMEN BIKE HAPPY HOUR - OAKLAND

Fourth Thursdays, 5:30-7:30pm

Location varies

Join women and gender nonconforming folks for a refreshing beverage and inspiring company. Co-hosted with Walk Oakland Bike Oakland.

RECURRING EVENTS

VOLUNTEER NIGHTS

Fourth Tuesdays, 5-8pm

466 Water St., Oakland

Each month we'll tackle large-scale projects while socializing with fellow Bike East Bay members and supporters. Snacks and dinner provided.

WALNUT CREEK FIRST WEDNESDAYS

May-October, 5:30-8:30pm

Cypress Street (Between Main Street & Locust Street)

Park your bike at Bike Walnut Creek's free valet service while you enjoy the monthly street festival.

CONCORD FARMERS' MARKET BIKE TENT

Thursdays, 5-8pm

Todos Santos Plaza, Concord

Free bike repair with Bike Concord every Thursday evening at Todos Santos Farmers' Market.

OAKLAND MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA BIKE TOUR

Third Sundays May-October, 1pm

Bike tours of Oakland history with a special theme each month.

MuseumCa.org/2017/Bike-Tour-May

LOCAL GROUP PROFILE

BIKE WALK SAN LEANDRO

By Susie Hufstader

When Donna Chang first moved to San Leandro several years ago, she immediately noticed how few bike lanes there were. Taking matters into her own hands, Donna started Bike Walk San Leandro, a local advocacy group with a mission to make the city a safe place to walk and bike. "I just really felt it's time to have more bike advocacy work in San Leandro," she says.

Bike Walk San Leandro is one of 14 grassroots advocacy groups supported by Bike East Bay. By providing advocacy expertise, leadership training, and networking opportunities, we help local leaders do more as part of a larger bike movement.

Under Donna's leadership, the group has grown to more than 300 members on Facebook. However, one of Donna's biggest challenges is getting other bicyclists to join her at city meetings. This year, her vision is to



Jeannie Powers organized San Leandro's first Women Bike Happy Hour this March.

focus more on social bike rides as a way to get people involved.

"If you do social rides, people think it's fun," she says. By building community around fun events, she hopes to build support for better biking

infrastructure in the city.

The focus on social events has already paid off by growing new leaders for Bike Walk San Leandro. Jeannie Powers, a new resident of San Leandro, sees bicycling as a great way to build community. She connected with Bike Walk San Leandro after meeting other bicyclists through Bike East Bay's Women Bike events.

Jeannie says, "It was really empowering. It feels like something that is growing and I want to be part of that."

Jeannie and Donna have now launched a Women Bike Happy Hour series in San Leandro to help foster a similarly vibrant community. "San Leandro has a lot of potential," says Jeannie. "It has a small town feel I really like, and I would love a really strong biking community."

Get involved at
BikeEastBay.org/SanLeandro

BAY AREA BICYCLE LAW'S

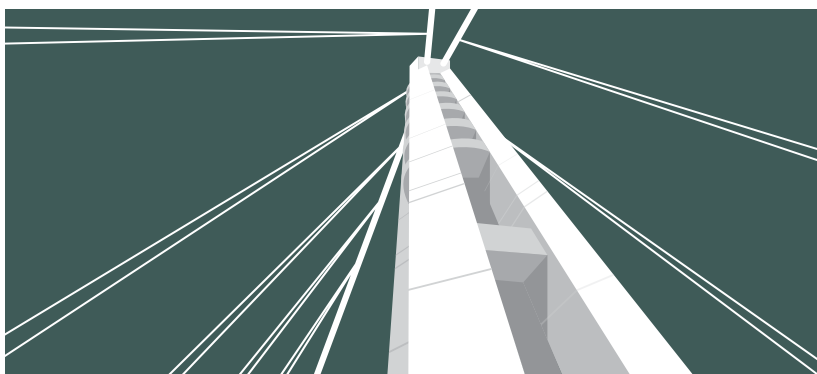
OAKLAND GRAN FONDO

Benefiting Bike East Bay

The Oakland Gran Fondo, presented by Bay Area Bicycle Law, rolls out from Jack London Square on Sunday, October 15. Challenge yourself on the beautiful 28, 55, and 100-mile routes through the East Bay hills, or tour the Oakland waterfront on the family-friendly Fun Fondo route. All proceeds support Bike East Bay's advocacy work to improve your ride.

