

Office of the City Manager

SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA MATERIAL for Supplemental Packet 1

Meeting Date: June 1, 2021

Item Number: 19

Item Description: Adopt a Resolution Updating City of Berkeley Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy

Submitted by: Joe Enke, Secretary, Public Works Commission

Supplemental material contains the Public Works Commission's council report entitled, Recommendation for Updates to the City of Berkeley Street Rehabilitation and Repair Policy.



Public Works Commission

May 25, 2021

To: Berkeley City Council

From: Public Works Commission (PWC)

Submitted By: Margo Schueler, Chair

Subject: Recommendation for Updates to the City of Berkeley Street Rehabilitation and Repair Policy

RECOMMENDATION

Review and adopt updates to the Street Rehabilitation and Repair Policy (Policy).

SUMMARY

The City's Street Rehabilitation and Repair Policy Section 5.2 provides that the Policy shall be reviewed annually and updated formally by the City Council, with advice of the Public Works Commission.

The Short-Term Paving Policy Subcommittee of the PWC developed these updates to the Policy which focus on enhancements to equity, and roadway condition performance targets achievable over time that may be tracked during staff's development of the Annual 5 Year Paving Plan.

The Subcommittee worked with City staff and applied their own extensive individual expertise to this work. The PWC reviewed and unanimously accepted these recommended updates to the Policy and forwarded them for discussion to the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability (FITES) Council Subcommittee on two occasions. PWC Director Liam Garland provided separate input and recommendations to the FITES and his staff attended both meetings, with the Council Members engaging in detailed discussion and providing input that was incorporated by PWC staff and returned to the PWC for review.

The updated policy includes changes designed to simplify planning, enhance equity of road condition across the City, identify new funding sources, enhance alignment with the City's broader infrastructure plans and environmental goals, establish roadway condition performance targets, establish a "Dig Once" policy, and leverage demonstration projects and use of new technologies.

The updates initiated by the PWC Short Term Paving Policy Subcommittee demonstrate responsiveness to issues which continue to rise in our nation and community and will

increase Berkeley's competitiveness for upcoming federal infrastructure aid. The work is responsive to analysis and recommendations made by the Auditor's Reports on Paving, are reflective of the City's Climate Change and Complete Streets Policies and reflect the values adopted by Council included in the Mayor's Vision 2050 Initiative.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The update of this policy will not result in any new costs to the City's Paving Program. The updated Policy provides new guidance on how to prioritize the allocation of resources that are available to City Staff to invest in roadway surfacing. The Policy focuses roadway improvements on roads that are shared by the largest number of the City's residents as well as neighborhoods that have historically received lower levels of investment. To achieve a "good" level of service across the City, additional funding will be needed.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The current Street Repair and Maintenance Policy directs the City of Berkeley to maintain our streets in safe, good condition that protects our environment and to properly maintain the existing investment in City assets.

By clarifying and stating outright in Section 2, Assumptions, underlying assumptions will allow staff to develop priorities and metrics that will enable our Council leaders and the community to assess the success of our Paving Plans. will help inform the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the 5-year plan.

In recognition of the challenges of providing annual Policy update recommendations to the Council, the recommendation is to aim for updates every two years.

The PWC would like to acknowledge the depth and breadth of this policy update bringing input from the community through the service of expert community members appointed by Council to the PWC, the collaboration with City Public Works staff and leadership and the review and discussion during two FITES Subcommittee cycles is bringing forth a well thought out, elegant policy update achieving the balanced approach of our community through the commission process, staff input, consideration, review and augmentation followed by Council Subcommittee discussion and amendment is a remarkable achievement by our community, particularly as it has occurred during one of the longest, deepest crisis the City has managed through.

RECOMMENDATION

The attached Update to the Policy reflects the collective efforts of the PWC, Public Works Department, and the members of the FITES to lead the City towards broader improvements in citywide roadway condition. The approach aims to achieve this goal by shifting toward maintaining the roads that serve the greatest number of residents, enhancing coordination of roadway improvements with other plans and infrastructure work, and focusing on enhancing safety and equity of outcomes for the City's residents.

The PWC recommends that Council accept the recommendation to update the 2009 Street Rehabilitation and Repair Policy.



Kate Harrison
Councilmember District 4

ACTION CALENDAR

July 13, 2021

(Continued from June 1, 2021)

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Harrison, Councilmember Bartlett, and Councilmember Taplin

Subject: Adopt a Resolution Updating City of Berkeley Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy

RECOMMENDATION

1. Adopt a Resolution updating the City's Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy dated June 1, 2021.
2. Refer the exploration of potential bonding and funding opportunities for improving the PCI of streets and creating a Paving Master Plan back to the FITES Committee for further review.

