



## The Word on the Street



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### Welcome to WOBO

Thank you for showing interest in Walk Oakland Bike Oakland! This is only the second issue of our WOBO newsletter, but already our group has had some successes. We think that as we gather more members, we will be able to have a greater influence both on the actions of our city and on how it feels to get around Oakland as a bicyclist or pedestrian.

Please help us build a community of walkers and bicyclists by telling friends about what we are doing. Together, we really will be able to improve neighborhood quality of life in Oakland by making walking and bicycling safe, accessible, easy and fun.

### Parking Meter Removal Update

In our last issue, we informed you that the city had already taken some actions to prevent a potential bicycle parking crisis resulting from the replacement of traditional parking meters with Pay-and-Display kiosks like the one pictured at left. The Finance and Management Agency had, at last writing, agreed to leave in two disabled parking meters per block to serve as bicycle parking. They are also installing two sign poles on each block to point car parkers toward the payment kiosk. These signs will also serve as suitable short term bicycle parking.

On June 21, the city council changed the master fee schedule so that private individuals can now pay a mere \$35 for a minor encroachment permit to install a bicycle rack rather than the previously exorbitant \$750. This leaves business owners with the very reasonable options of: 1. requesting a bicycle rack be installed by Oakland's CityRacks program, 2. giving a rack to the city as a gift that they will install in front of the business, or 3. commissioning a custom rack to be built and installed by paying for



a minor encroachment permit. All racks should be placed according to the requirements described at: [Oakland Public Works Bicycle Parking](#). At this writing, city staff were developing design guidelines for custom racks to ensure they will meet minimum requirements for security.

We should thank our city council representatives and city officials for the actions taken so far. If you don't know what district you live in, go to the council locator tool [here](#) to find out.

After passing on our thanks, we should continue to ask that \$200,000 be committed to the City Racks Program to cover the cost of replacing the lost bicycle parking. It makes the most sense for this money to come from the Finance and Management Agency, since their implementation of the new pay and display kiosks is the source of our bike parking woes. Projections suggest that the new parking kiosks will be much more lucrative than the former parking meters, so there should be some funding to share. Currently the majority of Bicycle Program funds come from grants, not from the general fund. This shows a lack of commitment of the part of the city, toward improving bicycle facilities. A small financial commitment from the City of Oakland will prevent our bicycle parking infrastructure from being set back several years.

Second, we should ask that the city adopt a bicycle parking ordinance that requires building owners of commercial and residential buildings to provide secure bicycle parking inside the building. This will take pressure off the limited number of on street parking options, which are often only suitable for short term parking.

### **Walking Through Oakland History**

Every summer the Oakland Heritage Alliance puts on a series of walking tours showcasing the history of our wonderful city. This year is no exception. If you are looking for an opportunity to walk and learn some of the history of our wonderful city, then this may just be for you. Walks include:

Rail Meets Water: Then and Now, Saturday, July 14, 10 am-noon

Leona Heights, Sunday, July 15, 10 am-1:30 pm

Picardy Drive: A Step Back in Time, Saturday, July 21, 10 am-noon

Lake Merrit Modern, Sunday, July 22, 10 am-12:30 pm

The Estuary: Broadway Meets The Water, Saturday, July 28, 10 am-12:30 pm

Eichlers of Oakland: Modernism At Home in the Hills, Sunday, July 29, 1:30-4:00 pm

More walks are scheduled in August and September as well. Reservations and a small fee are required. Visit <http://www.oaklandheritage.org/> for more details.

### **Decision Makers to Contact:**

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**New eLockers at 20th and Broadway**



More relief from our bike parking woes has arrived at the 19th Street BART station at the top of the 20th Street entrance. Eight new eLockers are now available for use. They add to the eight lockers which have been available at the corner of Broadway and 14th for about a year now.

For those of you unfamiliar with the technology, these lockers are operated by a bikelink card. Instead of being reserved for the use of only one person for the whole year like traditional lockers, the card allows the user to open and store their bike in any available locker. The lockers keep your bike and any accessories secure and dry. They are a much better option than locking a bike to a standard rack, particularly for long periods of time.

The bikelink card has stored value, much like a BART card (but made of plastic, so more durable). The first 5 hours of use are free and each additional hour deducts 5 cents from the card. [Find out more about eLockers at: www.oaklandpw.com/page127.aspx#eLocker.](http://www.oaklandpw.com/page127.aspx#eLocker)

**Membership Drive**

So far, our outreach to attract new members at Oakland farmers' markets has been very successful. Many of the citizens approached have been excited to here about WOBO eager to sign up. On June 23, about 50 new members signed up at the Grand Lake Farmers' Market in only a two hours. On July 1 at the Temescal Farmers' Market 40 new members joined. Please spread the word about Walk Oakland Bike Oakland to your friends. Sign up for our newsletter [here](#), or visit [www.walkoaklandbikeoakland.org](http://www.walkoaklandbikeoakland.org) for more information.



We will continue our outreach at Oakland farmers' markets on the weekends to pass out fliers and sign up new members. A list of dates, times and places is listed below:

- July 14 Grand Lake Farmers' Market 10am - 1pm
- July 22 Temescal Farmers' Market 10am - 1pm
- July 29 Jack London Farmers' Market 10am to 1pm

If we get lots of volunteers, we will expand our outreach to other venues as well.

If you would like to help sign up new members, send an email to: [info@walkoaklandbikeoakland.org](mailto:info@walkoaklandbikeoakland.org)

In the email, please include your name, the date and time you would like to volunteer, and a phone number where you can be reached so we can coordinate.

**Share Your Ideas and Talents**

It may be no surprise to you that we need help to make the WOBO dream of a more walkable, bike-able Oakland a reality. You may be up for reading the newsletter and writing an occasional letter or making an occasional phone call. That's great! We need you.

You may, on the other hand, be up for more. If you would like to help out:

- our website needs some attention
- newsletter production team needs writers and photographers
- put the fun in our organization by helping plan a kick-off event
- help develop a campaign strategy and list of projects.

Your input can help us make Oakland the most walkable, bike-able city in California. Send your suggestions to [info@walkoaklandbikeoakland.org](mailto:info@walkoaklandbikeoakland.org)

