CONSENT CALENDAR

March 9th, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin (Author) and Mayor Jesse Arreguín (Co-Sponsor)

Subject: Budget Referral: George Florence Park Traffic Calming (Tenth Street between University Avenue and Allston Way)

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council refers to the budget process the funding of traffic calming measures on Tenth Street between University Avenue and Allston Way including but not limited to:

1. The addition of "SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY" signs approaching George Florence Park and the West Berkeley YMCA
2. Two speed tables on Tenth Street between Addison and Allston approaching George Florence Park, another speed table in front of the West Berkeley YMCA, and another at the south end of the intersection of Tenth and Allston
3. Repainting of crosswalks along this section of Tenth Street
4. Bulb outs at each corner of Tenth Street and Addison Street

BACKGROUND

The residential area encompassed by Tenth Street between University Avenue and Allston Way is home to dozens of residents, the West Berkeley YMCA, Rosa Parks Elementary School, and George Florence Park, making it a heavily trafficked and highly desired stretch of West Berkeley. Despite the 15 m.p.h speed limit, residents and pedestrians report constant violation of the speed limit and stop signs, disregard for pedestrians, and numerous close calls when families were almost struck by vehicles. This area has seen more than just close calls in the past. According to the City of Berkeley's Vision Zero Action Plan, a bicyclist was severely injured at the intersection of Tenth and Addison since 2008 and the report identifies Addison Street as a "High Injury Street"¹. In addition, the slow traffic on Ninth Street under the Healthy Streets program as well as regular construction along University Avenue and San Pablo Avenue diverts a significant amount of traffic onto Tenth Street.

¹https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley_Vision_Zero_Action_Plan_Approved_03102020.pdf

The City of Berkeley's Traffic Calming Program provides for a method by which residents can request for physical traffic calming measures on residential streets². Pursuant to this program, residents of the area around Tenth Street between University Avenue and Allston Way completed their request in writing using the City's Neighborhood Request for Traffic Calming Study form, collected and submitted petition signatures as requested by the Transportation Division of the Public Works Department, and awaited staff collection of speed and traffic volume data as the next step of the program.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, the City of Berkeley has placed the Traffic Calming Program on hold in order to deploy and maintain the Healthy Streets network and ensure that pedestrians and bicyclists can comply with social distancing guidelines while travelling. This hold on the Traffic Calming Program interrupted the process residents of the Tenth Street area were undertaking to request traffic calming measures on their street. The prioritization of pedestrian and cyclist infrastructure that ensures maximum safety from the COVID-19 virus is important, but has not decreased the need for traffic calming measures on Tenth Street. Even as use of the West Berkeley YMCA and Rosa Parks Elementary School has declined during the pandemic, the traffic threat to residents and users of George Florence Park, which has become more desirable during the pandemic, is still in need of prioritized remediation.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

On top of supporting the safety of residents along Tenth Street, traffic calming measures are necessary in order to ensure the safety of the children, families, and employees who use and work at the West Berkeley YMCA, Rosa Parks Elementary School, and George Florence Park. Upon the eventual end of the stay-at-home order as mass-vaccinations bring Berkeley out of the COVID-19 pandemic, Tenth Street should have traffic calming measures already present so that the sudden influx of traffic does not endanger the children, families, and workers that make up the pedestrians on this street.

Speed tables, improved signage, repainting of crosswalks, and bulb outs is the least that the City can do to ensure that pedestrians are safe now and in the future when the end of the pandemic brings a return to high traffic levels. Should the residents of this area wait for the hold on the Traffic Calming Program to end after the pandemic, there will likely be months of increased traffic endangering pedestrians without any remediation.

Taking prioritized and proactive action to make this area safe for the community that regularly walks and bikes it is not only in line with Berkeley's Vision Zero, Pedestrian Plan, and Bicycle Plan, it is specifically called on by them:

² https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Public_Works/Transportation/Traffic_Calming_in_Berkeley.aspx

- As a High-Injury Street, Vision Zero calls for Addison Street to receive proactive capital-intensive building and “quick-build safety projects”³.
- As a “Historically Underserved Area”, the Pedestrian Plan, Vision Zero, and the Bicycle Plan all target this area for the rectification of historic underinvestment⁴.
- And as a “Tier 1 Priority Project” and part of the “Bicycle Boulevard Network”, the Bicycle Plan envisions Addison Street as a street “where bicycling is safe, comfortable, and convenient for people of all ages and abilities” and where “traffic calming treatments such as traffic circles, diverters, and chicanes, sometimes in place of existing stop signs, can help prioritize bicycle through-travel and discourage cut-through motor vehicle traffic”⁵.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

No environmental sustainability impact. Slower traffic.