CURRENT SITUATION, EFFECTS, AND RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Resolution No. 55,384-N.S. (1990) as subsequently updated by Resolution No. 64,733-N.S. (2009) authorized the Public Works Commission to work with staff to submit an annual update to the Street Repair Policy. However, the Street Paving Plan has been updated every year but the Street Repair Policy has not been updated for many years. The Public Works Department maintains 214 miles of streets in the City of Berkeley, with a replacement value of over \$793 million and Berkeley's current Pavement Condition Index is at 57, which means that the condition of our streets is very much "At-Risk." The new policy included in this item seeks to achieve improvements to PCI while ensuring equity.

It is in the public interest to adopt a new paving policy, which includes best practices and new strategies, as developed by the Public Works Commission, Public Works Department and the Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Policy Committee.

It is also important for the Committee to continue its work on opportunities for improving the PCI of streets and creating a Paving Master Plan back to the FITES Committee for further review.

POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Action: 1 speaker. M/S/C (Robinson/Harrison) move the Public Works supplemental item “City of Berkeley Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy to Council” with a positive recommendation including amendments made during the meeting today, and ask Council to refer the exploration of potential bonding and funding opportunities for improving the PCI of streets and creating a Paving Master Plan back to the FITES Committee for further review.

Vote: All Ayes

BACKGROUND

A sub quorum of the Public Works Commission and the Public Works Department have been working intensively over the past year to revise the City of Berkeley Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy to conform to best practices in other cities and to enhance equity and outcomes. The initial policy was adopted by the Council in 1990 and was subsequently updated in 2006 (see attached). For example, the current policy includes an outdated conception of equity based on Council districts, lacks PCI targets for major street types and Performance Metrics, and a “Dig Once” policy.

Amidst the backdrop of significantly deteriorating street conditions and the climate emergency, Councilmember Harrison concurrently submitted a referral to the FITES Committee to explore potential bonding and funding opportunities for improving the Paving Condition Index (PCI) of streets during the 2020 5-year paving plan adoption process. FITES spent a number of meetings discussing with Public Works staff and members of strategies to improve PCI and funding options. The Council subsequently agreed to extend the mandate of the Committee and also to expand their role to consider:

- the Public Works Commission Paving Policy, which sets criteria for determining *how* to pave streets;
- a paving master plan, which will set out *long-range financing plan* for doing so; and
- continue working with the Public Works Department and the Commission to explore potential bonding and funding opportunities to make the paving master plan a reality.

These efforts are in addition to a rolling five-year *short term paving plan* adopted by the Council to allow staff to bid out specific street segments for the next year’s work. Therefore, the Council designated the FITES committee with the task of reviewing the final version of the new Paving Policy.

The prior Paving Policy:

- is the basis of the rolling a 5-year Street Rehabilitation Plan;
- aims to maintain a safe surface conveyance system in the public right-of-way for vehicles, bicycles, transit and pedestrians;
- breaks streets into three categories: Arterials; Collectors and Residentials
- provides that federal, state, regional and local transportation funds are to be invested as follows:
 - 10% for Arterials
 - 50% for Collectors
 - 25% for Residentials
 - 15% for Discretionary and Demonstration Projects;
- provides for direction regarding water conveyance systems, other public utilities and trenching practices.

The Public Works Commission and FITES Committee framed their work around the following key principles, including but not limited to:

- The City's climate goals, especially its transportation goals (60% of City emissions are from transport); the importance of shifting away from traditional asphalt approaches to paving in order to reduce emissions and ensure longevity;
- Issues of equity, distribution of paving and addressing that certain commercial uses have a disproportionate impact on road conditions;
- The imperative of maintaining baseline lifecycle street conditions amidst a severe lack of funding for paving maintenance.
- A more comprehensive approach to paving with regard to utility upgrades as we begin to phase out natural gas and build advanced internet communication networks;
- Rapid deployment of pedestrian, bicycle and mobility improvements, i.e., the evolving street;
- Water management best practices (permeable pavers) or landscaping that is visually pleasing, human health supportive, and plant, insect, and animal sustaining.

