

LAKE MERRITT

PLANNING In 2002/2003, BART successfully secured an Environmental Justice Grant from Caltrans to conduct targeted outreach in the City of Oakland Chinatown community to examine their particular access needs and issues related to using the BART system. The environmental justice outreach was completed in December 2003, and the findings from the study were included in the Lake Merritt Station Access Plan, which was completed in June 2004.

In 2004/2005 BART was again successful in securing a Caltrans Community-Based Planning grant to develop a land use vision for the Lake Merritt BART station. Currently underway, this planning effort will engage the community and our local partners in a process to examine development opportunities in the station area, improve access to and from the station, and to better connect the station area to the many educational, civic, cultural and recreational activities in the area. Recent events have heightened development interest: the BART Board decided to vacate BART's headquarters building; the City formed a Redevelopment Area that includes the station; the community and the City have expressed interest in improving Madison Square Park; and the City, the County and the Peralta Community College District all have planning and/or development activity in the station vicinity. This visioning effort will be completed in March 2006 and will be incorporated into a Comprehensive Station Plan (CSP).

DEVELOPMENT In 2000, the City of Oakland requested that BART offer its parking lot at the Lake Merritt Station for high density housing. Compliance with the City request is on hold until the CSP is completed.

ACCESS IMPROVEMENTS. In March 2005, the BART Board approved the institution of parking fees at stations which had sold 15% of the parking spaces at the stations for reserved parking, or where the local jurisdiction had requested that a daily parking fee be established. The daily parking fees are or will be at ten east bay stations including the Lake Merritt Station. The program was instituted in October 2005. The initial starting daily parking fee at the station is \$1 per day. Monthly, single day, and airport/long-term parking permits can also be used at the station

The District is installing accessible fare gates to accommodate the access needs of customers in wheelchairs, bicyclists, and others with luggage.

REINVESTMENT This station had new energy efficient lighting fixtures and lamps installed throughout the parking lot in 2003, as part of ongoing station renovation programs. This station is also slated to have upgraded replacement, ADA-compliant platform edge tiles installed.