Register now at OaklandGranFondo.com for an early-bird discount and to receive a free Oakland Gran Fondo jersey.

GRAN FONDO



OAKLAND

JACK LONDON SQUARE

BIKE-FRIENDLY BUSINESSES

The East Bay is home to many bike-friendly businesses and each year Bike East Bay recognizes three that go the extra mile.



Feelmore Adult Gallery is a sex-positive adult shop and gallery in downtown Oakland that stands out as a bike-friendly, woman of color-run business. Owner Nenna Joiner is a regular bike rider who has also ridden from San Francisco to LA on the AIDS/Lifecycle. A long-time believer in the future of downtown Oakland, Nenna has her eye out for what she can offer to the community. She encourages her customers to save money and be healthy by visiting Feelmore by bike. Feelmore offers a 10% discount to anyone who rides to the shop and pays in cash. In addition to having requested the city install racks in front of her business, she welcomes your bike inside while you shop.



Integral Group's one hundred-employee engineering office provides expertise in LEED certification for green energy and environmental building design. The company provides plenty of bike parking at their offices, which is conveniently located above Archer Bicycle in downtown Oakland. The office's second floor lobby hosts a large bike-parking area with both floor-mounted and vertical racks that fill up daily. There is even additional parking on the third floor. Employee Marissa Clark says, "Our enthusiasm for bike commuting grew out of our sustainability work and we now have around 40 employees who bike to work regularly."

[Read more about these inspiring businesses at BikeEastBay.org/BFB](http://BikeEastBay.org/BFB)



photo: Michael Cuffe

Oakland Public Library (OPL) is going out of the way to encourage biking by employees and patrons alike at their 18 locations. Branches support their many employees who bike by providing indoor parking, pumps and locks, tools, and even shower facilities. To promote biking, the library hosts a community bike shop at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Branch and is launching a new fleet of bike libraries this May. Thanks to a strong biking culture, most locations have a librarian who rides and is happy to help newer bicyclists figure out a route. Librarians love to share information!

NEWS BRIEFS

Caltrans Listened: Bay Bridge Path Opening Weekdays

What got Caltrans to finally open the Bay Bridge Bicycle and Pedestrian Path on weekdays? Bike East Bay members! After months of delays and no opening

day in sight, Bike East Bay finally asked our members for help. You sent over 200 emails asking Caltrans to open the path by Bike to Work Day and the pressure worked.

As we go to press, it looks like Caltrans will open the path weekdays starting Friday, May 5. Bike East Bay is currently meeting with the Bay Area Toll Authority, Caltrans, the San Francisco County Transportation Authority, and

the San Francisco Bicycle Coalition to work out the details.

Here is what we know now. Weekday path hours will be the same as weekend hours from 6am-8pm, extending to 6am-9pm at the end of May. There may be brief closures as demolition of the old Bay Bridge continues. As requested by Bike East Bay, Caltrans will post flaggers if construction impacts bicyclists and pedestrians. Finally, the landing

continued from page 8

area on Yerba Buena Island will be upgraded with new benches, water fountains, and viewing areas in time for the weekday opening.

This victory comes after decades of advocating for bike access on the Bay Bridge. Thank you for your continued support as Bike East Bay works to extend the path all the way to San Francisco.

BikeEastBay.org/BayBridge

Emeryville Members Organize Around San Pablo Ave

On March 20, a dozen Bike East Bay members met to discuss bike priorities for the City of Emeryville. At the top of their list was a direly-needed upgrade on San Pablo Avenue, an arterial road that cuts through Emeryville as well as every East Bay city from Oakland to Hercules. Members also highlighted Powell Street connecting to the Bay Trail, and Stanford Avenue connecting to Oakland, as priority bikeways.

San Pablo Avenue will be the subject of a countywide study later this year, so the

time is right to think through our vision for this central corridor. Powell Street has been in the spotlight recently after a bicycle collision and pedestrian fatality. Improvements, including improved signals at the freeway offramp that crosses the Bay Trail, are in the pipeline, but bigger picture improvements could do wonders to connect Emeryville to the marina and the Bay Trail. Now we need you to pitch in with one of our three new Emeryville campaigns!