The updated paving policy included in this item incorporates the following assumptions:

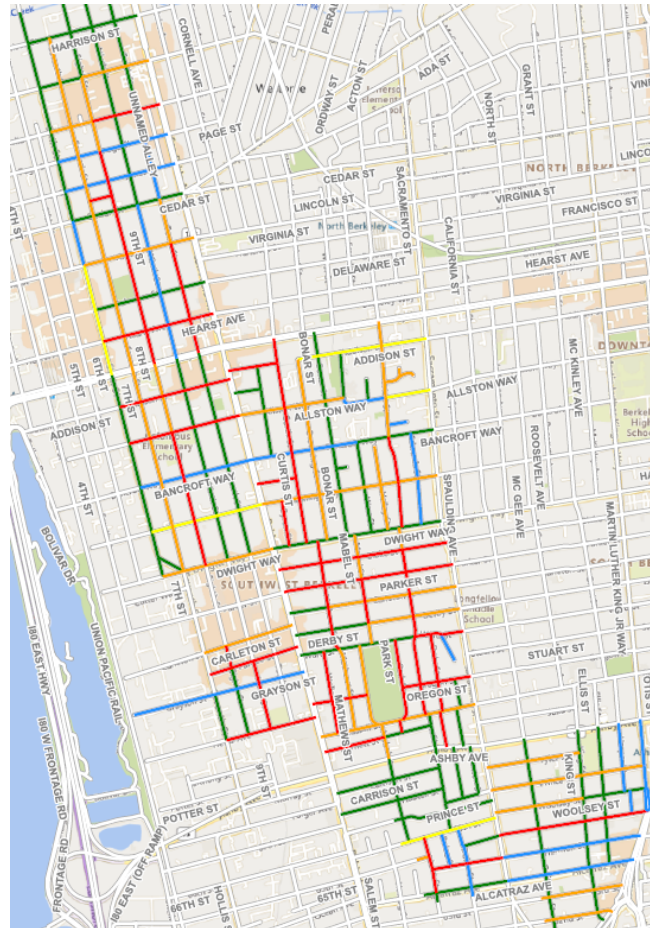
- That there is currently not enough paving funding to stabilize PCI across all neighborhoods, especially with regard to residential streets. Rather, the policy attempts to achieve short-term stabilization of citywide arterials, collectors, bus routes, existing and proposed low-stress bikeway network. Concurrently, the Commission, staff and FITES are working on a paving master plan and funding opportunities that will adequately fund residential streets. Therefore, it is expected that the paving policy will be updated again in conjunction with the availability of new funding.
- Adopts an expanded emphasis on climate and sustainability and expanded conformance to the City's Climate Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan, Resilience Strategy, Vision Zero Policy and Action Plan, Phase 3 Undergrounding Study, Complete Streets Policy, Vision 2050 framework, Pedestrian Plan, Transit First Policy, Strategic Transportation Plan, public realm and/or other localized transportation plans, and Bicycle Plan;
- Recognizes that poorly maintained streets have a disproportionate impact on certain members of the community, including low-income residents; those with mobility or visual impairments who face greater access and safety challenges; bicyclists and pedestrians, who face greater danger than those driving; and dense, more populous neighborhoods with thoroughfares;
- Emphasizes using life cycle cost analysis to evaluate different road surfacing options;
- Promotes the rehabilitation of contiguous sections of roadway, rather than one block at a time, shall be preferred, when feasible;
- States that bond funds shall strive to be used for long-lasting capital improvements (projects with a useful life that meets or exceeds the duration of the bond repayment schedule) or to accelerate road work that will result in long-term cost savings for ratepayers;
- Asserts that street trees are valuable part of the landscape, as they sequester carbon, soak up stormwater, improve land values, and add greenery;
- Asserts that tree removals shall only be permitted as a last resort consistent with BMC 12.44.020, with the approval of both the Director of Parks and Waterfront and Director of Public Works. If tree removal is necessary, replacement trees shall be planted where and when feasible in accordance with BMC 12.44.010.

In addition, the new policy incorporates the following new policies:

- **Planning**
 - The *5-year Street Rehabilitation Plan* shall be supported by a 30-year road surfacing projection, where roadway improvement projects are forecast over a long-term planning period. The first five years of the projection will become the first draft of the *5-year Plan*.

- **Equity**
 - The benefits of good infrastructure shall be distributed equitably throughout the entire community regardless of the income, or demographic characteristics of the residents in each area. Equity means equity of outcomes as opposed to equity of inputs, and that disadvantaged residents with more pressing needs experience benefits sooner than others, as defined by the City within the adopted *5-Year Plan*.

 - A new *Equity Zone* shall be established according to Attachment 1. This Zone shall be prioritized to meet an average PCI of 70 sooner than the remainder of the City. This Zone contains historically underserved neighborhoods that have experienced decades of underinvestment, and the residents in this zone experience more pressing needs.



