



THE WORKS

NEWSLETTER FROM THE ALAMEDA COUNTY PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY

LAKE CHABOT ROAD GETS A MAKEOVER

We've all heard the term "Share the Road," but when cars and bicycles share the road it can sometimes get dangerous. That's why the Public Works Agency recently completed a project that accommodates all users, improves safety for bicyclists and looks great. The much-anticipated improvements are on Lake Chabot Road between Seven Hills Road and Fairmont Drive, in Castro Valley.

What was once a roadway with four vehicle lanes is now two vehicle lanes, one highly-visible bicycle lane highlighted with bright green paint and a two-way left turn lane. Now cars won't have to stop in the middle of busy traffic to make a left turn. "We're making it safer for bicyclists and residents in the area," says Art Carrera, Principal Civil Engineer. "These new lanes should reduce the risk of vehicle and bicyclist accidents because everyone has more room to move about."

This project is part of Alameda County's ongoing efforts to improve safety for all users and is similar to lane configuration projects already completed on Foothill Boulevard, between Carolyn Street and Fairmont Drive in San Leandro, and on Redwood Road, between Proctor Elementary School and Seven Hills Road in Castro Valley. Not surprisingly, community feedback about the project has been extremely positive.

Future projects along Lake Chabot Road will focus on improving pedestrian safety. Some potential project features include the installation of flashing beacons and bulb-outs at the intersection of Lake Chabot Road at Arcadian Drive as well as the entrance to Lake Chabot Park.

"We're making it safer for bicyclists and residents in the area."

Art Carrera, Principal Civil Engineer



PARTNERSHIP WITH PURPOSE: 21 YEARS AND COUNTING

This past September, the Public Works Agency's Flood Control and Water Conservation District partnered with the City of Oakland for the annual Creek to Bay Day and the International Coastal Cleanup Day. This international event brings together groups and individuals of all ages who perform cleanup and restoration projects at creeks, waterways and shorelines. With participants across California, the nation and in about 100 countries, this is the largest volunteer day in the world.

This year marked the 21st anniversary of the partnership between the Public Works Agency and the City of Oakland and its volunteers. Volunteers gathered again to clean up the areas in and around 15 creeks, waterways, and the shorelines of Lake Merritt. Combined, the debris and green waste removed filled almost 40 dump trucks! Not only is this debris removal vital to wildlife habitat and clean water, keeping trash out of streets and waterways also helps prevent flooding by allowing storm water to flow through unobstructed storm drains. Removal of the invasive plants also enables the restoration of native plants which better support wildlife and stream ecology.

A big thanks to all who came out to make another successful clean up event! Together, we can make a difference!



Did you miss this year's event? No worries! In addition to the Creek to Bay clean up event, the Public Works Agency partners with the City of Oakland and many other community groups for Earth Day clean up events every April. You can also play an active role in beautifying and maintaining your neighborhood through the Public Works Agency's Adopt-A-Creek / Adopt-A-Spot Program. For more information, please visit www.acpwa.org or call (510) 670-5500.



“Do I really need a permit just to plant a tree? What about pruning or cutting down a tree?”

These are just some of the frequently asked questions we are happy to answer.

Yes, you actually do need a permit to plant, prune or cut down a tree within the public right-of-way.*

The good news is that the tree permit process is actually quite simple. Application forms can be obtained in person at the Public Works Agency building at 399 Elmhurst Street in Hayward, by calling (510) 670-5480, or by going to the Public Works Agency's website at www.acpwa.org. There is a non-refundable \$35 application fee, which covers some of the inspection costs.

Homeowners can also hire a contractor with an annual tree permit to prune branches over 1" in diameter. By hiring a permitted contractor to prune your trees, you do not need to apply for a site-specific permit and can avoid the application fee. We will provide you with a list of those contractors

You do not need a permit to prune tree branches 1" in diameter or less.

* What is the “Public Right-of-Way”?

Public right-of-way means land, which by deed, conveyance, agreement, dedication, usage or process of law is reserved for use as a public roadway and includes gutters, sidewalks, planting strips and walkways adjacent to the road, and often extends beyond the sidewalk into the lawn area. We are happy to help you determine if a tree is within the public right of way—just give us a call at (510) 670-5480.

So, the bottom line is before you start digging, chopping or trimming, contact the Public Works Agency at (510) 670-5480. We'll be happy to answer questions and, if a permit is necessary, we'll walk you through the permit process.



MAUD AVENUE: WALKABLE AND BEAUTIFUL

Come on. Let's take a walk down Maud Avenue in the Fairview District in unincorporated Hayward.

Notice the brand new sidewalks where previously there were intermittent sidewalks and uneven dirt or broken asphalt paths. Enjoy the beautiful, new landscaped sidewalk which enhances the neighborhood, reduces stormwater runoff and improves neighborhood livability.

