



SPUR

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March 1st, 2018

Oakland City Council
Larry, Reid, President
1 Frank Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear City Councilmembers,

SPUR urges you to support the creation of protected bike lanes around Lake Merritt. SPUR is a member supported non-profit public policy think tank. Two of our core transportation goals are to make our streets safe and inviting for pedestrians and to complete our bicycle networks. This project would accomplish both goals.

Lake Merritt is one of the great urban recreation areas in our region, enjoying very high usage by both pedestrians and bicyclists. Creating a protected bicycle path from Grand Avenue to Madison Street will reduce conflicts between bicyclists and pedestrians, creating a safer environment for all. It is also likely to lead to increased bicycle ridership in this area. Four out of the ten most utilized bike share stations in the East Bay are adjacent to the Lake¹. This project could help continue this positive trend. Protected bicycle lanes also help encourage more families to cycle, potentially cutting down on car traffic and congestion for popular destinations such as Children's Fairyland.

A protected bicycle lane on this segment is an important part of a future bicycle network serving the entire area. As downtown grows, we need to find ways for people get around without cars and also make it a more pleasant environment on the streets. Bike lanes provide a different kind of mobility for short trips and also calms streets, making it more inviting to spend time in public spaces.

We hope you approve the change order needed to make this project a reality at your upcoming City Council Meeting. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Robert Ogilvie
Oakland Director

¹ "Ford GoBike in the East Bay." Presentation, November 2017.

Cc: Edmund Siu, City of Oakland, Department of Transportation
SPUR Oakland Board of Directors