- Over the longer term, road surfacing activities shall be planned within Pavement Analysis Zones. A Pavement Analysis Zone shall consist of a logical set of street segments, excluding the arterials, collectors, bus routes, bicycle boulevards and non-representative demonstration projects.
 - The department may revise the pavement analysis zone boundaries from time to time, consistent with the other goals of this policy. Any changes to pavement analysis units shall be proposed within the biannually updated 5-year *Street Rehabilitation Plan* submitted to City Council.
 - It shall be the goal of the City to seek parity of street condition between pavement analysis zones, except in regards to the *Equity Zone*.

- **Performance Metrics**

- The City will strive to maintain all roads within the primary transportation network at a standard no less than the following PCI targets for any stretch of roadway¹:
 - i. Arterial - 70,
 - ii. Collector - 70,
 - iii. Bus Routes - 70,
 - iv. Existing and proposed low-stress bikeway network - 70.
 - 1. Bikeways shall be surfaced with a treatment that emphasizes smoothness of the road surface.
 - v. Equity Zone- 70.
 - The biannually updated *5-year plan* shall report on these performance metrics, PCI measurements for each street segment in the City, and percent of overall funding dedicated to each of the following: arterials, collectors, bus routes, existing and proposed low-stress bikeway network, equity zone, and residential streets.
- **Dig Once**
 - Street rehabilitation shall conform with a dig once approach. This includes coordinating with sewer, water, electrical, telecom, undergrounding and other activities to minimize the cost and maintain the quality of the street surface.
 - In order to protect the City's investment on street improvements, the City shall place a moratorium on recently paved streets that prohibits digging through them for up to five years, excluding emergency work.
 - **Demonstration Projects and Use of New Technologies**
 - To the extent practical, the City shall evaluate the use of permeable pavement, concrete pavement, and other street surface technologies using life cycle cost analysis.
 - The use of new technologies that provide enhanced durability, lower cost, and more environmentally beneficial impacts shall be evaluated and reviewed in the biannually adopted *5 Year Street Rehabilitation Plan*.

¹ PCI of 70 is the lower threshold of what is considered "Good." Streets that fall below a "good" condition require much more expensive repair process.

- **Plan and Policy Development and Update**

- Every two years, in line with the City's budgeting process, the *5-year Street Rehabilitation Plan* adopted by City Council shall include a funding sufficiency analysis based on the existing deferred maintenance at that point to determine what level of funding is required to maintain our streets in safe, good condition that protects our environment and properly maintains the existing investment in City assets.
- Identify new funding sources such as:
 - Heavy vehicles, which have a disproportionate impact on the degradation of paved assets, and
 - Transportation Network Company (TNC) vehicles.
- At a minimum, this *Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy* shall be reviewed and adopted by the City Council every five years, with advice of the Public Works Commission.

It is the public interest to adopt these updates through the attached Resolution to improve the lives of Berkeleyans, protect the environment and promote equitable outcomes.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Staff time will be necessary to implement the new paving policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Supporting low-carbon paving policies will complement and accelerate Berkeley's ongoing efforts to reduce carbon emissions at an emergency and equitable pace in line with the Climate Action Plan and Climate Emergency Declaration.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Kate Harrison, Council District 4, 510-981-7140

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution
2. 2006 Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S.

ADOPTING THE 2021 STREET MAINTENANCE AND REHABILITATION POLICY UPDATE

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 55,384-N.S. (1990) as subsequently updated by Resolution No. 64,733-N.S. (2009) authorized the Public Works Commission to work with staff to submit an annual update to the Street Repair Policy and the annual Street Paving Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Street Paving Plan has been updated every year but the Street Repair Policy has not been updated for many years; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Department maintains 214 miles of streets in the City of Berkeley, with a replacement value of over \$793 million; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley's current Pavement Condition of Index is 57, which means that the condition of our streets is very much "At-Risk"; and

WHEREAS, the Public Workers Commission and Public Works Department established a working group to consider updates to the paving policy to improve planning outcomes, ensure equity, identify new funding sources, better align with environmental goals, implement performance metrics, establish a "Dig Once" policy, and leverage demonstration projects and use of new technologies; and

WHEREAS, on April 21, 2021 Facilities, Infrastructure, Transportation, Environment & Sustainability Policy Committee moved the updated policy including amendments to the Council; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the following Street Repair Policy update dated June 2021 is hereby adopted:

City of Berkeley Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy

Section 1. General Policy

It is the policy of the City of Berkeley to maintain our streets in safe, good condition that protects our environment and to properly maintain the existing investment in City assets. Staff will implement a Citywide road resurfacing plan that will ensure street maintenance and repair in a timely manner, reduce long term-replacement costs, and provide for the safe and efficient use of our streets. The users of the street surface in the public right-of-way include powered vehicles, bicycles, transit, and pedestrians. The right-of-way also provides for storm water conveyance and is the location of many public utilities.

