

The West Oakland Link

Meeting 2 out of 5 Overview of Design

Oct. 10, 2023

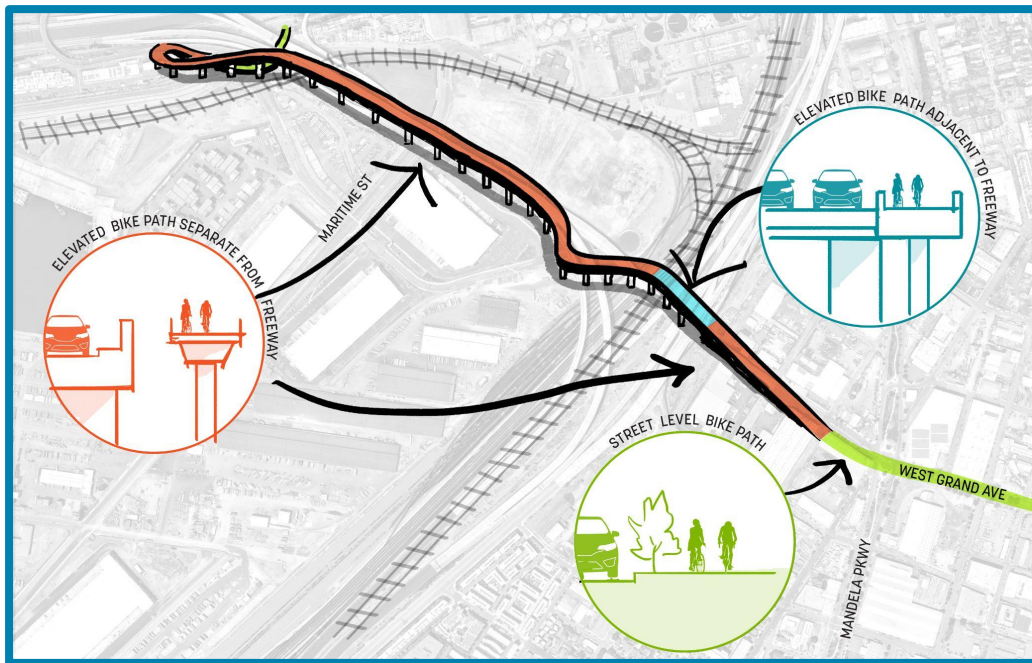


What is the project?

In simple language this is a trail project.

The West Oakland Link of the Bay Skyway, is part of the Bay Trail and will provide a safe 15-foot wide connection for bicyclists and pedestrians to travel between West Oakland, the Port of Oakland, and the Bay Bridge Trail.

- 1.1 miles of separated, elevated low-stress multi-use path
- Connects with the planned Grand Ave protected bike lane (to downtown) at Mandela/Grand intersection
- Landscaping and community amenities based on community input



Schedule

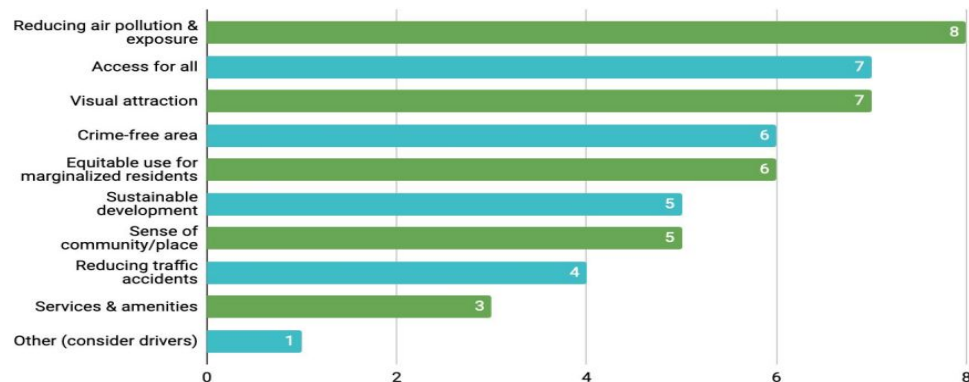
RSVP to upcoming meetings at woeip.org/events

Phase	Meeting Type	Date	Content
1	Kickoff	9/1/2023	Community Engagement Kickoff
Tonight →	Design Meeting 1	10/10/2023	Design Overview + Elements
	Design Meeting 2	10/17/2023	Environmental Justice + Air Pollution + Public Health
	Design Meeting 3	10/25/2023	Streetscape Intersections + Traffic + Safety
	Design Meeting 4	11/8/2023	Placemaking + Design + Storytelling + History
2	Design Update Meeting 1	2/2024	
	Design Update Meeting 2	6/2024	
3	Design Update and Construction Phase Introduction Meeting	8/2024	
4	Pre-Construction Phase Meeting	3/2025	

Recap from the kickoff meeting

Which of the following things are most important to you for a path through West Oakland to the Bay Trail?

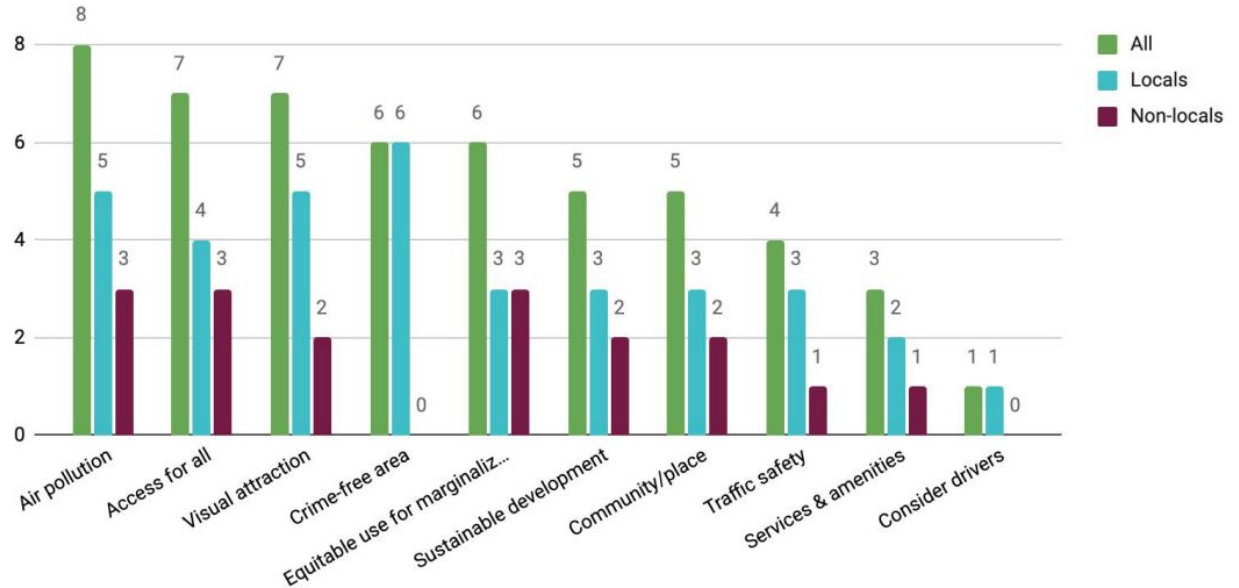
Reducing air pollution and exposure was most frequently named one of the top 3 most important factors for respondents, followed by **ensuring access for all** and **creating a visually attractive space**.



Top 3 most important factors continued

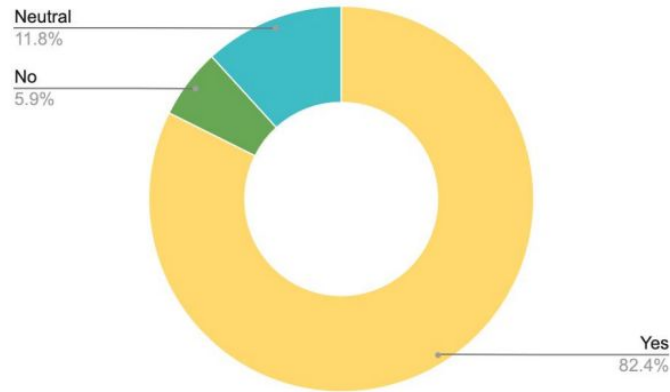
Across most factors, respondents tend to align regardless of where they live or work. There are notable exceptions, however.

Locals value a **visually attractive space** more than non-locals (71% vs. 29%), and overwhelmingly value a **crime-free area** more than non-locals (100% of those placing this in their top 3 were locals).



Do you have safety or health concerns?

A large majority of respondents (83%) have safety or health concerns with the Link.



The most frequently-cited concerns were:

- Exposure to vehicle exhaust and noise pollution
- Traffic safety (primarily cars and trucks, but bike/e-bike speed limits also came up)
- Low use/too few people impacting safety
- Crime and safety (particularly theft)

Other concerns included:

- Lack of monitoring/access to emergency services
- Lighting and visibility
- Accessibility options (rest areas)
- Litter

What we are doing tonight

- Understand key locations along the path.

We will review 5 key segments of the path to understand how they fit into the existing space.

- Explore ways to shape the path experience.

We'll look at how different elements—such as benches, planting, and lighting—can improve the Link for residents like you.

- Discuss & document your insight to inform designs.

Online participants can go to woeip.org/wolink-survey2 to provide feedback as we go.

If you're in the room, you can scan the QR code or use the packet provided.



Meeting Expectations

- Please communicate with respect and be mindful of how much space you're taking while engaging those who haven't spoken
- Respect time agreements and stay on topic in order to achieve our meeting goals
- We actively listen with an open mind, respecting multiple points of view
- We assume good faith in giving and receiving feedback, criticism and questions
- We check for diversity gaps (who is missing) and propose solutions for it



Introductions to presenters



Gavin Lohry
He/Him

*Metropolitan Transportation
Commission/Bay Area Toll
Authority*



Nicole Merino Tsui
She/ her

*West Oakland Environmental
Indicator Project*



Geo Mayne
They/ Them

*Einwiller Kuehl Landscape
Architecture-Associate*



Sarah Kuehl
She/Her

*Einwiller Kuehl Landscape
Architecture- Principal*



Geeti Silwal
She/ her

*Perkins and Will Architecture
-Urban Design*



Dishaddra Poddar
He/him

*Perkins and Will Architecture
-Urban Design*



Where is the project on a map?



The Bay Area bike path network



Enlargement of the West Oakland Link



Local Urban Trails: Varied



Ohlone Greenway, Berkeley + El Cerrito



Ohlone Greenway



Iron Horse Regional Trail, Pleasant Hill



SFOBB Trail

Primary Uses

THE TRAIL IS A DESTINATION AND BIKING
OR WALKING ON IT IS THE PRIMARY
ACTIVITY.



What elements are part of a trail?

Besides circulation, what does a trail usually include? Add any we forgot to the chat or call out ideas.

Vistas and Overlooks

Trailhead

Restrooms & Water Fountains

Rest Areas

Car & Bike Parking

Bike Repair Stations

Information (Signage, Pamphlets)

Benches & Seating

Lighting & Call boxes

Play Equipment

Exercise Equipment

Barriers, Gates & Fences

Trash Receptacles & Recycling

Storytelling and interpretation or public art



THE TRAIL IS THE AMENITY

What *linear* programs could occur here?

Cycling

Running

Hiking

Dog walking

Scooter Riding

Walking Tours

Rollerblading

Skateboarding

Exercise Stations

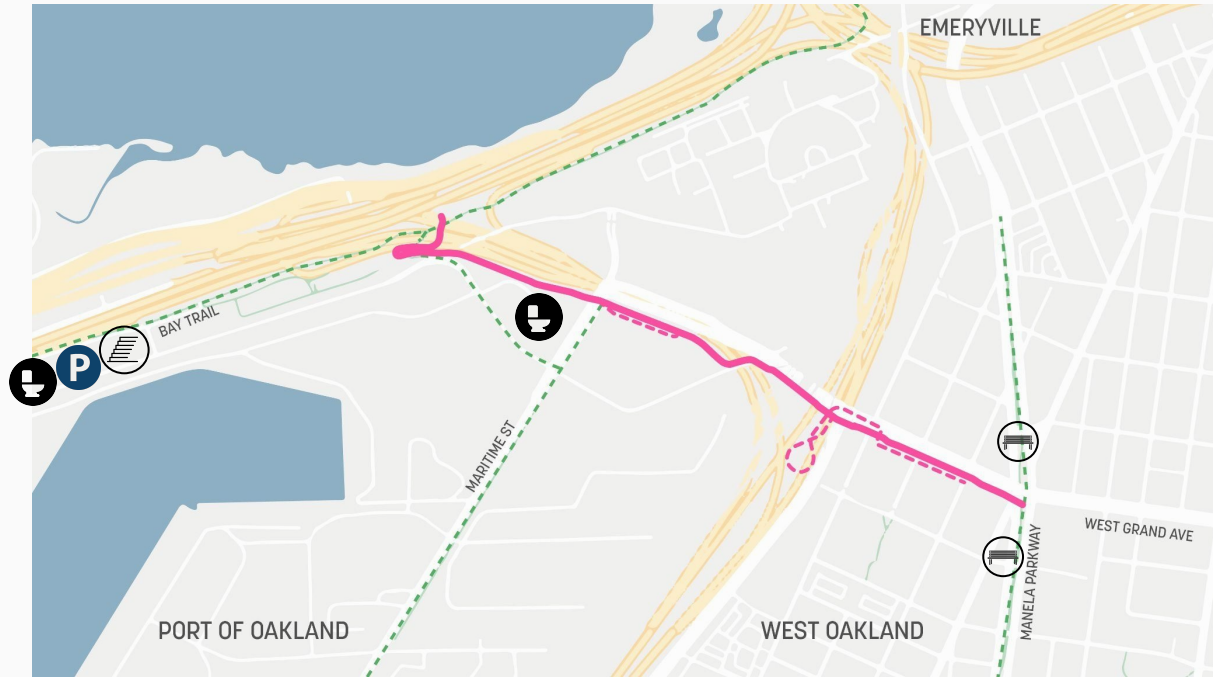
Photography

Bird Watching

Environmental Cleanups



Elements currently existing along the trail



LEGEND



Public Parking



Proposed Public Restrooms



Protected Bike Lanes



Seating with Views



Benches

Reducing Air Pollution & Exposure

Air Quality Monitors



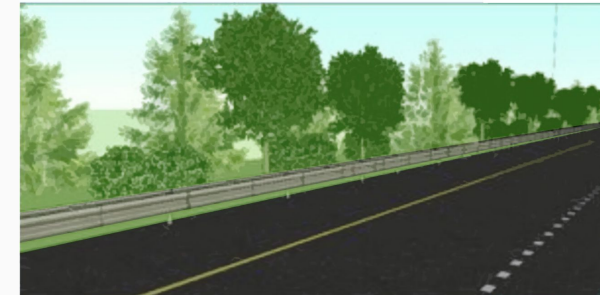
Education



Vegetative Buffers



Recommended planting order for Row 1 and 3: 2-3 Deciduous trees, 2-3 Conifer trees, 2-3 deciduous trees, 2-3 conifer trees, repeated. Trees should be planted in succession with 10-15' between them.



