



Councilmember Ben Bartlett
City of Berkeley, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
October 27, 2020

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author), Mayor Jesse Arreguin (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Convert 62nd Street between King St, and Adeline St. into a One-Way Line that exits in the direction of Adeline St.

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City Manager to convert 62nd Street between King St. and Adeline St. into a one-way lane that exits to Adeline and blocks motorists from entering 62nd Street through Adeline Street.

CURRENT SITUATION

At the intersection of 62nd Street between Adeline and King Streets, dangerous driving behavior has been observed threatening pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists. These observed behaviors include speeding, not stopping at stop signs, and not yielding for pedestrians, all of which have led to near-miss collisions. Though there are stop signs and traffic circles to deter speeding, many drivers ignore the stop signs off of Adeline Street and through 62nd Street, especially during rush hours. Delivery trucks, such as UPS, have also been spotted running these stop signs. Furthermore, it has been difficult to report these incidents as many cars driving these streets lack license plates.

These conditions increase the risks of car accidents and endanger pedestrians and bicyclists. The risk to bicyclists is especially dangerous in this area because 62nd Street feeds directly into the bicycle thoroughfare on King Street. Residents at this intersection have observed near misses almost every day, particularly during rush hours when both cars and bicyclists commute through the 62nd Street and King Street intersection on a regular basis. This area also receives a lot of traffic by pedestrians, cars, and bicyclists on Farmers Market Days (Tuesdays), and furthermore, there are a total of seventeen children and numerous families with pets that live on 62nd Street. Multiple pedestrians and bicyclists have already been injured as a result of these traffic issues. By sheer luck, none of these accidents have been fatal, but the City must support infrastructure that promotes pedestrian safety and reduces traffic collisions in order to avoid a tragedy.

BACKGROUND

The intersection of 62nd Street and King Street, which is located near the border of Oakland, has had numerous issues with crime. In recent years, illegal dumping, gunfire, and various traffic violations have proliferated. This year alone, there have already been

at least three reported cases of gun-related crimes at this intersection. Most recently, there have been reports of gunfire on August 12, 2020¹.

In order to deter traffic violations, traffic circles and stop signs have been installed. Unfortunately, as mentioned previously, these measures have been insufficient in curbing the issue of reckless driving and preventing traffic collisions and confusion. Further work needs to be done in order to deter traffic violations and ensure pedestrian and bike safety.

Based on community consultations, many people have supported transitioning this busy intersection into a one-way block, including all the residents who are at the most dangerous parts of the 62nd Street corridor between Adeline and King Street. Doing this would contain the traffic flow, make it easier for pedestrians to cross the street, and decrease the number of traffic violations. Those wishing to access the neighborhood can do so a half block from 62nd and Adeline by making a right turn at Adeline and King St. Here, the turn is more likely to slow traffic coming into the neighborhood because it is a sharper right turn rather than a gentle turn that does not promote slowing down. Although this item is not a silver bullet in addressing all of the problems, it is a needed step in order to bring some order to the area.

The Council should refer to the Public Works Department to formulate a plan that would convert 62nd Street into a one-way lane between King St. and Adeline St. to block off motorists who enter from Adeline St. If this item passes, the Department should move forward with this request once its staff has addressed their immediate priorities.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

In Berkeley, street safety is a priority. Based on consultations with constituents and reported crimes, action must be taken to substantially decrease traffic violations and prevent the potential for serious injury at this intersection. The urgency for this action is particularly high given the number of young children who live at or near this intersection as well as patrons of the Farmers Market, and cyclists who use the King St. bike boulevard.

REVIEW OF EXISTING PLANS, PROGRAMS, POLICIES, AND LAWS

In December of 2013, the City Council adopted the Complete Streets Policy which is determined to create a “comprehensive, integrated transportation network with infrastructure and design that allows safe and convenient travel”² for all users. This includes pedestrians, persons with disabilities, motorists, bicyclists, users, and operators of public transportation, seniors, children, youth, and families.

The Complete Streets Policy goal is to “provide safe, comfortable, and convenient travel along and across streets.”³ If the City is dedicated to creating a community of traffic

¹ <https://www.dailycal.org/2020/08/17/berkeley-police-department-responds-to-reports-of-gunfire/>

² <https://www.cityofberkeley.info/completestreetspolicy/>

³ https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley%20Complete%20Street%20Resolution%2012%2011%2012.pdf

safety that protects all pedestrians from auto-related accidents, the Council should look into transitioning parts of 62nd Street into a one-way lane.

CONSULTATION OVERVIEW

The District 3 Office and the Berkeley Police Department have met with constituents to discuss the rampant issues in this neighborhood. Constituent concerns with safety, along with their demands on converting 62nd Street into a one-way lane, have informed this recommendation.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No adverse effects on the environment. A one-way lane conversion will help mitigate traffic, promote pedestrian safety, and create a safer intersection.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Staff time and additional costs to be determined by the Public Works Department.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Ben Bartlett:

James Chang

Katie Ly

Jerry Wong

510-981-7130

jchang@cityofberkeley.info

kly@cityofberkeley.info

jzwong@cityofberkeley.info