The policy requires that a *5-year Street Rehabilitation Plan* for the entire City be prepared and adopted biannually in line with the City's budget process. Any changes to the *5-year Plan* made in the interim shall be reported to City Council. Streets and their surfacing treatment shall be prioritized using a multi-criteria adaptive planning framework to achieve sustainable, resilient, and integrated solutions for the City's right-of-way and the downstream environments. The criteria shall consider equity, quality of life, safety, opportunities for leadership, resource allocation, environmental impacts, and climate and resilience.

This section of the policy defines basic assumptions that inform the goals, objectives, and outcomes of the *5-year plan*.

1. This policy defines the priorities for managing the road surface infrastructure from curb to curb. This policy does not provide guidance on how to prioritize sidewalks or other infrastructure associated with complete streets planning.
2. Streets include arterial, collector, residential, and commercial/industrial streets as defined in Berkeley's General Plan.
3. Consistency with the City's General Plan policy of encouraging use of forms of transportation other than automobiles.
4. Conformance with the Regional Water Quality Control Board's stormwater permit requirements.
5. Support of the City's plans and updates thereto, including the City's Climate Action Plan, Green Infrastructure Plan, Resilience Strategy, Vision Zero Policy and Action Plan, Phase 3 Undergrounding Study, Complete Streets Policy, Vision 2050 framework, Pedestrian Plan, Transit First Policy, Strategic Transportation Plan, public realm and/or other localized transportation plans, and Bicycle Plan.
6. Poorly maintained streets have a disproportionate impact on certain members of the community:
 - a) Low-income residents are more seriously impacted by higher vehicle repair costs than higher income residents;
 - b) Those with mobility or visual impairments face greater challenges of unequal access and safety compared to those without such challenges;
 - c) Bicyclists and pedestrians face greater danger than those driving; and
 - d) Poorly maintained streets in dense, more populous neighborhoods are detrimental to more users than poorly maintained streets in less dense neighborhoods.
7. Utility trench and pothole repair work shall be done in accordance with permit conditions, standard details, and/or standard operating procedures adopted by the Public Works Department.
8. To the extent practical, the City shall use life cycle cost analysis to evaluate different road surfacing options.
9. Runoff from roadways carry pollutants that negatively impact public health, creeks and streams, and the Bay.
10. Street trees are valuable part of the landscape, as they sequester carbon, soak up stormwater, improve land values, and add greenery.
11. The Metropolitan Transportation Commission requires the use of a Pavement Management Tool (such as StreetSaver). Pavement Management Tools are used to optimize road surface conditions through the use of a Pavement Condition Index (PCI) performance metric.

Section 3. Funding

The *Five-year Street Rehabilitation Plan* shall identify all available funding and the sources used to deliver the proposed road improvement projects. This shall include Federal, State, County and City funding sources. In the event that the planned projects are not able to achieve the City's desired roadway condition level of service, the *Five-year Plan* should identify the level of funding and activities needed to expand roadway improvements to achieve the stated goals of this policy. Bond funds shall strive to be used for long-lasting capital improvements (projects with a useful life that meets or exceeds the duration of the bond repayment schedule) or to accelerate road work that will result in long-term cost savings for ratepayers.

Section 4. Specific Policy

The Street Rehabilitation Program shall ~~Page 14 of 20~~ following objectives:

1. Planning

- a) The *5-year Street Rehabilitation Plan* shall be supported by a 30-year road surfacing projection, where roadway improvement projects are forecast over a long-term planning period. The first five years of the projection will become the first draft of the *5-year Plan*.
- b) To the extent financially practical, implementation of the paving plan shall advance plans identified in section 2.5.
- c) Rehabilitation of contiguous sections of roadway, rather than one block at a time, shall be preferred, when feasible.
- d) Tree removals shall only be permitted as a last resort consistent with BMC 12.44.020, with the approval of both the Director of Parks and Waterfront and Director of Public Works. If tree removal is necessary, replacement trees shall be planted where and when feasible in accordance with BMC 12.44.010.