Creating Climate Comfort

Shade



Wind



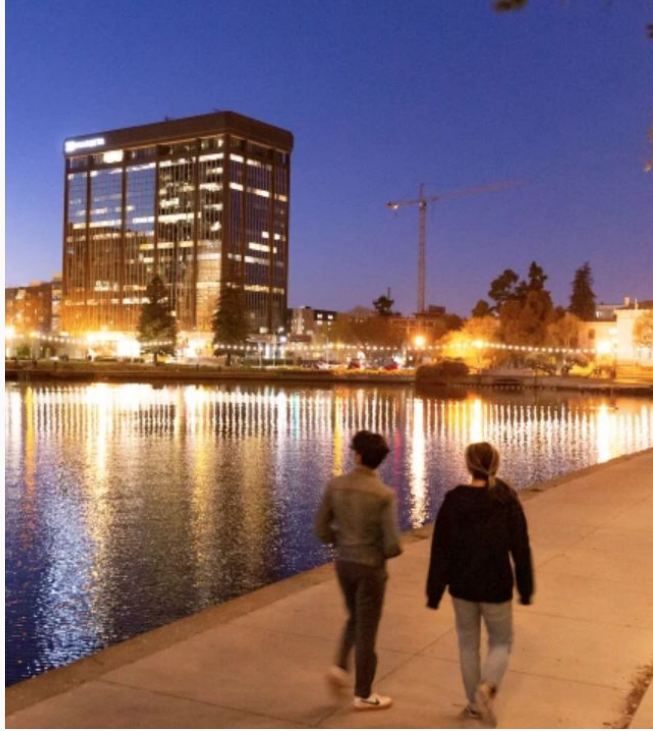
Sound Barriers



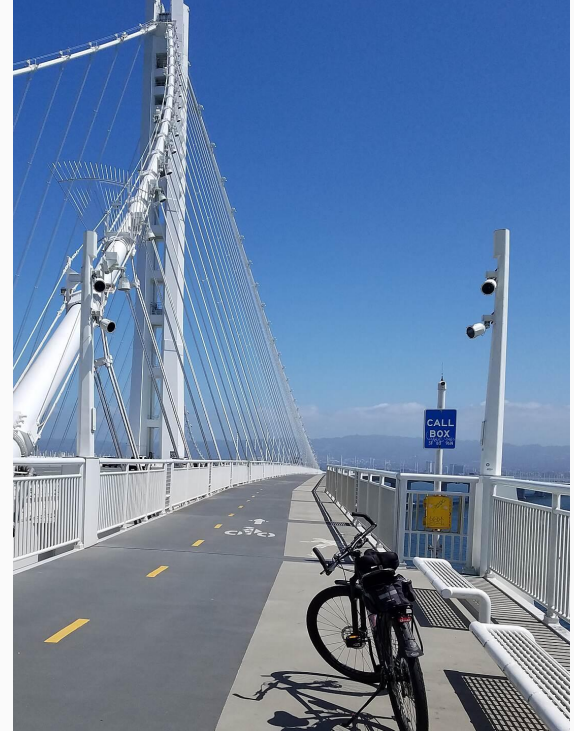
Safety



Lighting as art



Lighting and activated with people creates a safe place to walk at night: Lake Merritt, Oakland



Rest point with seating, emergency call box and lighting on the Bay Bridge

Planting

Types of Planting along an Urban Trail

Tree Screening Highways



Trail Planting Buffer



Linear Park- Beginning of Trail



Accessibility



Storytelling + History



Huey P Newton Memorial Sculpture- Mandela Parkway, Oakland



Social + Ecological History



Historic Photo Interpretation, Jack London

Trailheads + Gateways



Educational & Interactive Signage

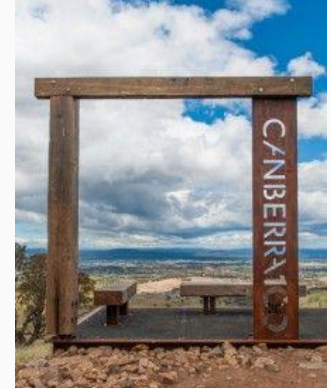


The Bike Bridge, Oakland

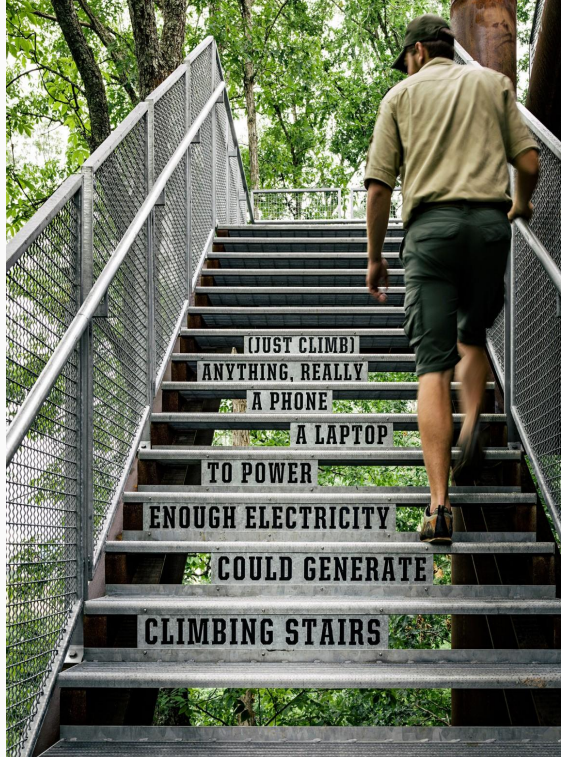


Trail Map at Gateway

Interpretation



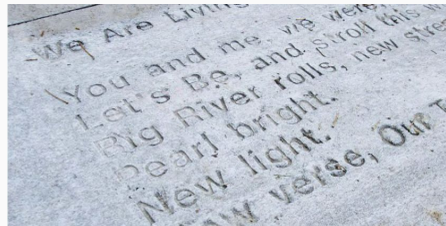
Poems and Text



Interpretive experiences



Moving Signage



Poetry in the paving



Vertical Poetry

Different Ways to Engage



Explore the ground plane



Multilingual Signage and Cultural Significance



Interactive Weather and Ecology

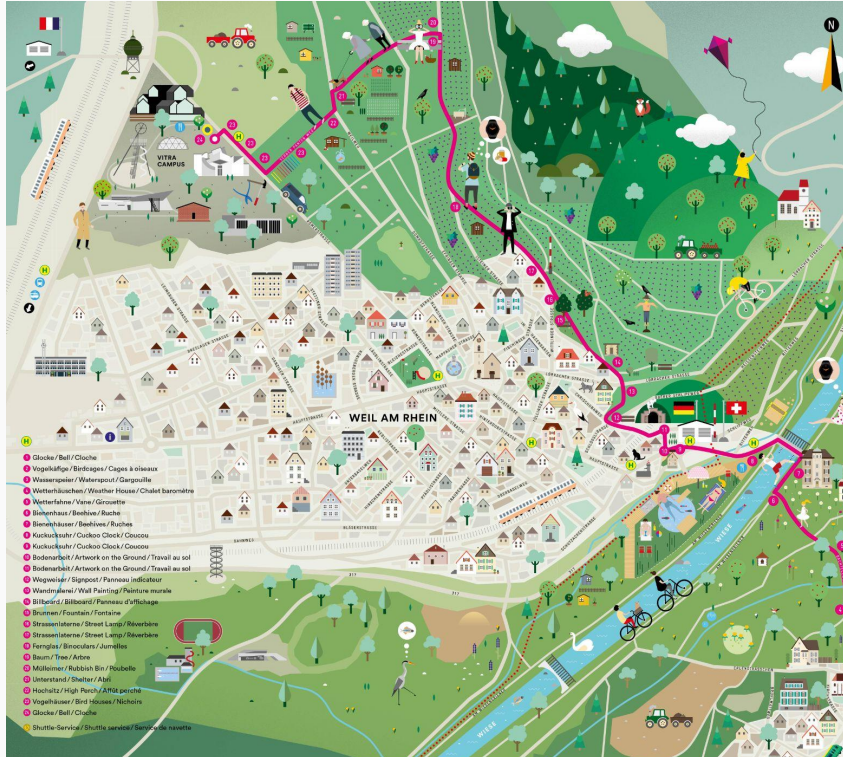


Games or ways



Sitting and moving

Maps + Directions



Trail Map & Wayfinding



Painted Trail



Painted programming

Seating + Places to Rest



Seating with Planting



Long and linear

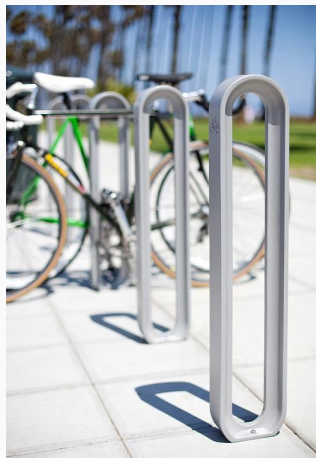


Accessible Picnic Tables

Bike Infrastructure



Air Quality Monitors



Bike Racks



Bike Lockers



Bike Repair Station



Drinking Fountains



Tracking Cyclists and Pedestrian traffic

Opportunities of play along the path



The thrill of a net suspended above



A surprise under an overpass



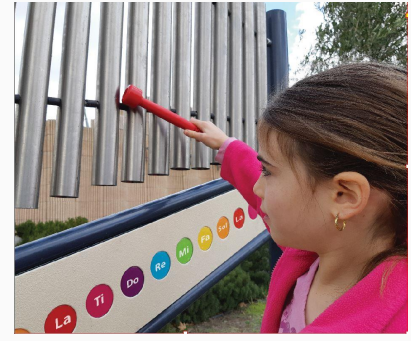
See saw



Slide from an overpass



Percussion instruments



Primary Uses

THE TRAIL CAN ALSO HAVE A STRONG
VISUAL AND EXPERIENTIAL IDENTITY.



The Path as sculptural form + identity



Auckland



Copenhagen



Auckland

Public Art

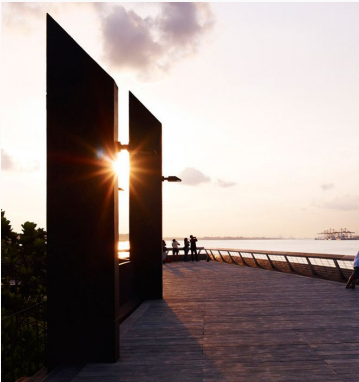


Murals



Wind Sculpture

Lookouts and Rest Areas



Larkspur



The Highline- Overlooks

Destination uses



Fitness



Banked skating area



Skatepark



Outdoor play



Utilizing space below for swings



Ohlone Greenway



Pop-up opportunity

Element Locations

WHERE SHOULD ELEMENTS BE PLACED ALONG THE TRAIL?

Community Priorities:

1. Reducing Air Pollution and Exposure
2. Accessible to All
3. Visually Attractive



THE TRAIL IS A TOOL FOR COMMUNICATION

What *stories* are important to tell?

How can we tell the environmental justice story?

How can using the trail support advocacy for reducing pollution and exposure?

