



CITY OF  
OAKLAND

## ***NEWS FROM***

### **PUBLIC WORKS AGENCY**

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## **A WALKING PRESS CONFERENCE? IN OAKLAND??**

**Join Us to Check out the Latest Pedestrian Countdown Signals**

***Oakland, CA –***

A press conference is scheduled for 10am on Wednesday, October 12, 2005 to showcase pedestrian countdown signal devices being installed throughout the City. At the end of the press conference, attendees are invited to take a short walk to 14<sup>th</sup> Street to see one of the devices in operation.

The new pedestrian countdown signals address a major need in Oakland, which has a high incidence of pedestrian injuries at intersections. Pedestrians are often caught in the crosswalk when the "WALK" signal changes.

With a \$131,500 grant from the State Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), the City' Public Works Agency is installing pedestrian countdown signal devices at 23 intersections. These devices "count down" the number of seconds remaining (e.g. 10, ..... 3, 2, 1) to cross the street before the light changes from a flashing red hand to a solid red hand.

- WHAT:** Press Conference to Showcase the Pedestrian Countdown Signal Devices and "Ready, Set, Walk" safety hand-outs
- WHEN:** Wednesday, October 12, 2005. 10 a.m. sharp
- WHERE:** Oakland City Hall steps, 14<sup>th</sup> and Broadway, with a walk cross 14<sup>th</sup> Street at 10:20am.
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"Installing the new devices at priority locations will improve pedestrian safety throughout the City. We are happy to partner with the Office of Traffic Safety on this project," said Raul Godinez II, Director of the Public Works Agency.

The multilingual "Ready, Set Walk" safety hand-outs promote the proper use of the countdown signals and are available English, Spanish, Chinese and Vietnamese. "Oakland's project addresses the need for safety education, helping its diverse population keep pace with technological safety advances," said Sunne Wright McPeak, California State Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which oversees the Office of Traffic Safety.