2. Equity

- a) The benefits of good infrastructure shall be distributed equitably throughout the entire community regardless of the income, or demographic characteristics of the residents in each area. Equity means equity of outcomes as opposed to equity of inputs, and that disadvantaged residents with more pressing needs experience benefits sooner than others, as defined by the City within the adopted *5-Year Plan*
- b) A new *Equity Zone* shall be established according to Attachment 1. This Zone shall be prioritized to meet an average PCI of 70 sooner than the remainder of the City. This Zone contains historically underserved neighborhoods that have experienced decades of underinvestment, and the residents in this zone experience more pressing needs and receive benefits sooner.
- c) Over the longer term, road surfacing activities shall be planned within Pavement Analysis Zones. A Pavement Analysis Zone shall consist of a logical set of street segments, excluding the arterials, collectors, bus routes, bicycle boulevards and non-representative demonstration projects.
 - a. The department may revise the pavement analysis zone boundaries from time to time, consistent with the other goals of this policy. Any changes to pavement analysis units shall be proposed within the biannually updated *5-year Street Rehabilitation Plan* submitted to City Council.
 - b. It shall be the goal of the City to seek parity of street condition between pavement analysis zones, except in regards to the *Equity Zone*.

3. Performance Metrics

- a) The City will strive to maintain all roads within the primary transportation network at a standard no less than the following PCI targets for any stretch of roadway¹:
 - a. Arterial - 70,
 - b. Collector - 70,
 - c. Bus Routes - 70,
 - d. Existing and proposed low-stress bikeway network - 70.
 - i. Bikeways shall be surfaced with a treatment that emphasizes smoothness of the road surface.
 - e. Equity Zone- 70.
- b) Funding should be prioritized towards maintenance activities to achieve the goals of item 4.2a.
- c) The biannually updated *5-year plan* shall report on these performance metrics, PCI measurements for each street segment in the City, and percent of overall funding dedicated to each of the following: arterials, collectors, bus routes, existing and proposed low-stress bikeway network, equity zone, and residential streets.

4. Dig Once

- a. Street rehabilitation shall conform with a dig once approach. This includes coordinating with sewer, water, electrical, telecom, undergrounding and other activities to minimize the cost and maintain the quality of the street surface.

¹ PCI of 70 is the lower threshold of what is considered “Good.” Streets that fall below a “good” condition require much more expensive repair process.

- Page 15 of 29
- b. In order to protect the City's investment in street improvements, the City shall place a moratorium on recently paved streets that prohibits digging through them for up to five years, excluding emergency work².

5. Demonstration Projects and Use of New Technologies

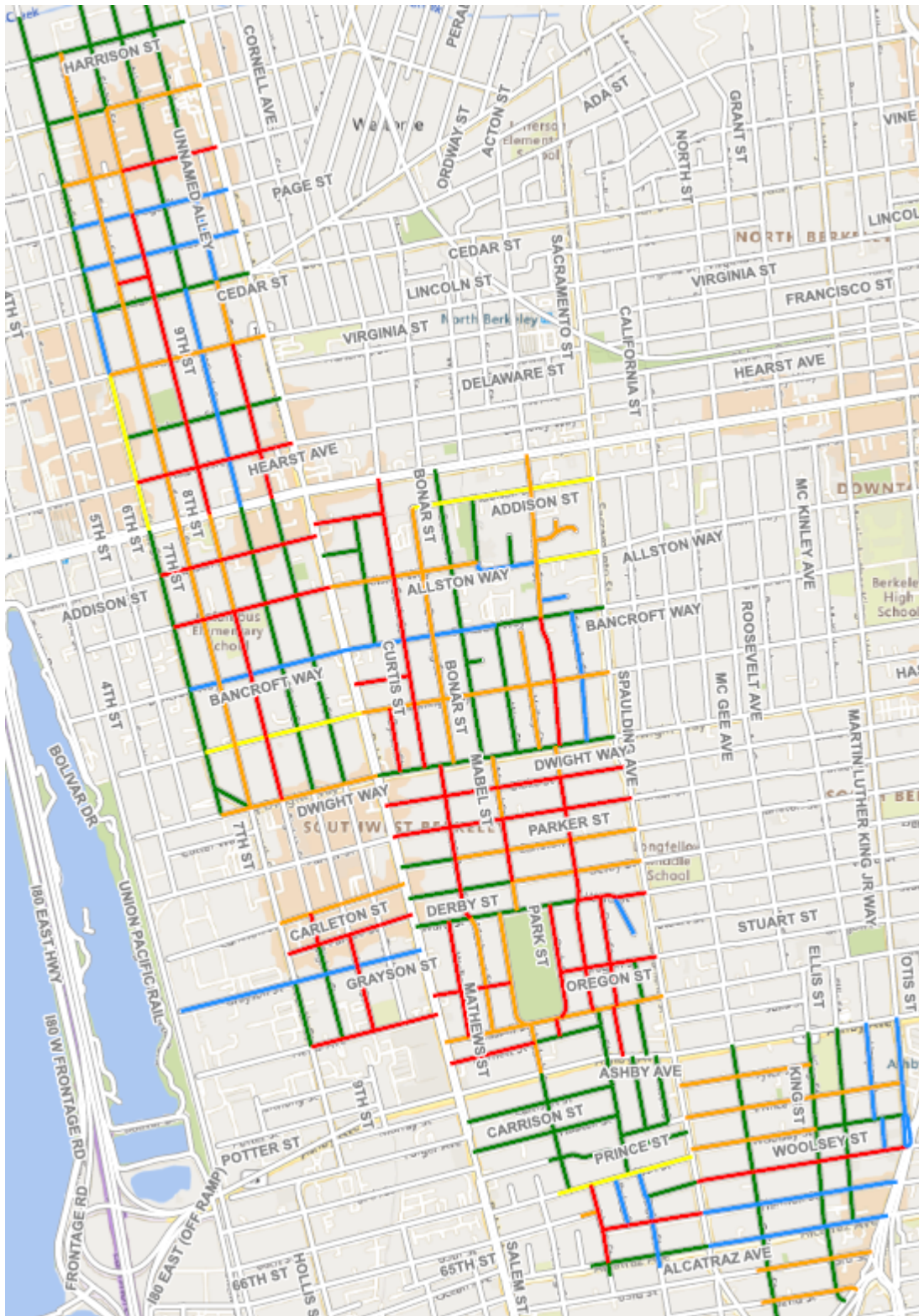
- a. To the extent practical, the City shall evaluate the use of permeable pavement, concrete pavement, and other street surface technologies using life cycle cost analysis.
- b. The use of new technologies that provide enhanced durability, lower cost, and more environmentally beneficial impacts shall be evaluated and reviewed in the biannually adopted *5 Year Street Rehabilitation Plan*.