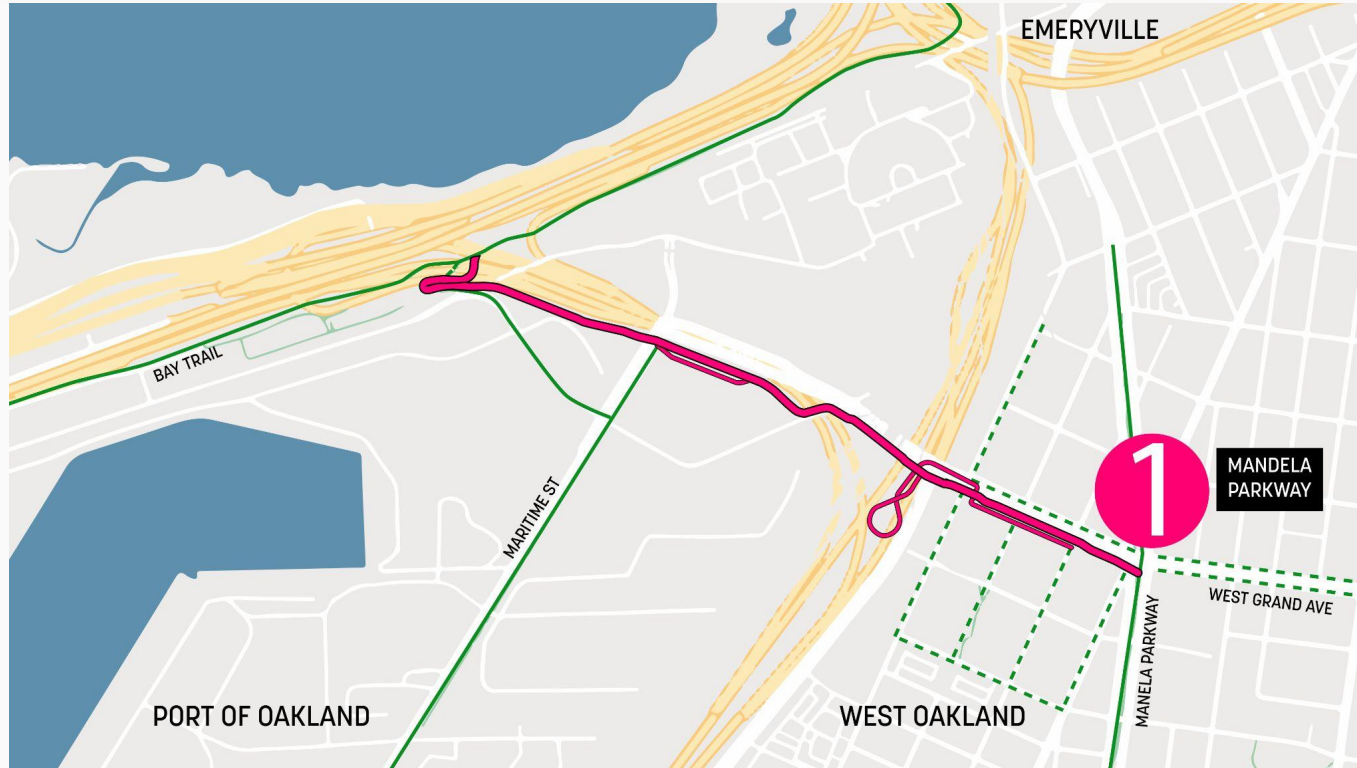
How does telling stories help make the trail more accessible and inclusive?



Connecting to the neighborhood



#1 Mandela Parkway | Key Map View



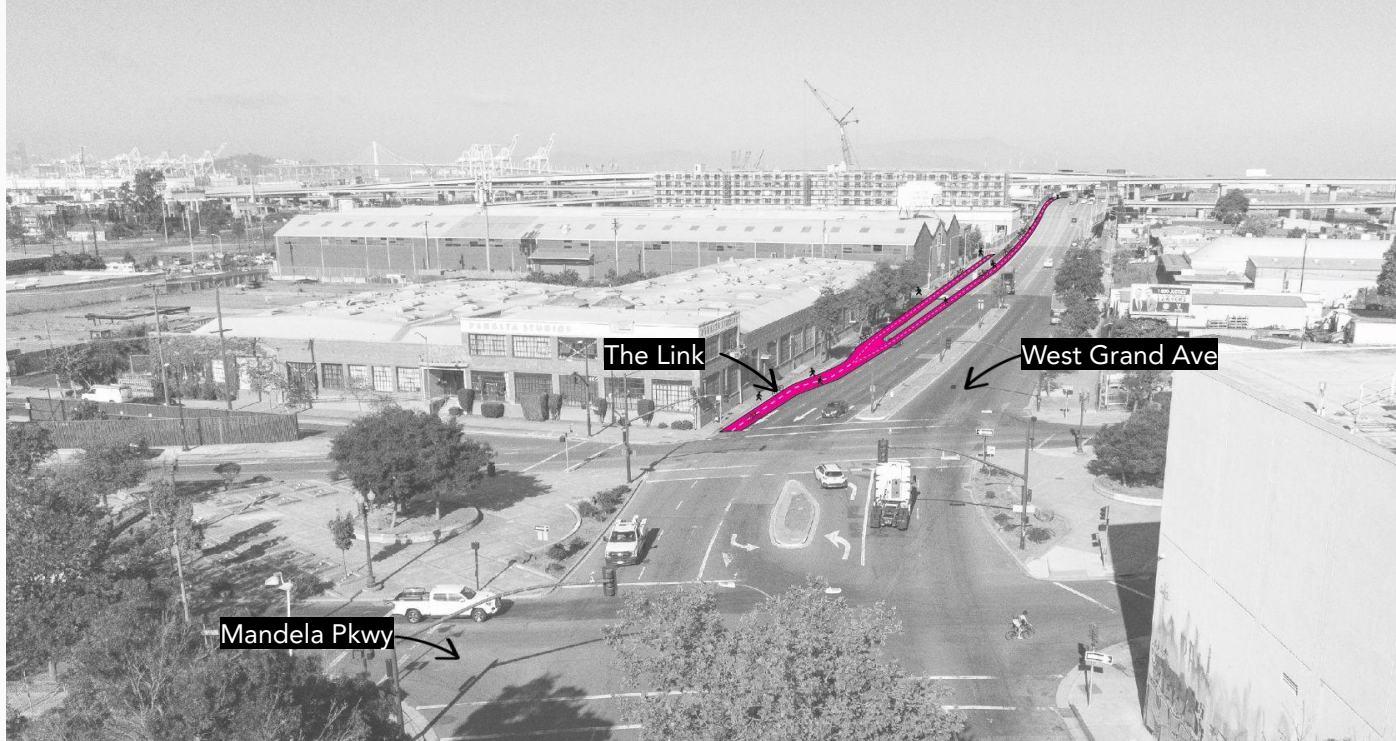
#1 Mandela Parkway | Aerial View



WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- It's a gateway to West Oakland
- It connected to spacious plazas bookending W. Grand Ave at Mandela
- Mandela is planted and has trees!
- There is a story of community activism and environmental justice to be told

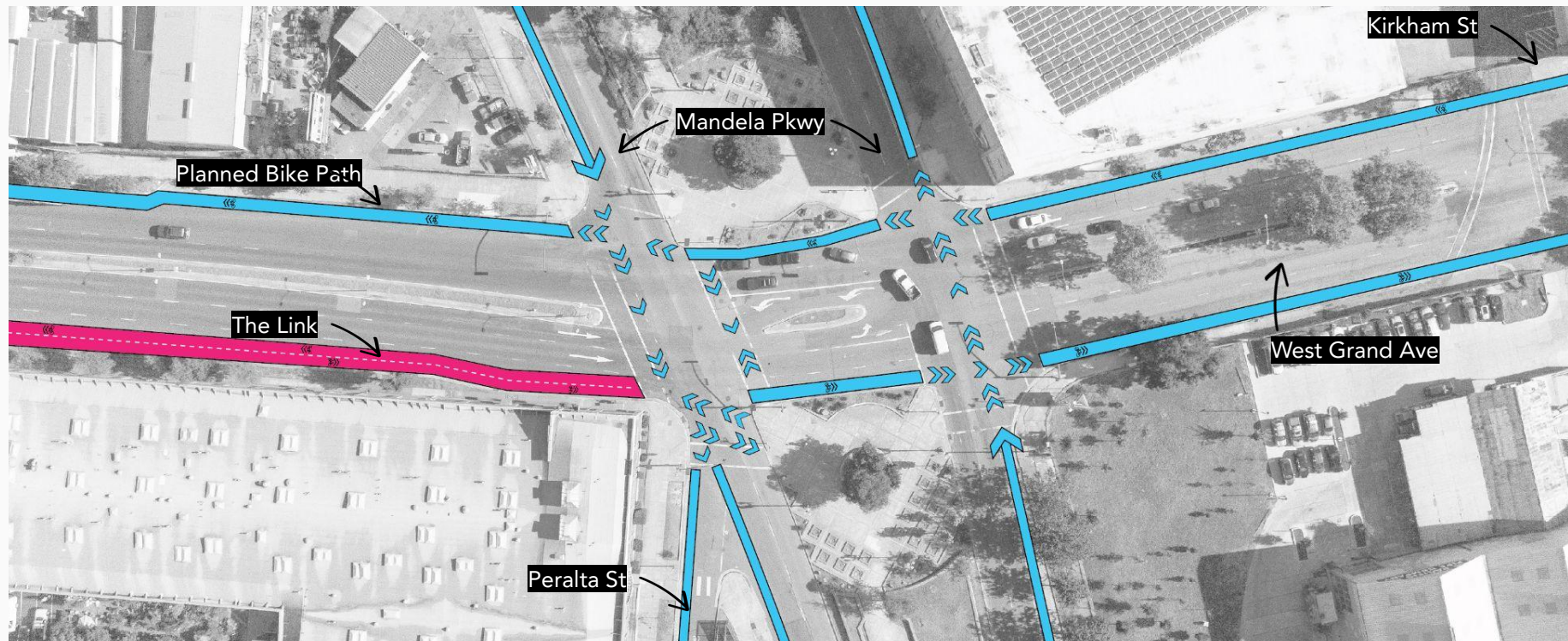
#1 Mandela Parkway | Aerial View with Trail



TRAIL CONSIDERATIONS

- This is a starting point for the bike path onto the bridge
- This is a place where pedestrians and bikes do not feel comfortable today due to heavy traffic and wide roads
- This is a highly visible location and has the potential for interpretation

#1 Mandela Parkway | Plan View



#1 Mandela Parkway | Inspiration

What elements should happen here?

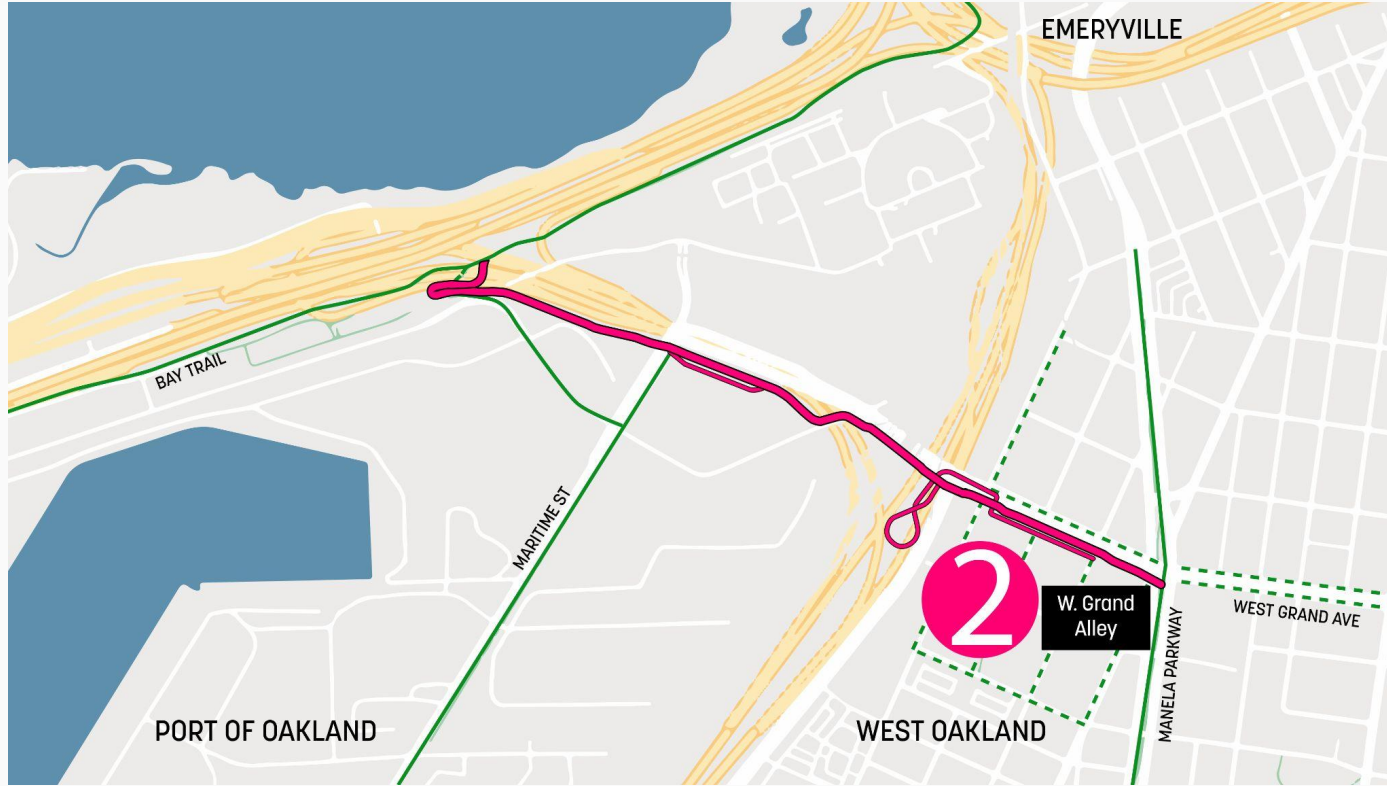


#1 Mandela Parkway Gateway to WOL | Prompts

1. What do you expect to announce a beginning of an urban trail? How should this trail announce its beginning?
2. Is this a place to tell an important history or story?
3. How can the trail accommodate safety and equity for all multi-modal users on this segment of the trail?
4. What are things you like about Mandela parkway and how can connect to them?