BikeEastBay.org/Emeryville

Second Chance for Downtown Hayward

Four years after completing the Hayward Loop, the city has a second chance to fix a car-centric street design that many say are choking off businesses in downtown Hayward. The Hayward Loop converted three streets into one-way arterials to speed up traffic for drivers taking a shortcut between Interstates 580 and 880. After essentially building a freeway around downtown, local drivers, bicyclists, and pedestrians now have to cross five lanes of speeding traffic to visit downtown businesses.

As a result, the entire neighborhood is almost impassable to foot, bike, and local automobile traffic. Now, the City of Hayward is putting together a new Downtown Specific Plan that could re-envision how people get around downtown. The new downtown plan is an opportunity to dramatically improve safety and navigation for bicyclists.


At the first public meetings for the plan, residents made it clear they want to revamp the Loop. Consultants for the city recently presented a vision for the future that would restore a two-way grid system with protected bikeways along all major streets. For the near term, the designs include a two-way protected cycle track around the entire Loop.


Bike East Bay needs you to help make sure these excellent designs stay in the plan and get built in the next five years. See the latest designs and give your input at the next Downtown Specific Plan Task Force meeting on May 15 at Hayward City Hall.

BikeEastBay.org/BikeWalkEden

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BAY AREA BIKE TO WORK DAY MAY 11, 2017

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PLEDGE TO RIDE ON BIKE TO WORK DAY

Join the fun on the biggest bike day of the year! Bike East Bay is bringing you over 130 Energizer Stations located throughout Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Energizer Stations are open during your morning commute with refreshments, free Bike to Work Day canvas bags, and high fives for everyone riding by.

If you live or work in Downtown Oakland, start your day the Frank Ogawa Plaza Energizer Station. Everybody is welcome to a free pancake breakfast. You can securely park your bike until 6pm with our free bike valet service.

Pledge to Ride

Pledge to ride on Bike to Work Day and tell your city that bikes count.

Sign the pledge and you'll be entered in a drawing to win one of our sweet Beautiful Machine t-shirts. You'll also get a map of Energizer Stations before the event, so you'll know where to get your free Bike to Work Day bag and renew your membership.

Join or Renew at Energizer Stations

Join or renew your Bike East Bay membership on Bike to Work Day for special perks: a BIGGER Bike to Work Day bag, a Chinook Book, and a free drink at the Berkeley Bike Happy Hour. Sign up at Bike East Bay's tent at Oakland's Frank Ogawa Plaza, select Energizer Stations, or at Berkeley Bike Happy Hour.

Take the pledge and find your Energizer Station at

BikeEastBay.org/BTWD



photo: Karl Nielsen

FIND YOUR LOCAL BIKE HAPPY HOUR PARTY ON MAY 11

Finish your Bike to Work Day with a bang by celebrating with friends at a Bike Happy Hour! Gather at a party near you to toast a great Bike to Work Day.

Bike East Bay's happy hour will take place at Sports Basement Berkeley. During the party, the store will offer a 20% discount on merchandise. Come on down for live music, tasty food truck fare, and refreshments from Drake's Brewing. We'll have a free beer waiting for everyone who signs up or renews their membership at the party.

In addition to our party in Berkeley, there will be at least ten Bike Happy

Hours happening in cities across the East Bay. If you live or work in Downtown Oakland, make sure to stop by Walk Oakland Bike Oakland's block party in Latham Square. Rich City Rides will also host an outdoor celebration right around the corner from Richmond BART. Fremont and Pleasanton will both see new gatherings this year, and Amtrak Capitol Corridor returns with two rolling happy hours on north- and south-bound trains.

Find your local Bike Happy Hour at BikeEastBay.org/BikeHappyHour



photo: Morgan Bellinger

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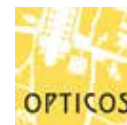
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Become a Monthly Supporter!

Starting at \$10/month, you'll sustain long-term campaigns to build protected bike lanes, the Iron Horse Trail, and the Bay Bridge Bike Path.

- 1 **Sign up online at BikeEastBay.org/Join**
Choose the Monthly Supporter option
- 2 **Call us at (510) 845-7433**
Ask to become a Monthly Supporter

