

# Transport Oakland is seeking new board members

*Building off early success, Transport Oakland seeks to expand its six-person Board of Directors. We are looking for people who are passionate about Oakland and have a working understanding of and interest in local transportation, politics, and/or fundraising. We especially encourage candidates who have experience working with or are part of Oakland communities*

*underrepresented in transportation decisions and processes (e.g., low income communities, communities of color, neighborhoods outside of downtown, people with disabilities, etc.) and are seeking a wide range of ages, gender identities, professional experiences, and preferred transportation modes.*



Photo: Zack Dinh



## Who We Are

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**Transport Oakland** advocates for forward-looking leadership from existing and aspiring elected officials on transportation issues. Our mission is “transportation infrastructure and policy that brings livability, vitality, and equity to Oakland.” The group formed in 2014 sensing the unique moment in time for Oakland and the opportunity for rapid implementation of transformative projects (you can hear our history in this [podcast](#)).

We have run endorsement processes in numerous local political races, volunteered hundreds of hours to campaign activities, and raised and donated money to candidates that supported our platform focused on delivery of near term projects, more efficient and equitable use of existing funds, and organizational change. We have been successful in more than 75% of our candidate endorsements, including the current Mayor Libby Schaaf, and 100% of our ballot measure endorsements, including the recent Measure KK general obligation bond supporting Oakland streets and roads.

When the “Class of 2014” took office in January 2015, our attention focused on forming a new Oakland Department of Transportation

(OakDOT) dedicated to the complex challenges outside of the mission of existing departments such as Public Works. We were successful in advocating for funding of the new Department in the biennial budget process, and the new OakDOT was formed in [July 2015](#). This spring, the City announced that Ryan Russo, formerly the Deputy Commissioner at New York City’s Department of Transportation, will become the [first permanent director of OakDOT](#).

The group became a Political Action Committee (PAC) in 2015 which allowed us to collect and bundle political contributions to support our endorsees in the 2016 local election. We are considering establishing a non-profit 501(c)3 and/or (c)4 status in 2017 in order to participate in a wider range of activities and pursue additional funding sources. The group has attracted interest from a wide range Oakland residents and advocates who care about transportation issues. We wish to expand Transport Oakland’s audience to include anyone who shares our transportation vision for Oakland.

## The Board

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**The group is currently** managed by six board members living in Oakland, including transportation planners and professionals with different backgrounds/skills interested in applying those to our mission. The Board of Directors is charged with responsibilities including:

- + Agreeing on policy positions to take and communicating positions to elected officials, government agency staff, and other stakeholders.
- + Running an endorsement process to consider supporting or opposing candidates or ballot measures that affect Oakland transportation governance.
- + Raising funds through solicitation of donations.
- + Expending funds in support of and/or in opposition to endorsed candidates or measures.
- + Soliciting volunteer help to engage in volunteer activities in support of and/or in opposition to endorsed candidates, policies or ballot propositions.

- + Creating and maintaining Standard Operating Procedures that are reviewed annually and updated as needed.
- + Creating and maintaining a policy platform that is used as a basis for taking policy positions.
- + Appointing Board members.
- + Carrying out any other duties needed to manage the ongoing operation of the organization.



Fundraising tour of Oakland's historic 16th St. Station



Supporting Lateefah Simon's candidacy for BART Board

## Candidates

**The Board will be** expanding by up to 4 seats in 2017. We are particularly interested in candidates who have experience working with or are part of Oakland communities underrepresented in transportation decisions and processes (e.g., low income communities, communities of color, neighborhoods outside of downtown, etc.). We are also seeking candidates with experience in fundraising, equity/social justice policy, and administration/finance.

## Time Commitment & Responsibilities

**The Board currently** meets every other month on Thursday from 6–8pm in downtown Oakland. On the off months, committees of the board meet or do work in support of board priorities.

We ask all prospective Board members to commit to:

- + Spend 10 hours/month on average for Transport Oakland related activities. Some months will be less than that amount, while some (particularly close to elections) will be greater.
- + We do not have fundraising requirements, but all board members should understand

the importance of revenue development to the sustainability of the organization and are expected to support activities of that nature.

- + Serve as liaison to at least 1 elected official endorsed by Transport Oakland.
- + During campaign years, participate in at least one endorsement process and one field event.
- + Ensuring the sustainability of Transport Oakland by participating in financially contribution and/or fundraising to support the operations of the organization.

## Contact

**If you are interested** in learning more about Transport Oakland, this opportunity, or if you want to [apply](#), please contact Kenya Wheeler (Kenya@transportoakland.org).