#2 West Grand Alley (Carless street) | Key Map View



#2 West Grand Alley | Aerial View



WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- It's very car-centric
- There is almost no planting
- The highway ramp creates a narrow canyon with the buildings

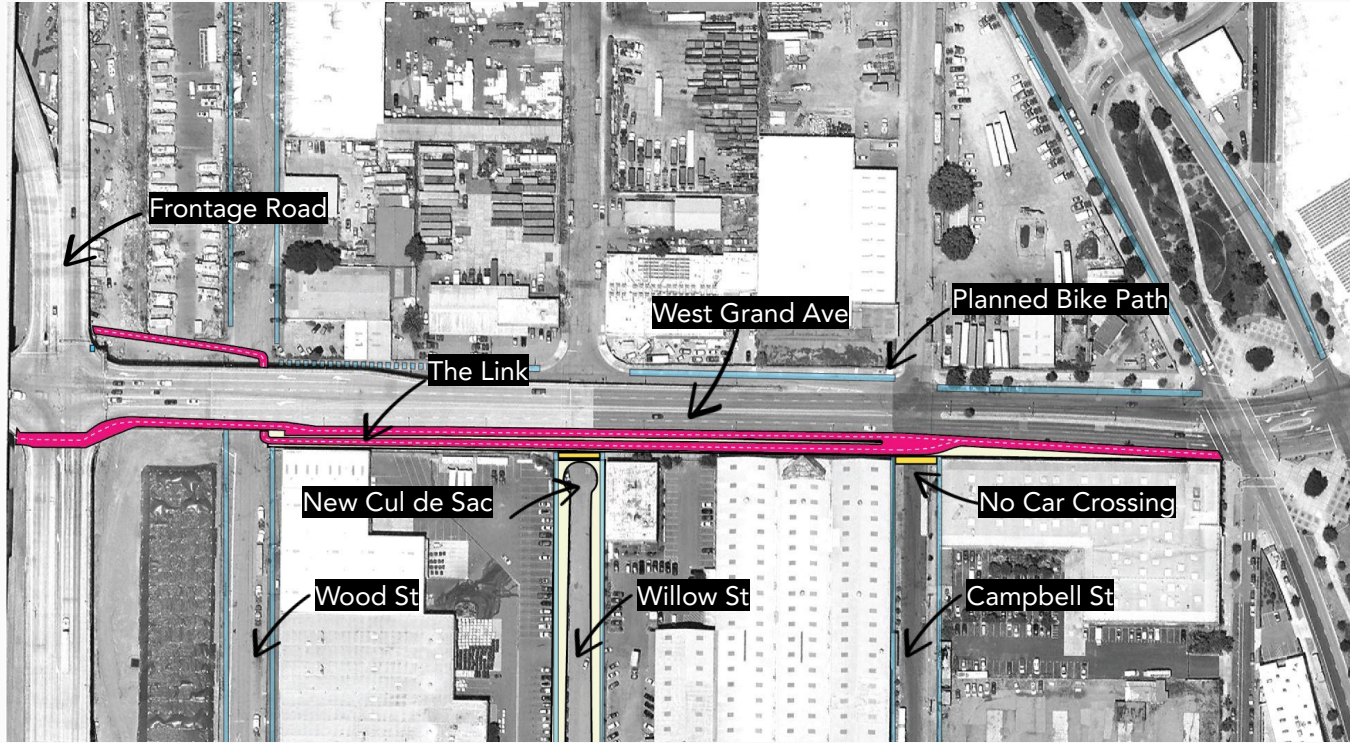
#2 West Grand Alley | Aerial View



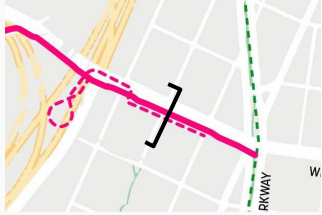
WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- It is on the ground and could support plants
- It will be a carless street
- It could be a good opportunity for a timeline or linear interpretative element

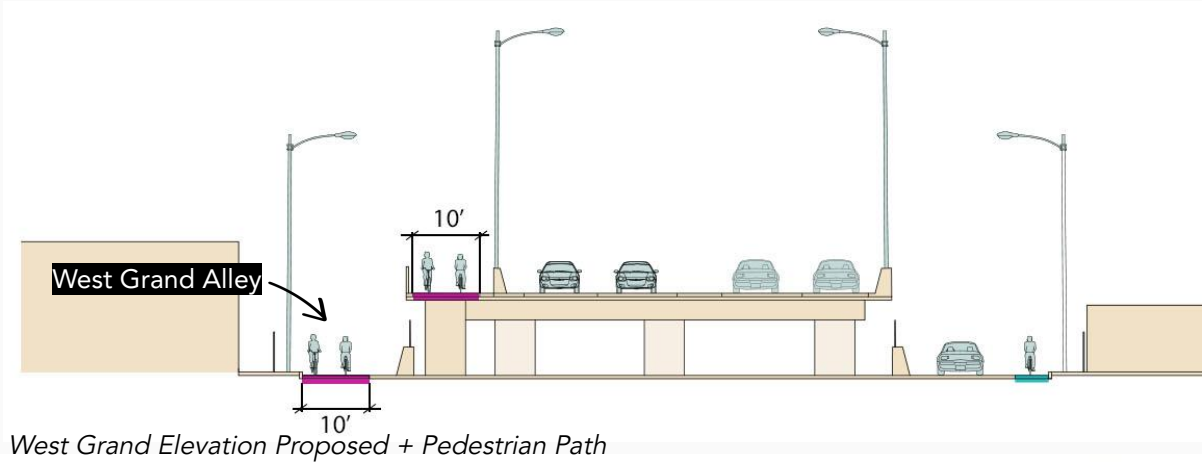
#2 West Grand Alley | Plan View



#2 West Grand Alley | Section



- West Grand alley will have a 10' wide two way bikeway
- Above it the cycle track width is 10'-12'



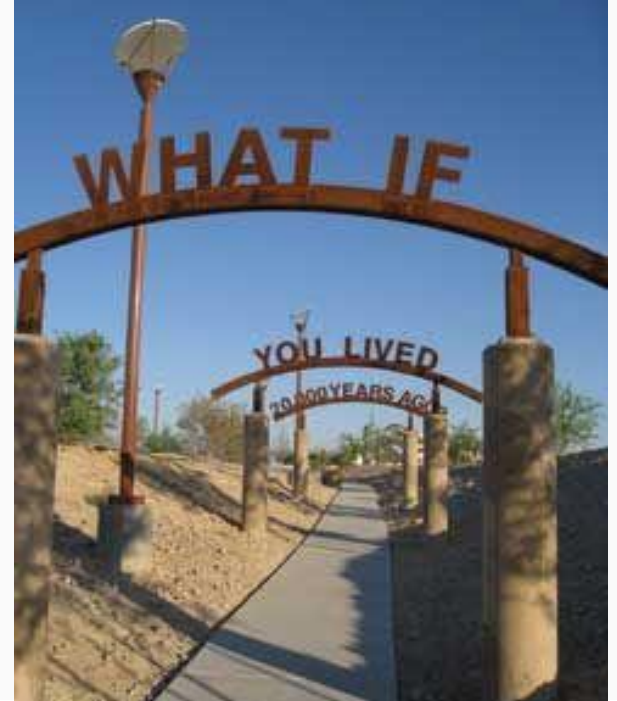
West Grand Alley Elevation Today (view West)



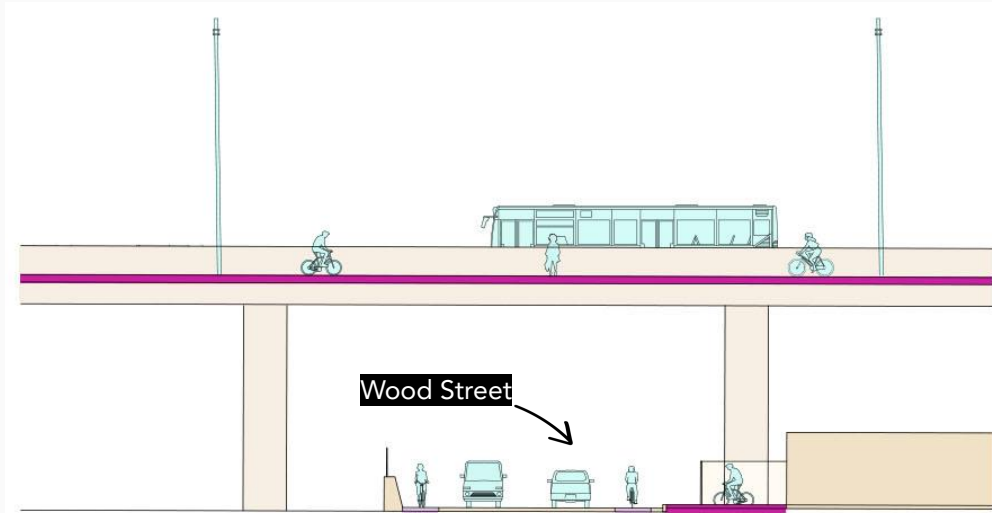
West Grand Alley Elevation Today (view East)

#2 West Grand Alley | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?



#2 Wood Street | Section



Wood Street Tunnel Elevation Proposed + Pedestrian Path



Wood Street Tunnel Elevation Today

#2 West Grand at Wood Street | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?

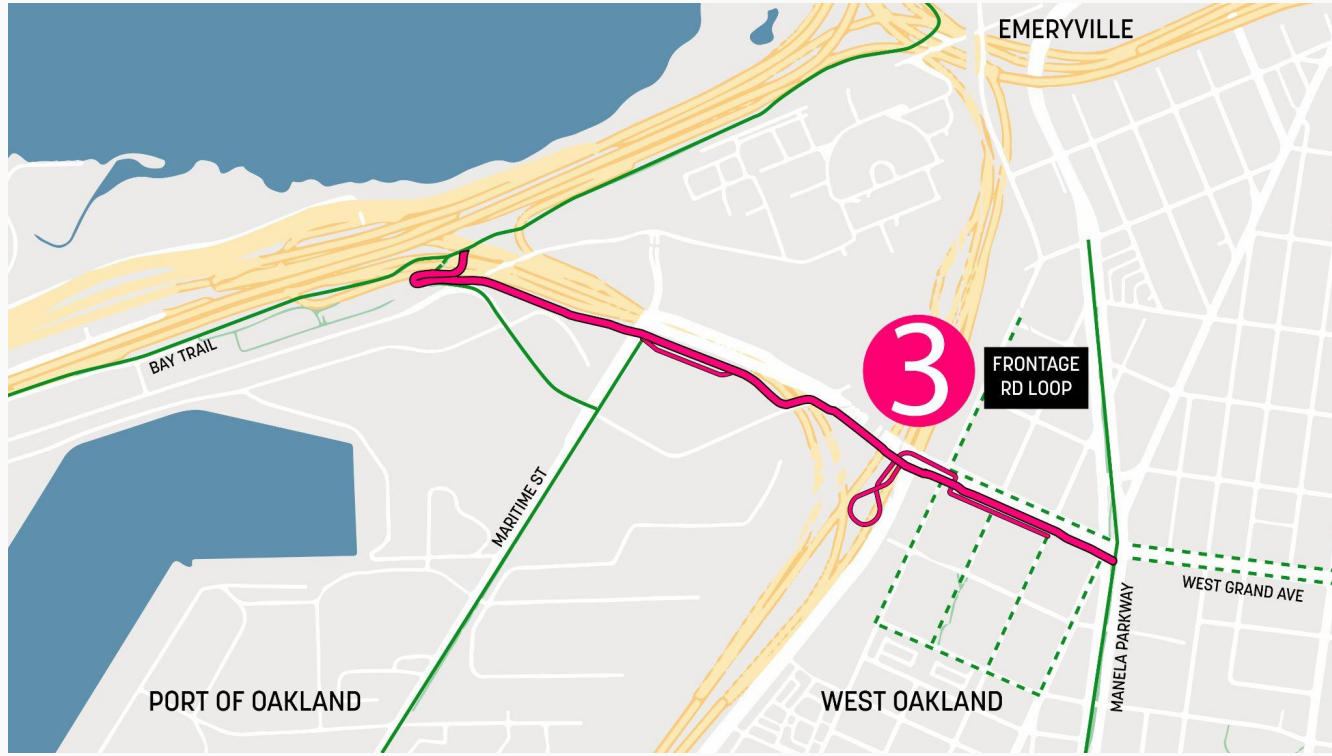


#2 West Grand Alley | Prompts

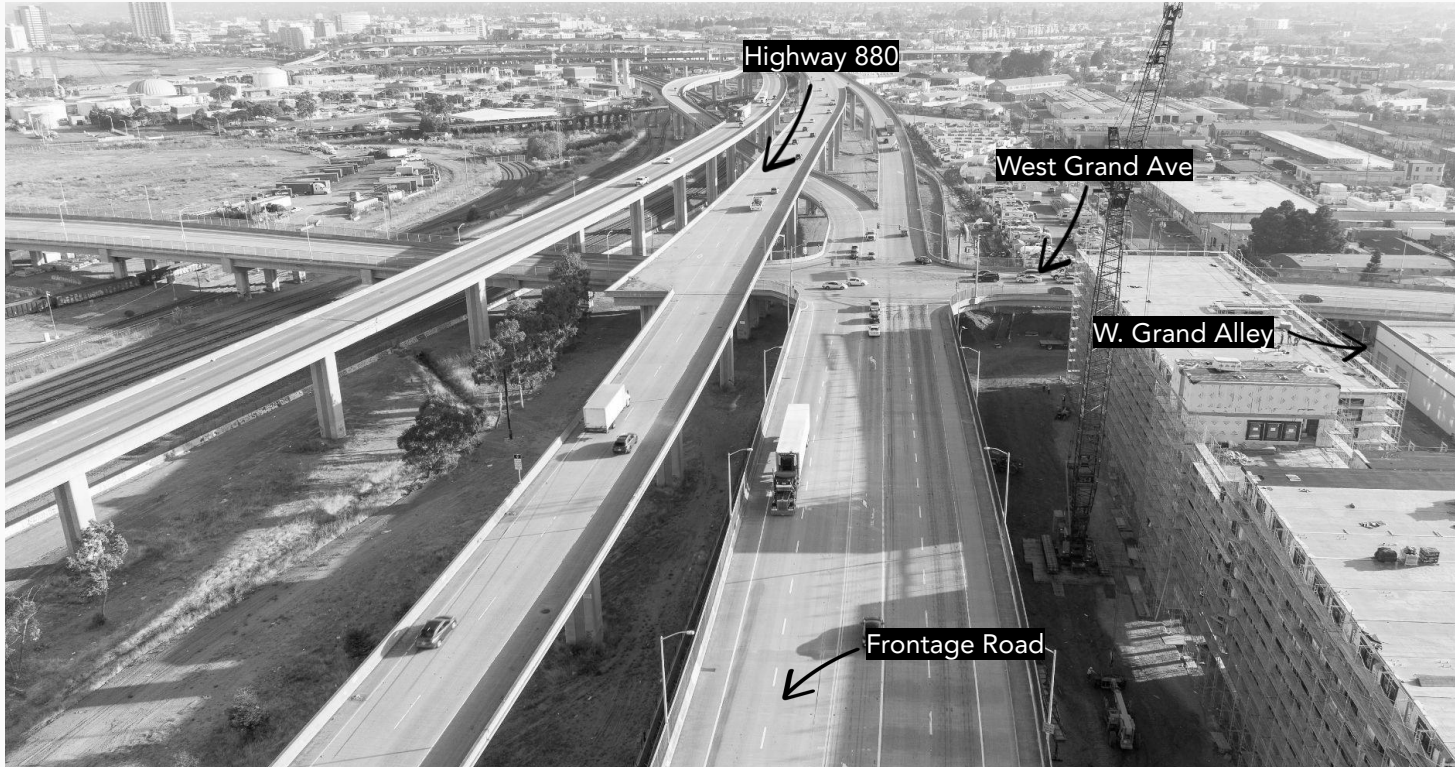
1. The alley is going to be a car-less street, what elements would make it welcoming?
What would increase your feeling of safety?
2. We are on the ground here, what kinds of planting is desired? Flower gardens, Trees, etc.
3. The Wood Street connection is an underpass, is it a good opportunity for public art or planting?