The inspiration behind the award-winning project was improving safety and walkability for everyone. Historically, the Fairview District, which includes Maud Avenue, was a rural community complete with equestrians and pedestrians who travelled on quiet dirt roads. However, the building of several residential developments in the last 15

years has transformed this once rural area into a busy residential community with hundreds of motorists. Maud Avenue is now a benchmark for sustainable design and transformation of a challenging road project to a pedestrian and bicycle friendly environment with improved traffic safety.

Included in the numerous upgrades on Maud Avenue are continuous sidewalks with high visibility crosswalks and a flashing beacon at the Romagnolo Street intersection. Children can walk with ease to nearby Fairview Elementary school on this now cyclists and pedestrian-friendly street. In fact, at the "Walk to School"

event in October, over 50 children took advantage of this new safer route to Fairview Elementary school!

Its success is felt by the residents of the neighborhood as well as the 400+ students (and parents) of Fairview Elementary School. The American Society of Civil Engineers even recognized the Maud Avenue Improvement Project as the "Best Small Project of 2016" in the nine-county Bay Area region.



THE BEST OF THE BEST

It's no secret the ACPWA employs some of the best people in the industry, so we were thrilled yet not surprised when, on August 25, 2016, two ACPWA employees took home top honors at the American Public Works Association (APWA), Northern California Chapter's awards luncheon held at Shannon Community Center in Dublin, CA.

The "APWA Manager of the Year" award went to **Percy Irving** for his excellence, innovation and oversight in the Water Resources category. Percy oversees the operation of 24 pump stations throughout Alameda County. His leadership and proactive measures were instrumental in preparing the County staff and flood control facilities for the predicted 2015-2016 El Niño winter. He is recognized and respected within Public Works for his positive attitude, energy and calm approach which consistently motivates and inspires his colleagues. Percy never backs down from a difficult situation. This and other traits is what has created a cohesive and effective Public Works team that can meet challenges head on and win.



(L to R) Percy Irving, Daniel Woldesenbet, Director of Public Works, and Ruben Izon

Ruben Izon accepted the "APWA Transportation Staff of the Year" award for his extensive knowledge of local, regional and state funding sources. Over the past ten years, Ruben's creative and innovative funding strategies have resulted in his grant applications securing approximately \$50 million in grant funding for the delivery of capital projects. Ruben is known and respected among his peers for his technical knowledge, his follow through on commitments, and his outgoing personality. This combination of attributes along with many intangibles instills a great deal of satisfaction and confidence in all who work with Ruben.

THE BUSINESS OF DOING BUSINESS WITH ALAMEDA COUNTY

Interested in doing business with Alameda County?

Well, you'll be glad to know that the Alameda County *Public Works Agency* is very interested in doing business with local businesses. So interested, in fact, that we have created the "Building Opportunities for Business" (BOB) Program, which works to promote economic growth, local employment and business development within Alameda County by maximizing public contracting opportunities for local businesses.

Through outreach, education and technical assistance, the program encourages the participation of small and local contractors, consultants, and vendor businesses. Partnerships with other agencies, such as, the Alameda County General Services Agency, East Bay MUD, and Alameda County Transportation Commission, provide upcoming opportunities in public contracting for construction, professional and general services. Regularly scheduled BOB breakfast meetings provide contractors and other business owners networking opportunities and insight to upcoming projects. These meetings are excellent use of a contractor's time to receive relevant information on contracting opportunities in Alameda County.

For more information regarding the Business Outreach Program and outreach events, please call (510) 670-6407 or email: businessoutreach@acpwa.org.



Did You Know...

You can report things like potholes, graffiti or illegal dumping from your smartphone? The **free MOBILE CITIZEN** app allows anyone with a smartphone to report problems to the Public Works Agency right from their phone.

BECOME A MOBILE CITIZEN

MOBILE CITIZEN is a versatile, user-friendly smartphone (Android, Apple) application that enables citizens to report issues such as potholes, graffiti, illegal dumping and other requests for services by simply taking a photo and submitting it directly to the Public Works Agency through the application.

"We are always looking for ways to improve our service delivery," said Daniel Woldesenbet, Public Works Agency Director. "MOBILE CITIZEN will afford residents of unincorporated areas of Alameda County another way to communicate their needs directly to the Public Works Agency."

Please note: Residents may continue to submit requests for service online and/or by calling (510) 670-5500 or by sending an email to e-noticeMaintenance@acpwa.org.

MOBILE CITIZEN is fast and easy to use!

From the app:

1. Select the service requested (potholes, trees, signs, etc.) from the drop down menu.
2. Take a photo of the issue.
3. If you're reporting from the problem location and your phone's GPS is on, the app will automatically map the location. Otherwise, you can simply type in the service address.
4. Press the "Submit" button and you're done. The app will automatically generate a work order for the Maintenance and Operations Department.

It's that easy!

If you've included your contact information (not required), you'll receive an email confirmation and notifications of status updates until the issue is resolved or referred to the proper jurisdiction.