

CONSENT CALENDAR

March 30, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin

Subject: Budget Referral: Funding STOP Signs at Dwight Way and California Street

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council refers to the budget process the funding of two (2) STOP signs at the west and east ends of the intersection of Dwight Way and California Street and refers the City Manager to oversee the expedited installation of these STOP signs.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The crossing of Dwight Way and California Street is a residential intersection that is a highly trafficked transportation corridor for pedestrians, cyclists, cars, and buses. As a "Bicycle Boulevard" under the City of Berkeley's Bicycle Plan, California Street is designated by the City as a street "where bicycling is safe, comfortable, and convenient for people of all ages and abilities"¹. Despite this, cyclists and pedestrians travelling along California Street that wish to cross Dwight must rely on drivers to slow to a stop and allow them to cross before proceeding on the street that is supposed to prioritize their passage. The precariousness of this intersection undermines its status as a Bicycle Boulevard and has led to near tragedy in the past when a teenage cyclist was sent to the hospital after being hit by an AC Transit bus.² Far from an isolated incident, this injury is just one example that led to the intersection earning the status as part of a "High-Injury Street" according to Berkeley's Vision Zero.³

The City Council has called for traffic calming at this intersection before, with little progress in achieving a safer intersection for cyclists and pedestrians. The City Council passed a budget referral in October of 2017 that called for traffic lights, HAWK lights, or Stop Signs at Dwight and California. Despite this referral and subsequent work done by staff and the Transportation Commission to remedy the issue, Dwight and California remains as dangerous today as it was when a teenager was sent to the hospital over three years ago. Immediate remediation is necessary to avoid further tragedy.

¹https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley-Bicycle-Plan-2017-Executive%20Summary.pdf

² <https://www.berkeleyside.com/2017/09/26/teen-cyclist-taken-hospital-bus-crash-berkeley>

³https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley_Vision_Zero_Action_Plan_Approved_03102020.pdf

FISCAL IMPACTS

Staff time and an estimated \$1,200 for 2 STOP signs (\$600 per sign).⁴

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

No environmental sustainability impact. Slower traffic.

CONTACT

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⁴https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley%202020%20Pedestrian%20Plan_Draft_2020-10.pdf