#3 Frontage Road Loop | Key Map View



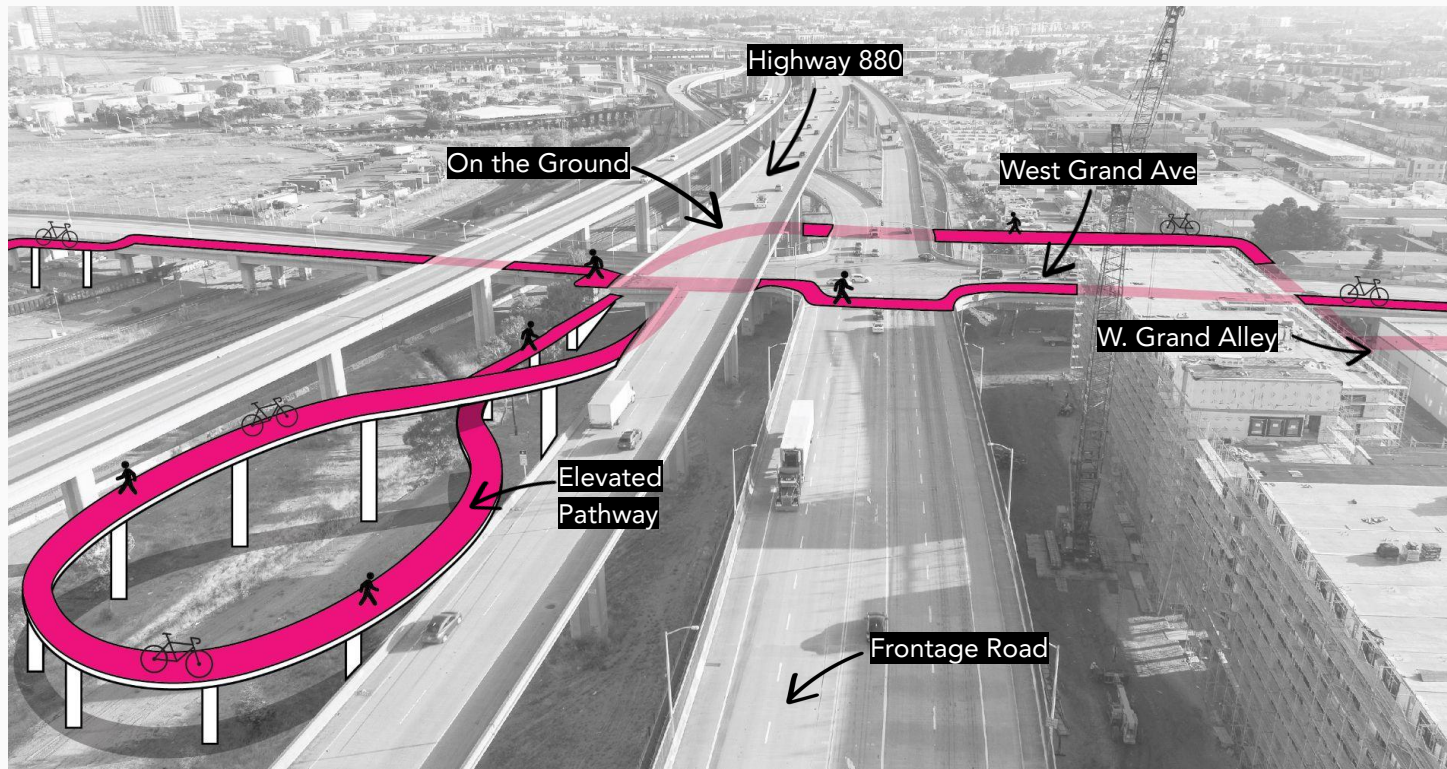
#3 Frontage Road Loop | Aerial View



WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- Great Views
- Not a place where people outside of cars feel welcome.
- It's isolated.

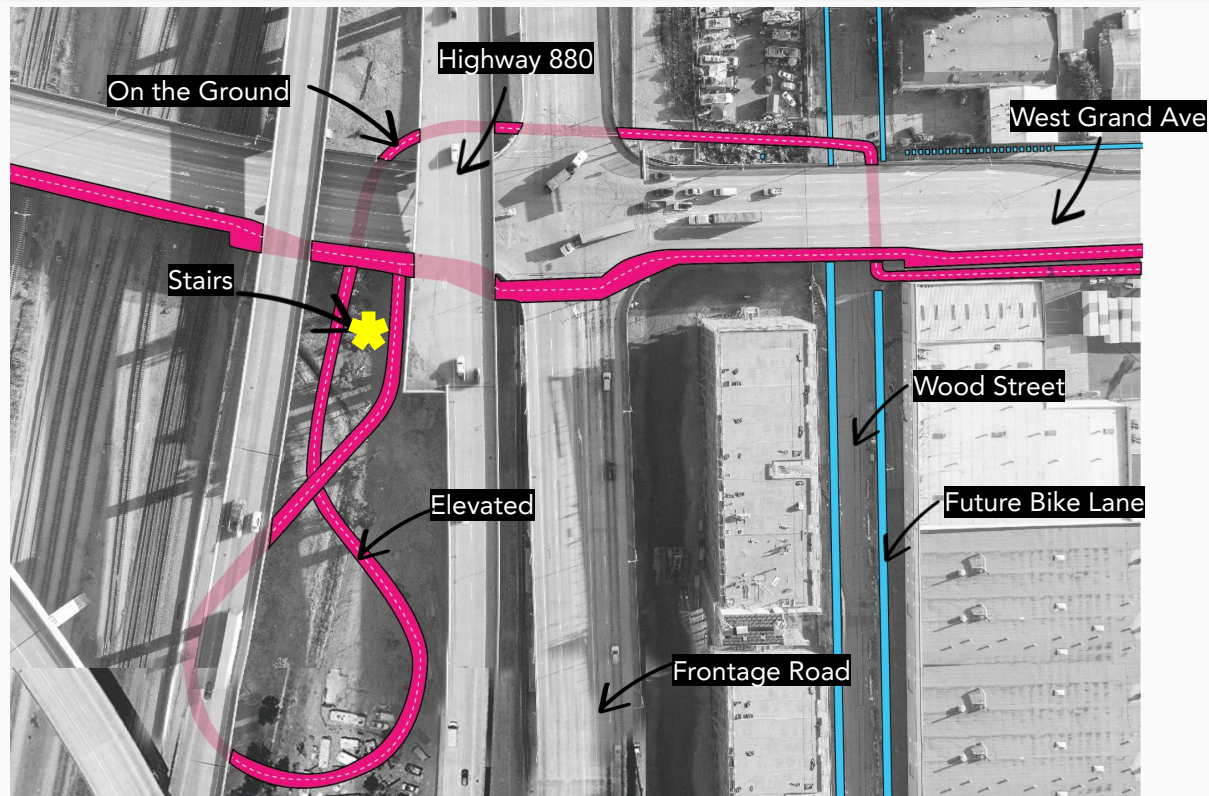
#3 Frontage Road Loop | Aerial View



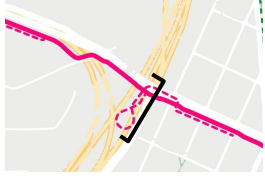
WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE HERE?

- 360 Degree Experience
- Curving and winding paths
- Change in elevation

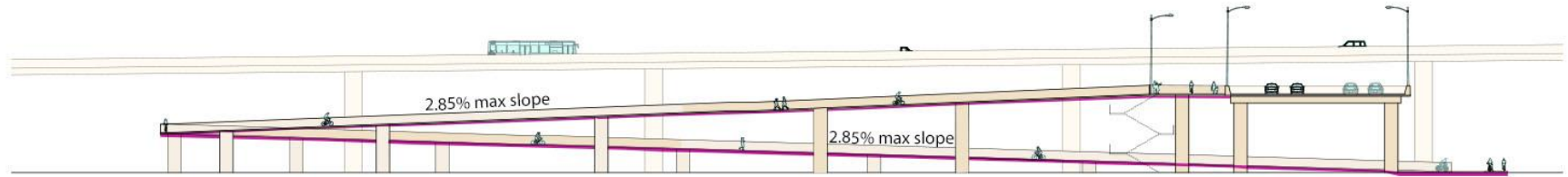
#3 Frontage Road Loop | Plan View



#3 Frontage Road Loop | Section



Frontage Road Elevation Today

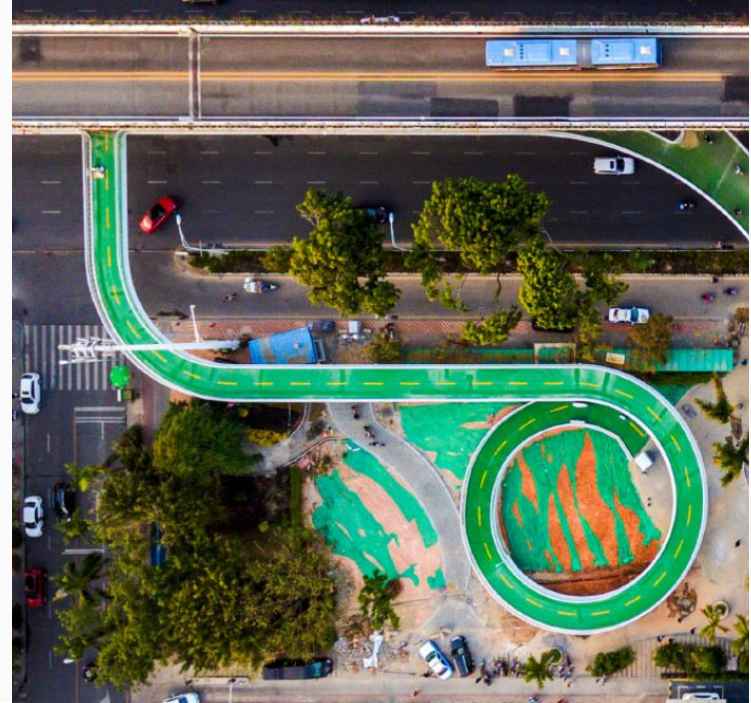


Frontage Road Loop Elevation Proposed



#3 Frontage Rd Loop | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?

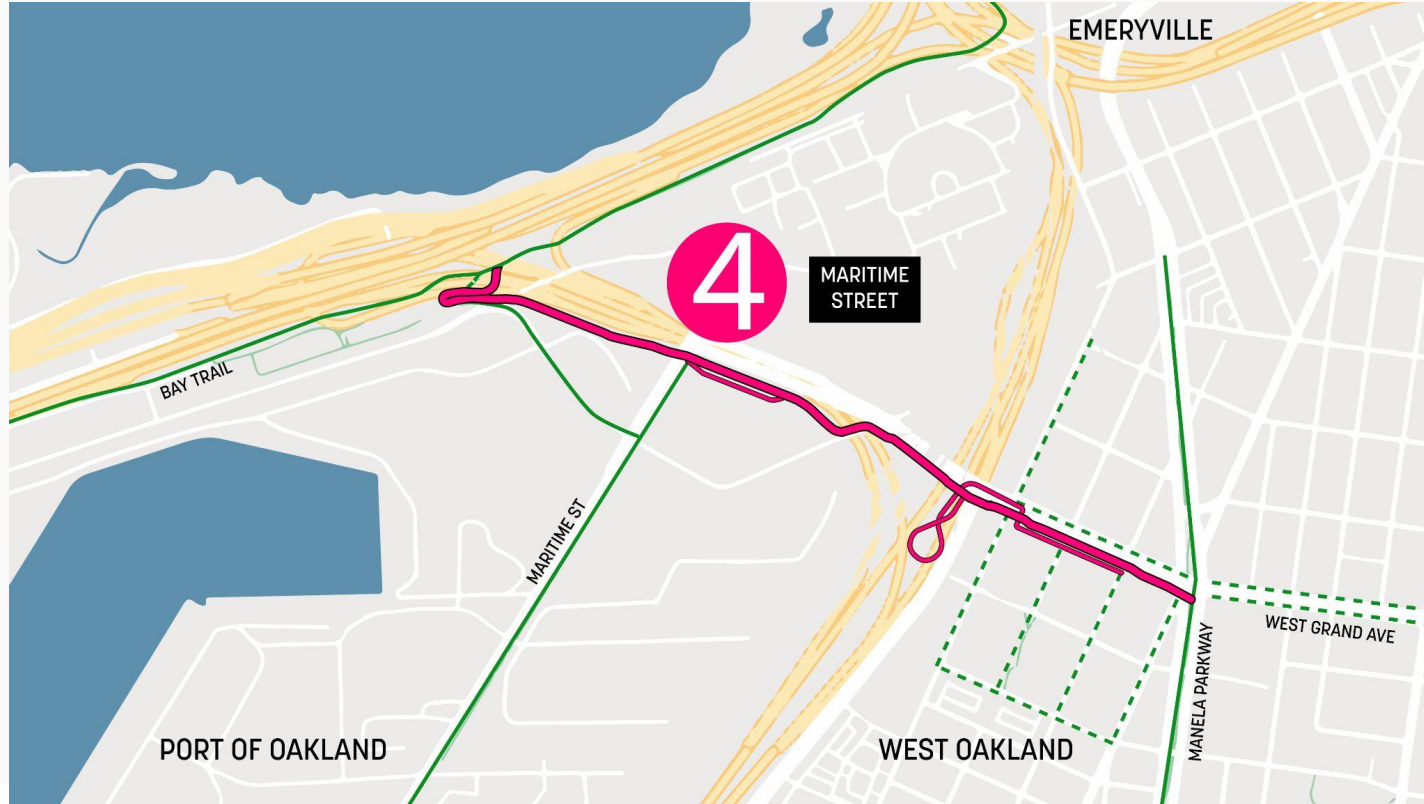


#3 Frontage Road Loop | Prompts

1. Are there unique opportunities for views or borrowed landscape experiences that should be marked?
2. What elements would make this long winding journey more comfortable—seating, water?
3. Should the loop have an overhead element?