Section 5. Plan and Policy Development and Update

The plan and policy development shall be as follows:

1. Every two years, in line with the City's budgeting process, the *5-year Street Rehabilitation Plan* adopted by City Council shall include a funding sufficiency analysis based on the existing deferred maintenance at that point to determine what level of funding is required to maintain our streets in safe, good condition that protects our environment and properly maintains the existing investment in City assets.
2. Identify new funding sources such as:
 - a. Heavy vehicles, which have a disproportionate impact on the degradation of paved assets, and
 - b. Transportation Network Company (TNC) vehicles.
3. At a minimum, this *Street Maintenance and Rehabilitation Policy* shall be reviewed and adopted by the City Council every five years, with advice of the Public Works Commission.

² As cited in Berkeley Municipal Code 16.12.030 and documented on the City [website](#)




[Home](#)
[Residents](#)
[Businesses](#)
[COVID-19](#)
[Services](#)
[Elected Officials](#)
search:

GO

WELCOME

[Public Works Home](#)
[About Us](#)
[Contact Us](#)
[FAQ](#)

POPULAR TOPICS

[Bicycle Boulevard Information](#)
[Bulky Waste Pickup](#)
[Parking Information](#)
[Plant Debris & Food Waste](#)
[Private Sewer Lateral Compliance Policy](#)
[Recycling Services](#)
[Street Sweeping](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Berkeley Transfer Station](#)
[Bicycle Resources](#)
[City Property Available for Lease or Sale](#)
[Construction Updates](#)
[Public Works Services & Contact Information](#)
[Utility Service Information](#)
[Watershed Resources](#)

[Translation Disclaimer](#)
PUBLIC WORKS

Department of Public Works



CITY OF BERKELEY STREET REHABILITATION AND REPAIR POLICY Updated March 2009

A. STREET REHABILITATION POLICY

Section 1. General Policy

It is the policy of the City of Berkeley that there shall be a 5-year Street Rehabilitation Plan for the entire City to be adopted by the City Council.

The primary purpose of the street rehabilitation program is to maintain a safe surface conveyance system in the public right-of-way for vehicles, bicycles, transit and pedestrians. The right-of-way also provides ancillary functions of a water conveyance system and location of public utilities.

The City shall strive to identify and implement integrated solutions that address the multiple demands on the street infrastructure that are designed for safety, environmentally sustainable and economically efficient over the long run.

The Plan shall make use of all available funding and set priorities for rehabilitation of streets in accordance with their use, as follows:

- Arterials
- Collectors
- Residentials

(Within the collectors and residential street categories, bus and bicycle routes shall be given first consideration.)

