



NEWS FROM:

Public Works Agency

PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITY

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For Immediate release

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23rd Avenue and 29th Avenue Gateway gets a face-lift!
Another Oakland gateway is enhanced to reflect Oakland's renaissance

Once upon a time the drive into Oakland from Alameda across the Park Street Bridge was quite dramatic; comparing the quaint business district in Alameda to the rough and tumble, almost forgotten, industrial area around the Kennedy Tract in Oakland. That has changed and the entrance into Oakland is anything but forgotten today with the new Waterpark Lofts, Estuary condos along the waterfront, the chic café and painted murals in the 29th and 23rd Avenue triangle.

Now, whether you enter Oakland by car or foot, you'll be greeted by yet another positive development in this area coming across the bridge and over the 29th Avenue overpass. 29th Avenue and 23rd Avenue from the Park Street Bridge to East 7th Street have been resurfaced. Sixteen new curb ramps have been installed and the striping and signage have also been replaced and upgraded making this Oakland 'gateway' an enticing and welcoming symbol to visitors. This was a joint project with the Public Works Agency and the CEDA Redevelopment Agency.

"I want to thank the neighbors in the Kennedy Tract and the City's Public Works Agency for helping to push this project to completion. It has been my priority for many years to develop the waterfront area of District 5 into a beautiful, pedestrian-friendly place accessible to all of Oakland's residents. This streetscape is another completed piece of this shared vision", said Council President Ignacio De La Fuente.

The streetscape gateway elements occur along 29th Avenue between Ford Street and East 7th Street. These elements also consist of 24 street trees, over 1500 shrubs, and extensive groundcover. Other elements consist of a steel fence and a solar powered irrigation system, stamped colored concrete along both sides of 29th Avenue. A widened sidewalk and a new concrete stairway were installed to improve pedestrian access.

"This project is a perfect example of where our tax dollars go and incorporates the foresight of the Oakland City Council to enhance our gateways and improve the visibility of our City. The staff from the Public Works Agency worked hard to make this project happen," said Raul Godinez II, Public Works Agency Director.

The City plans to extend the Gateway & Streetscape elements from 29th and Ford all the way to the Park Street Bridge as phase II. There are also plans to extend the elements along 23rd Avenue from the Park Street Bridge to East 7th Avenue. These additional improvements are in the preliminary design phase as the City continues to search for funding.

WHO: **Oakland City Council President Ignacio De La Fuente**
Raul Godinez II, Public Works Director
Kennedy Tract Neighborhood Association representatives and merchant representatives

WHAT: **Celebration of the new 23rd Avenue and 29th Avenue Gateway**
WHEN/WHERE: **Thursday, June 17, 2 PM, parking lot of Nikko's Restaurant, 340 23rd Avenue**

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