#4 Maritime Street | Key Map View



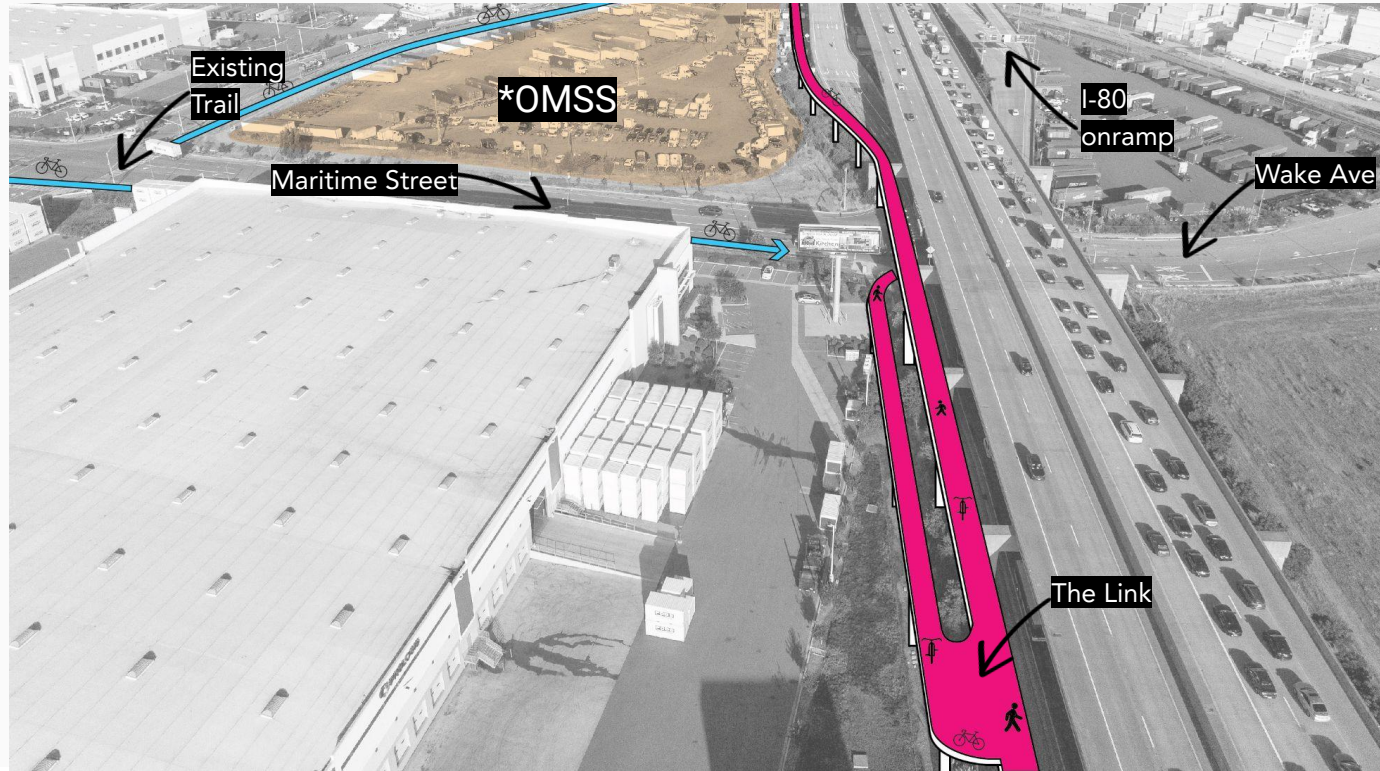
#4 Maritime Street | Aerial View to West



WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- Connects to Truck Parking
- Connects to truck Rest Area Ammenitites

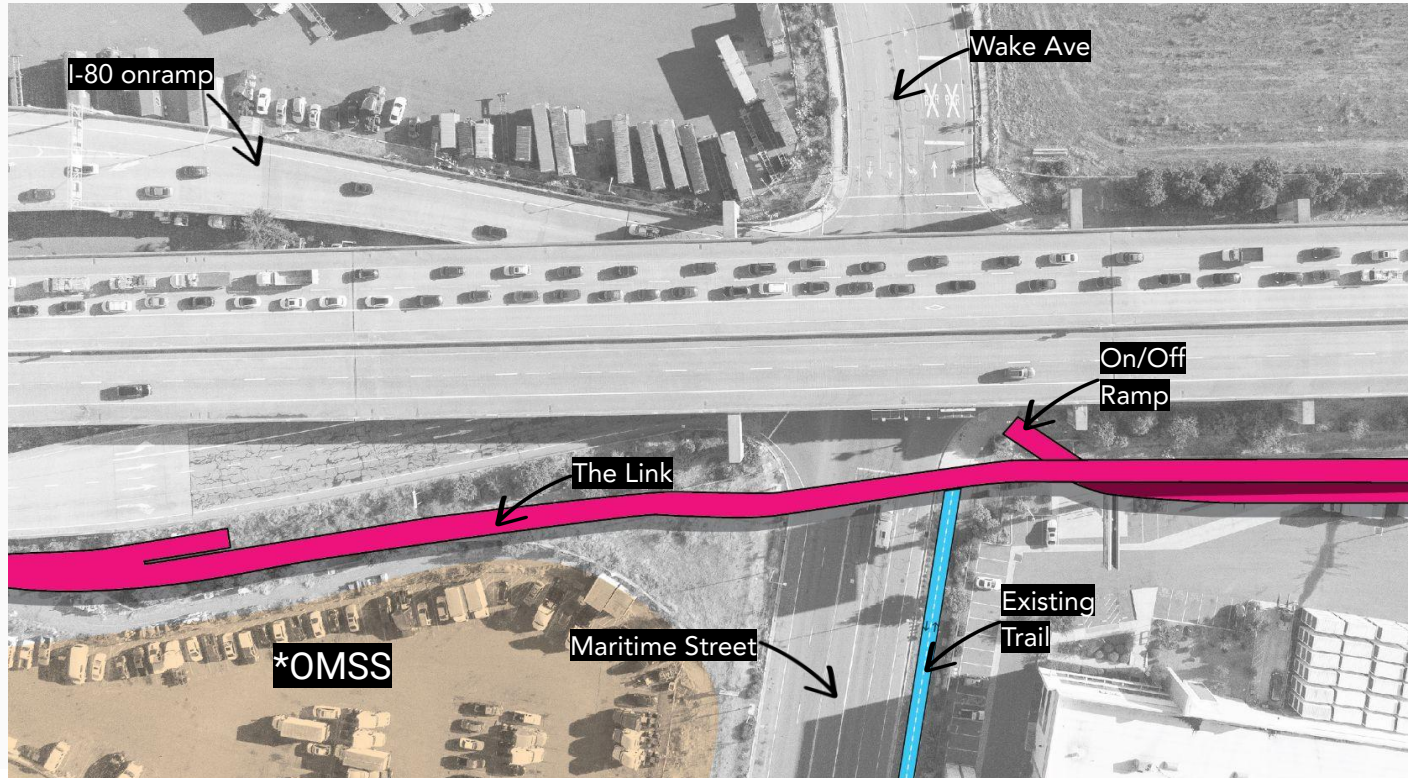
#4 Maritime Street | Aerial View to West



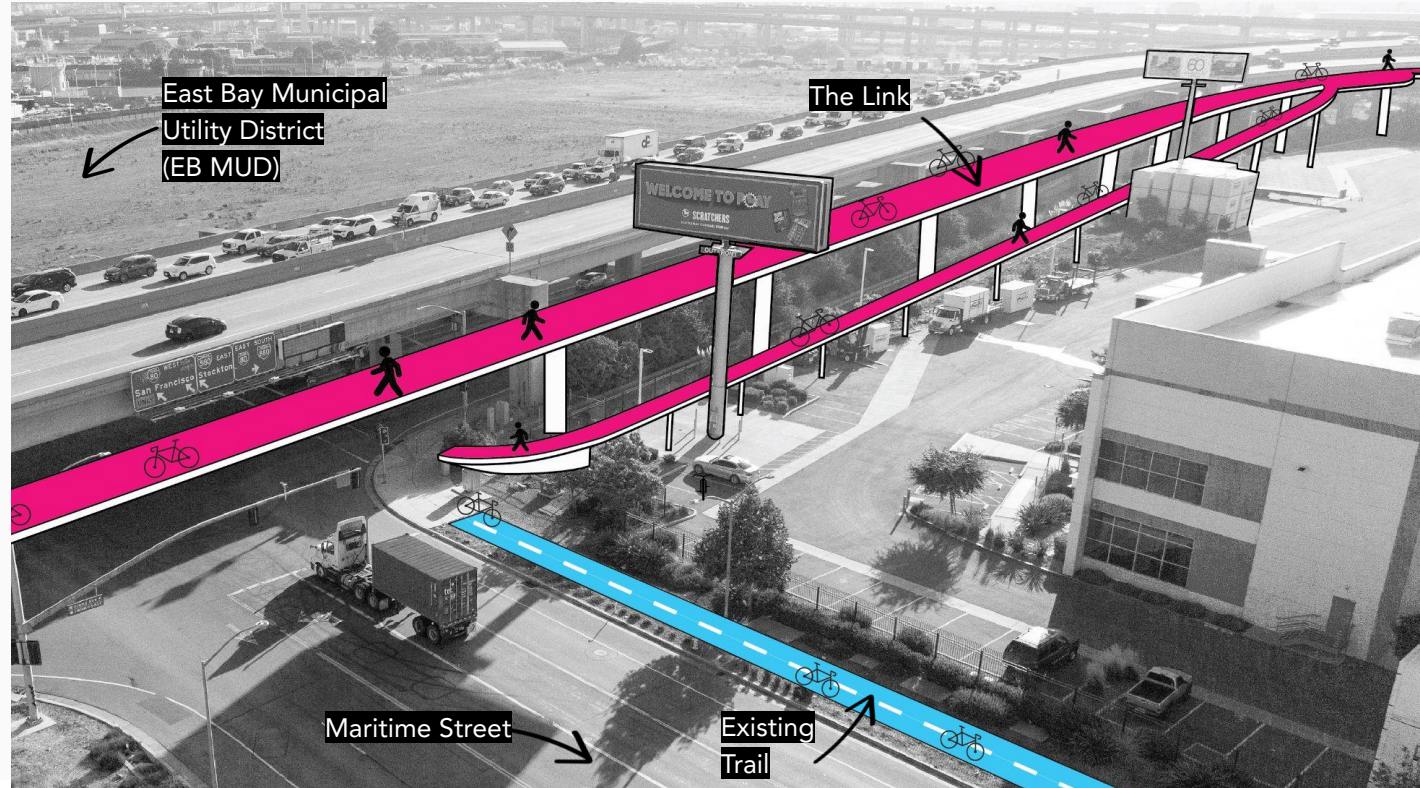
WHAT OPPORTUNITY IS HERE?

- Billboards
- High Views
- Big Viewsheds

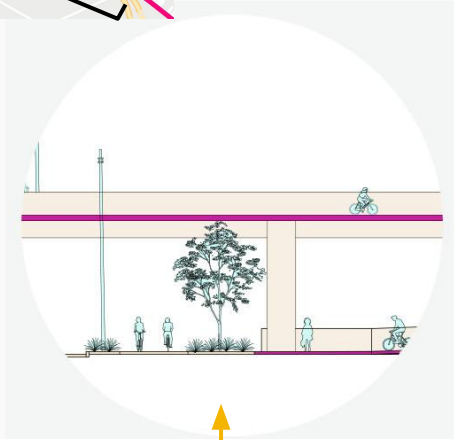
#4 Maritime Street | Plan View



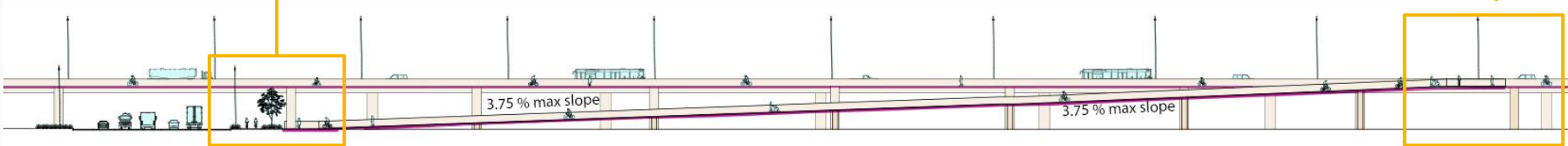
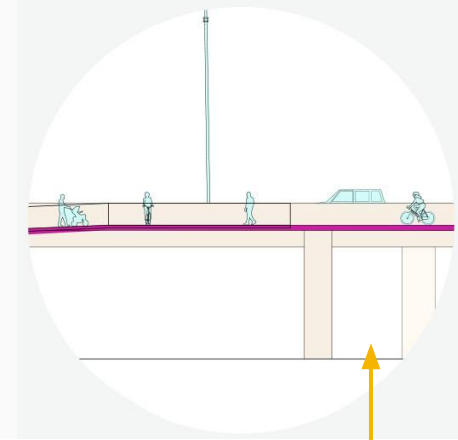
#4 Maritime Street | Aerial View to East



#4 Maritime Street | Elevation



Maritime Street Elevation Today



Maritime Street Elevation Proposed



#4 Maritime Street | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?