To the extent practicable, these priorities shall be consistent with:

- 1) the City's General Plan policy of encouraging use of forms of transportation other than automobiles,
- 2) the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) goals regarding water quality, flooding potential and runoff control, and
- 3) the City's Measure G goal of an 80% reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

Section 2. Assumptions

- 1) Emergency and interim work for trench and pothole repair will be done and funded outside this program.
- 2) Available funds for street rehabilitation include Gas Tax, Measure B Sales Tax, and other federal, state, and local funds appropriated by the City Council for this purpose during the annual budget process.
- 3) Additional sources of funding other than those above will be needed to ensure acceptable levels of effort in street rehabilitation.

Section 3. Funding

Federal and State transportation and other similar funds shall be used for repair of arterials. When all

eligible work on arterials has been completed in a certain year, these fund sources may be applied to collectors.

All Berkeley's Measure B Sales Tax funds allocated for local streets and roads, all new gas tax subventions, as much of the current gas tax subventions as available and other similar funds shall be used for street rehabilitation as follows:

- 10% for Arterials
- 50% for Collectors
- 25% for Residentials
- 15% for Discretionary and Demonstration Projects

The fees assessed to mitigate for excessive deterioration on and wear and tear of streets resulting from construction activities, public or private, shall be used for street rehabilitation.

To provide for maximizing the use of the limited funds available, the Program may provide for paving publicly owned unimproved streets in areas other than those zoned S1 (industrial and manufacturing) if at least 75% of the cost is borne by the adjacent property owners.

Section 4. Specific Policy

The Street Rehabilitation Program shall be based on the following criteria, listed in order of priority:

- 1) Street rehabilitation shall be coordinated with utility, sewer, water contamination runoff issues, and other underground activities to minimize the cost and maximize the effectiveness of rehabilitation and improve the environment.
- 2) Long term cost effectiveness, long term street pavement durability and aesthetics are important for priority setting and repair methodology selection.
- 3) In order to benefit the greatest number of residents, heavy street use (as indicated by traffic counts and bus routes designated in AC Transit's Comprehensive Service Plan) shall be given great consideration.
- 4) Demonstration and test projects for new technologies should be located in high visibility and heavily used areas. See attached document on background and recommendations for the trial permeable paver sites.
- 5) Rehabilitation of an entire street, rather than one block at a time, shall be scheduled as much as possible.
- 6) First hand assessment of streets, as well as computer based analysis, shall be a basis for street rehabilitation program development.

Section 5. Program and Policy Development and Update

The 5-year Street Rehabilitation Program shall be adopted by the City Council and the 5-year planning process shall be adopted as a City policy as follows:

- 1) Each year, the 5-year program shall be reviewed and updated formally by the City Council, with the advice of the Public Works Commission.
- 2) On an annual basis coinciding with budget preparation, the Street Rehabilitation Policy shall be reviewed and updated formally by the City Council, with advice of the Public Works Commission.
- 3) Both the 5-Year Program and the Street Rehabilitation Policy shall be reviewed and updated annually to ensure that the revolving 5-Year Street Plan is consistent with the policy stated herein and for consistency with General Plan and Area Plan policies.

B. UTILITY TRENCH AND POTHOLE REPAIR POLICY

Section 1. General Policy

It is the policy of the City of Berkeley that there shall be an annual Utility Trench and Pothole Repair Program for the most heavily used streets and in the priority order, as follows:

1. Arterials
2. Collectors
3. Residentials with bus routes

Additionally, the other residential streets shall be repaired on an area by area basis at least every five (5) years. The program shall be reviewed and updated annually to ensure adherence to the City policy.

Section 2. Assumptions

- a. Emergency work for trench and pothole repair will be done as a part of this program.
- b. Utility company created trenches will be repaired by the respective utility company, and no City resources will be used for these purposes.

Section 3. Funding

- a. Gas Tax subventions and General Funds of the City shall be used for pothole repair.
- b. Sanitary sewer funds shall be used for City created sewer trench repair.

Section 4. Specific Policy

In addition to applicable policy under Street Rehabilitation Policy, the Utility Trench and Pothole Repair Program shall be based on the following criteria:

- a. A trench or a pothole is defined as any pavement surface irregularities with a change of elevation (plus or minus) of more than one (1) inch in twelve (12).
- b. All on-going trench and pothole repair shall use the permanent repair technique, i.e., prepare the trench or pot hole into a rectangular shape, fill with hot asphalt mix, and roll to match the grade adjacent to it.

[Home](#) | [Web Policy](#) | [Text-Only Site Map](#) | [Contact Us](#)

[Department of Public Works](#), 2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley, CA 94704

Questions or comments? Email: publicworks@cityofberkeley.info Phone: (510) 981-6300

(510) 981-CITY/2489 or 311 from any landline in Berkeley

TTY: (510) 981-6903