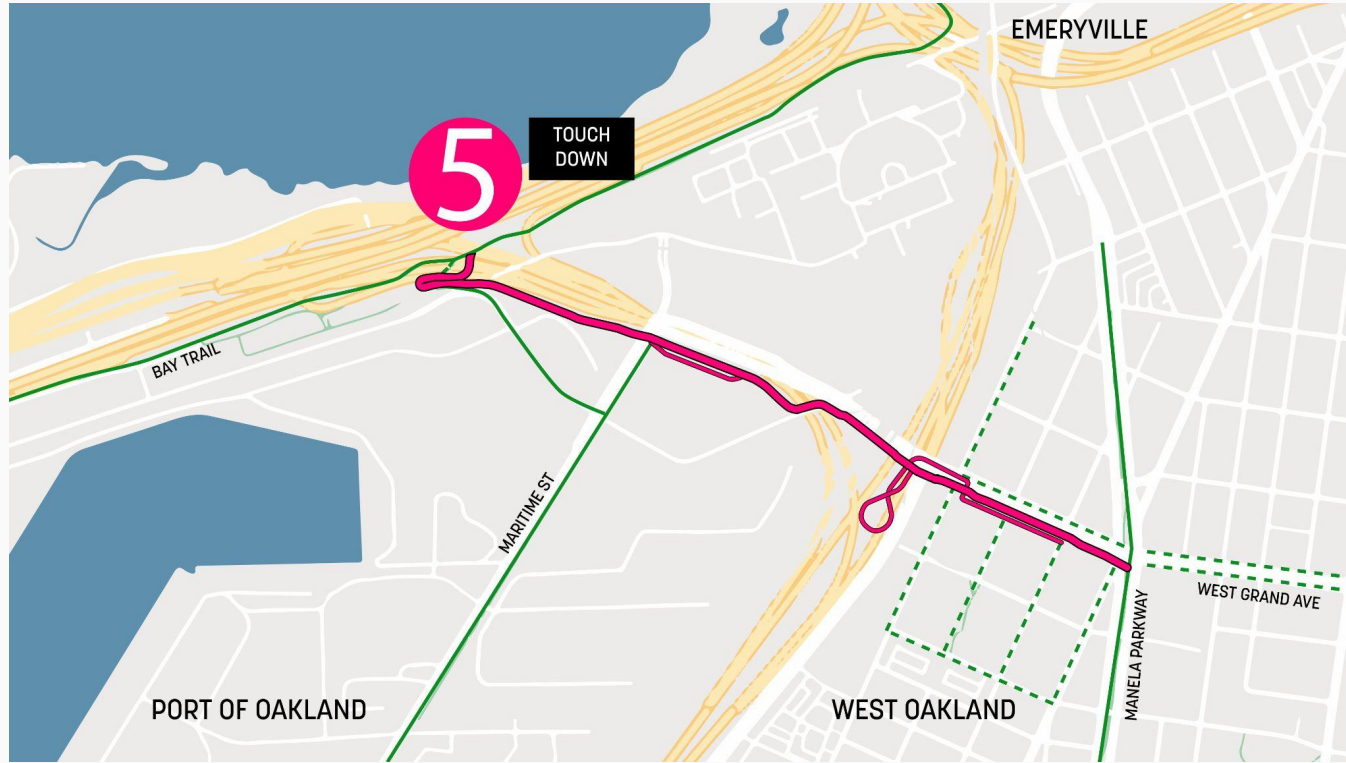


#4 Maritime St. | Prompts

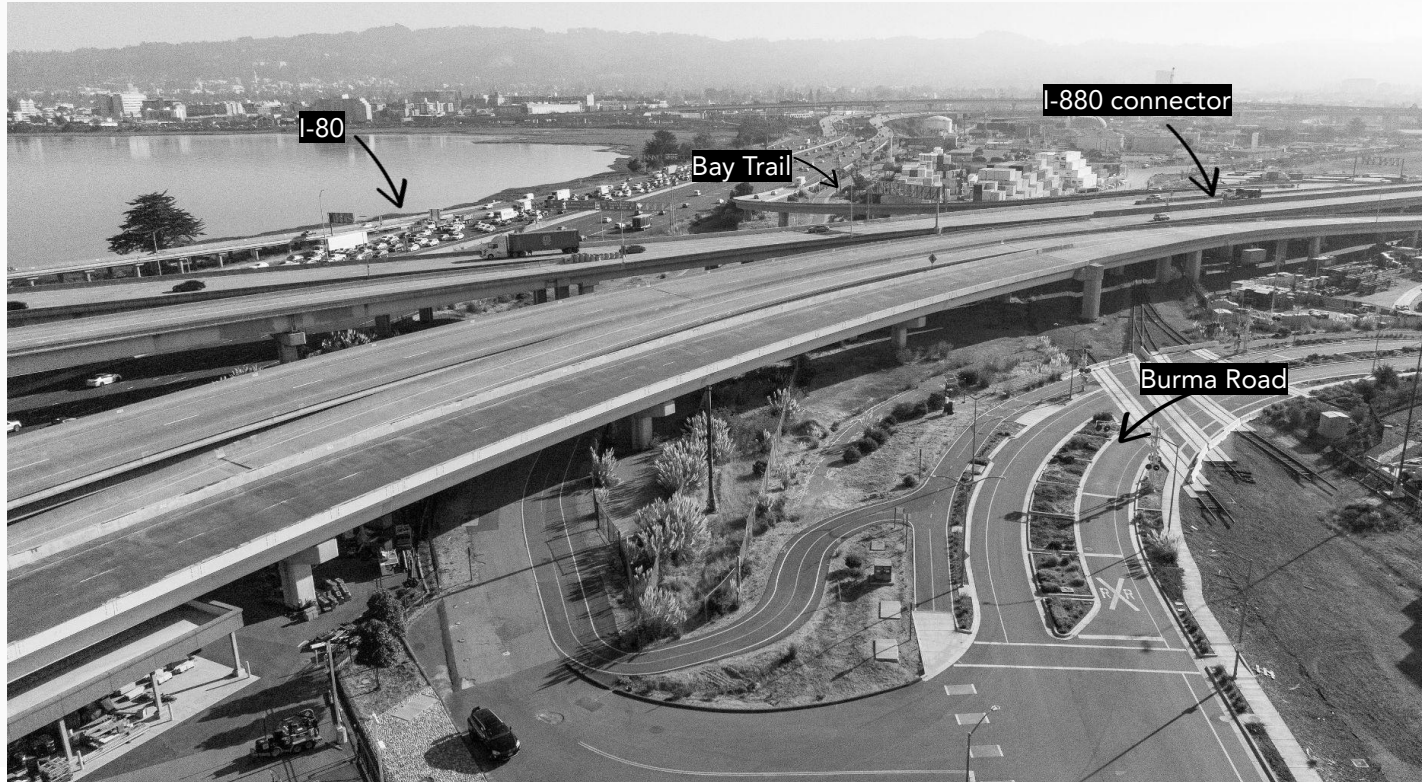
1. What could frame or connect to the long views towards the Port and the water?
2. What would be an incentive to use the bike path from Maritime road? A fun lookout? Rest Stop? Sculpture? A bike Station?
3. How often should we provide rest areas or look outs?



#5 Touchdown | Key Map View



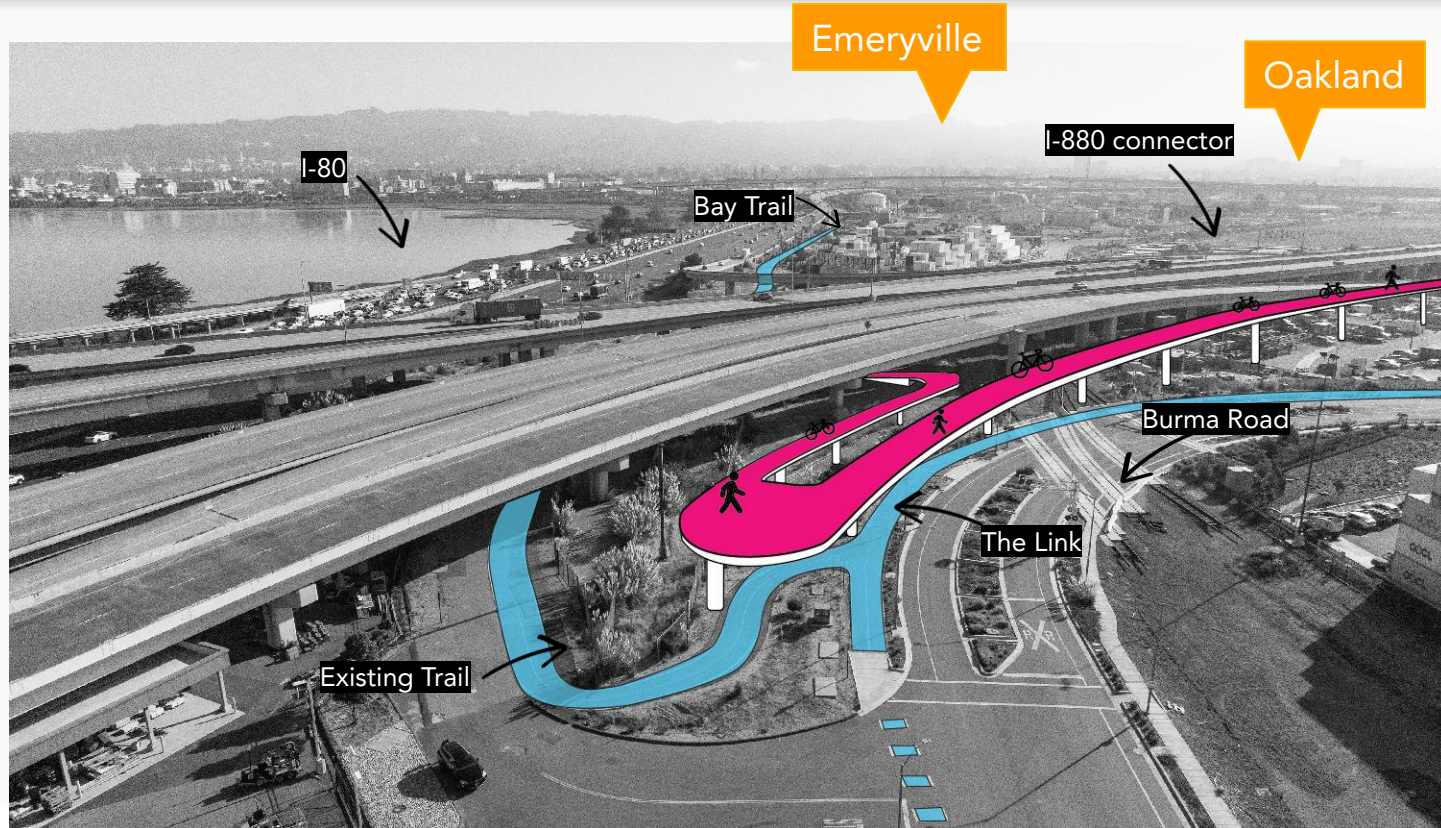
#5 Touchdown | Aerial View to Northeast



WHAT'S UNIQUE HERE?

- You return to the ground and landscape
- Connects to other existing trails
- Gateway to Oakland (on the way back)

#5 Touchdown | Aerial View to the Northeast



WHAT OPPORTUNITIES ARE HERE?

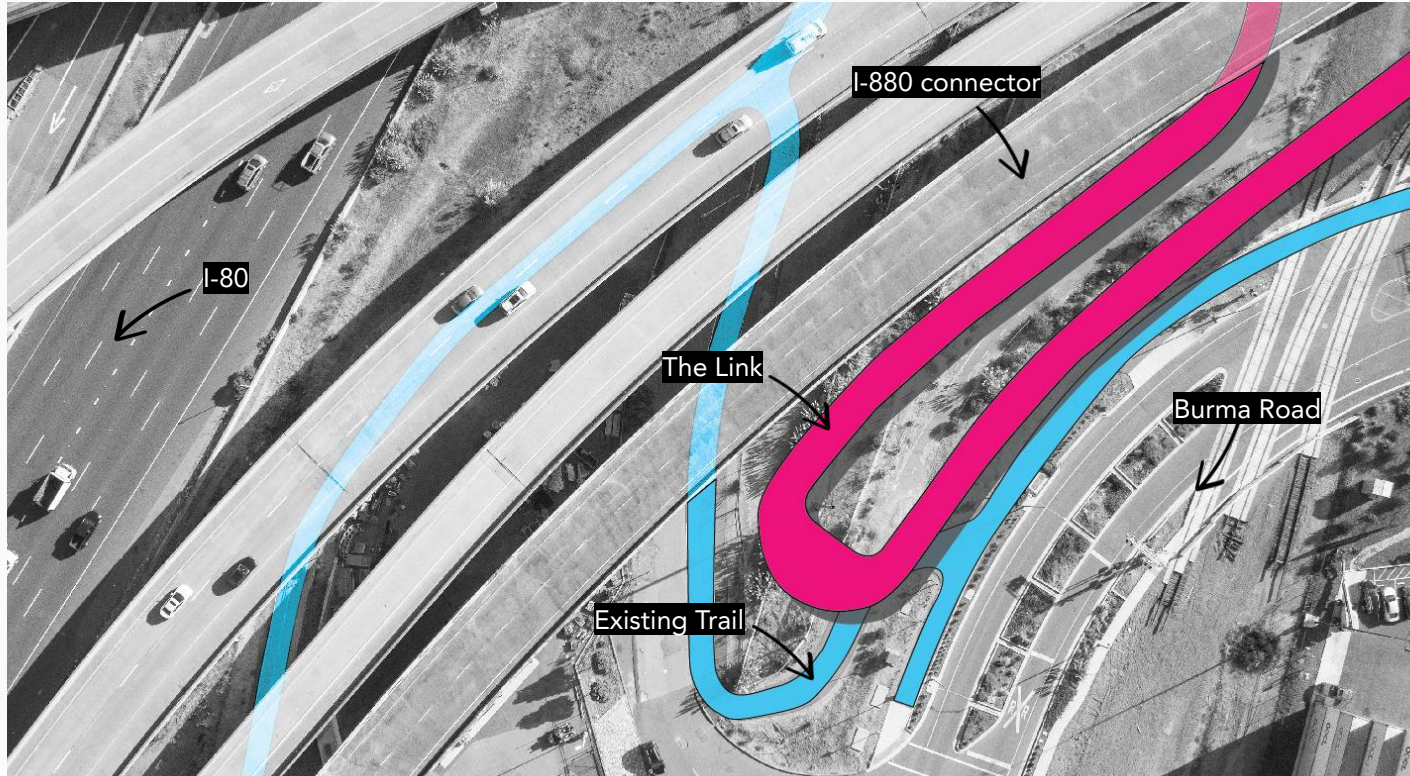
You connect to the ground here

Unique elevation and perspective

Planting

Art and Wayfinding

#5 Touchdown | Plan View



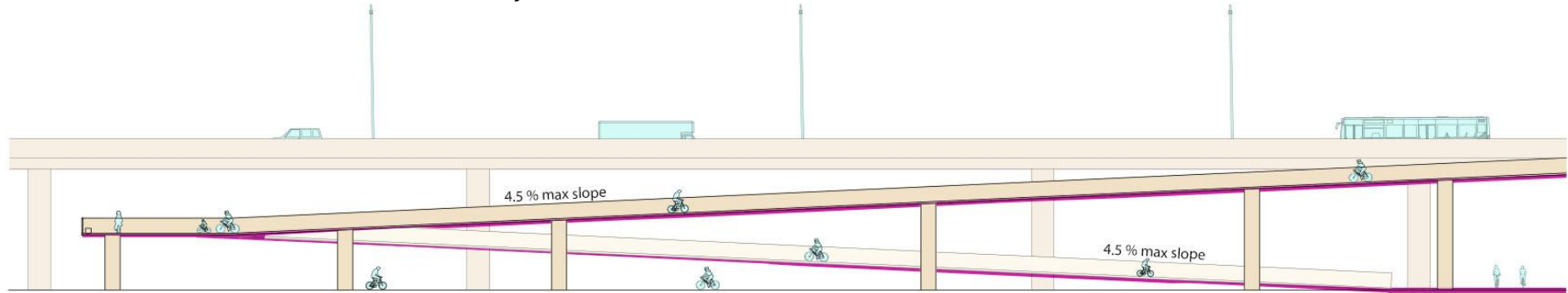
#5 Touchdown | View from Bay Trail



#5 Touchdown | Elevation



Touchdown Elevation Today

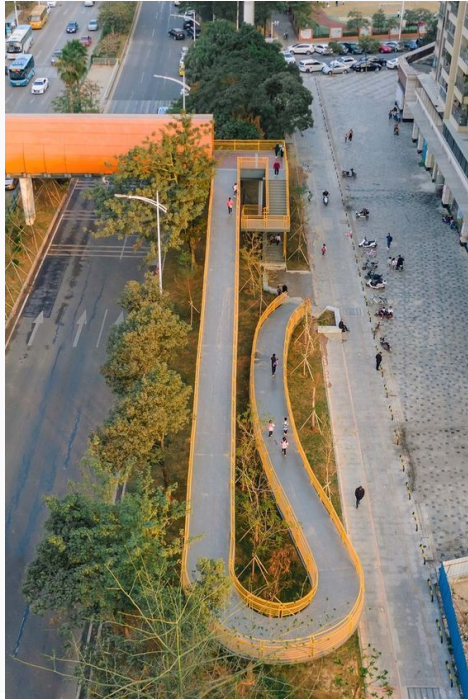


Touchdown Elevation Proposed



#5 Touchdown | Inspiration

What elements could be located here?



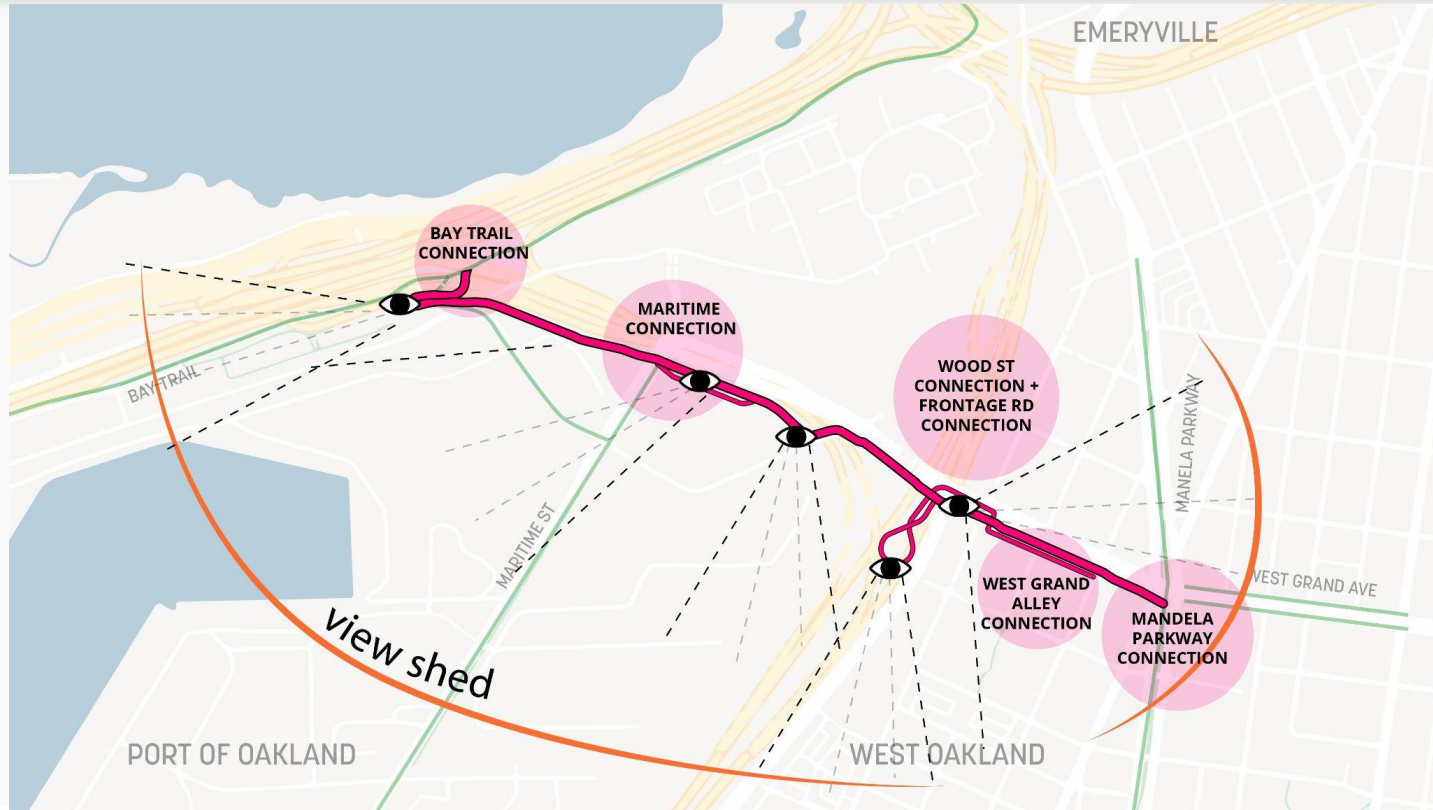
#5 Touch Down | Prompts

Connecting to the Bay trail!

1. The touchdown connects with multiple existing bike trails, what would help direct you? Where would you want signs or maps?
2. What experience seems most important to you to locate at this transition point?
3. This is on the ground, what kind of planting should happen here?



What should repeat? How often?



CLARIFYING QUESTIONS: Q&A (15 mins)

Is there anything which is unclear or you would like additional information about?

*Please fill out the survey
Thank you!*



Phase 1
35% Design

SEP 12 2023	OCT 10 2023	OCT 17 2023	OCT 24 2023	NOV 7 2023
Community Engagement Kick-Off	Design Meeting #1 -Design Detail -Elements	Design Focus Meeting #2 -Environmental Justice -Air pollution -Public health	Design Focus Meeting #3 -Streetscape -Intersections Traffic Safety	Design Focus Meeting #4 -Place making -Design -Historical resources

Next meeting: Oct. 17 Online

Environmental justice, air pollution &
public health

RSVP at woeip.org/events



West Oakland Link Timeline

Engagement Opportunities
Community Input Journey

For Schedule Updates
Visit <https://mtc.ca.gov/west-oakland-link>

Phase 2
65% Design

FEB TBD 2024	JUN TBD 2024
Design Update Meeting	65% Design Update Meeting

Phase 3
90% Design

SEP TBD 2024
Design Update & Construction Phase Introduction Meeting

Phase 4
100% Design

MAR TBD 2025
Pre- Construction Phase Meeting

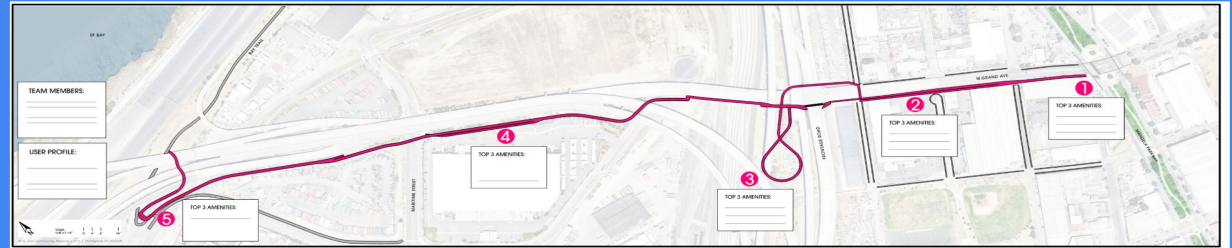


In Person Activity! (45 mins)

1 Join a group!

Each group will have:

1. Map
2. Glue
3. Scissors
4. Post- It Notes
5. Markers
6. Colorful Tape



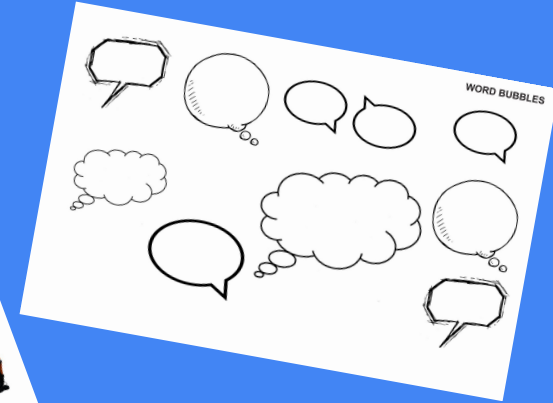
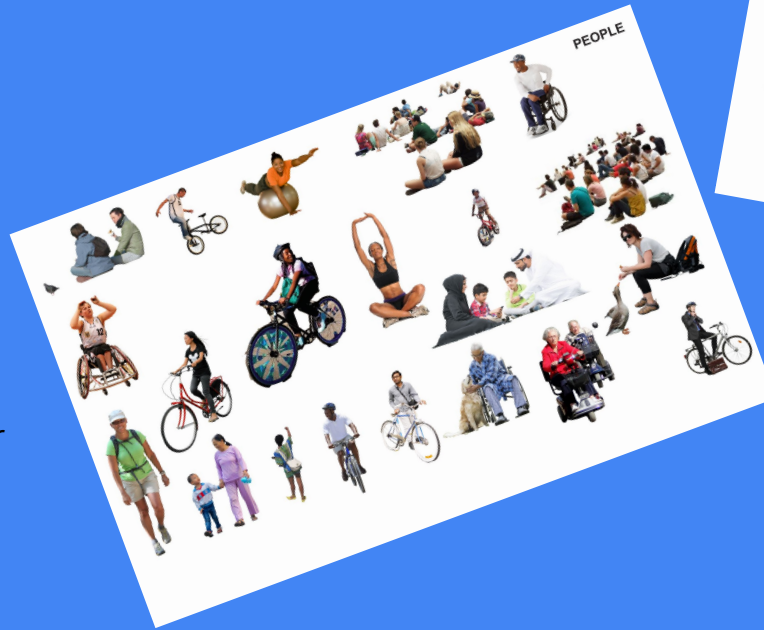
In Person Activity! (45 mins)

2

Discuss and think through what should be on your map.

Cut out images, write or draw what you want to happen on the trail.

Don't forget to add your name and what your team's mission statement.



In Person Activity! (45 mins)

3

Share back with everyone what you made!