FISCAL IMPACTS

Staff time and costs associated with the traffic calming measures:

1. Staff time and sign purchase of “SLOW CHILDREN AT PLAY SIGNS”
2. Estimated \$60,000 for four speed tables⁶
3. Staff time for repainting crosswalks
4. Estimated \$160,000 for bulb outs at Tenth and Addison⁷

CONTACT

Terry Taplin, Councilmember, District 2, (510) 981-7120

ATTACHMENTS

1. Community Traffic Calming Program petition
2. Letter from Rosa Parks Elementary School
3. Letter from Nia House Learning Center
4. Letter from West Berkeley YMCA

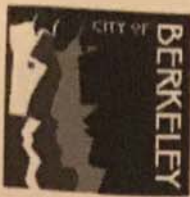
³https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley_Vision_Zero_Action_Plan_Approved_03102020.pdf

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

⁵https://www.cityofberkeley.info/uploadedFiles/Public_Works/Level_3_-_Transportation/Berkeley-Bicycle-Plan-2017-Executive%20Summary.pdf

⁶ https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Public_Works/Transportation/Traffic_Calming_in_Berkeley.aspx

⁷ https://www.cityofberkeley.info/Public_Works/Transportation/Traffic_Calming_in_Berkeley.aspx

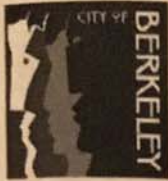


We, the residents of 10th Street and around George F. Jordan Park hereby request that our location be included in the City of Berkeley Traffic Calming Process in accordance with City Council Resolution No. 64,732-N.S. We have read a copy of the original Neighborhood Request for Traffic Calming Study circulated with this petition and agree with the contents.

Name	Signature	Address	Telephone
• Mario Moreno	<i>Mario Moreno</i>	1029 Addison St. Berkeley Ca. 94710	(510) 776-6298
• NA Marcel Pasillas	<i>Marcel Pasillas</i>	1033 Addison St Berkeley CA 94710	(510) 693-7305
• Tom Paulson	<i>Tom Paulson</i>	2112 10 th St A	(510) 705-1859
• SANDY SIMS	<i>Sandy Sims</i>	2114 10 th St	(510) 843-2213
• Marcy Rein	<i>Marcy Rein</i>	2116 10 th St. B	510.847.4443
• Pam Mitchell	<i>Pam Mitchell</i>	2116 10 th St Apt A	510 393 3647
• Rich Meyer	<i>Rich Meyer</i>	2124 10 th St	510-847-5506
• Eddie Mae Eddings	<i>Eddie Mae Eddings</i>	2122-10 th St	510.843 7266
• Albert Brown	<i>Albert Brown</i>	2120 10 th St	415-763-7766
• Joshua Paul	<i>Joshua Paul</i>	1019 ALLSTON WAY	510-325-1014
• Julia Goodman	<i>Julia Goodman</i>	2021 10 th St	404 644 3890
• Shelley McHugh	<i>Shelley McHugh</i>	2012-10 th St	510 207 738
• Procio Martinez	<i>Procio Martinez</i>	2116 10 th St C	510 1860 9480
• Murray Gosson	<i>Murray Gosson</i>	1020 Addison St	510 712 0741
• Susan M. Blair	<i>Susan M. Blair</i>	2016 10 th St	510 548 3346
• Sarah Roggero	<i>Sarah Roggero</i>	1023 Allston Way	415-694-1278
• Jing Ma	<i>Jing Ma</i>	2021 tenth, Berkeley	510 874 4195
• Tyra Herr	<i>Tyra Herr</i>	1030 Addison	510-499-8842

Please submit completed forms to:

Jesse Peoples
 City of Berkeley
 Public Works Transportation Division
 1947 Center Street, 4th Floor
 Berkeley, CA 94704



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Name	Signature	Address	Telephone
Amy Twite	[Signature]	2020 10 th St	913-461-6204
AMIT PRICE PATEL	[Signature]	1019 ADDISON ST.	510-204-9260
Ilah Jarvis	[Signature]	1015 Addison	(510) 499-8358
Maureen Clearfield	[Signature]	2125 10th St B	(510) 717-5579
Aisha Gorson	[Signature]	1020 Addison St. BK	(520) 712-0743
Jordan Bertley	[Signature]	2113 Tenth St	(925) 231-5926
Chris Horgan	[Signature]	1033 Allston Way	415-744-3786
Rosa Perez	[Signature]	1036A 11th St	510-684-0104
Rebecca Falyone	[Signature]	1027 Allston Way	510-499-8194
Deborah Marks	[Signature]	2014 10 th St Berkeley	510 981-1188
Jorge Calderon	[Signature]	2010 10th St Berkeley	510 725 2700
Allyson Gaddard	[Signature]	2010 10th st Berkeley	(800) 785-6312
Julia Brady	[Signature]	1028 addison st	510-292-8856
Eunhe Kim	[Signature]	2204 10th St	510-548-9324
Margaret Fauchier	[Signature]	2000 10 th St.	510 388 8414
Jim Swift	[Signature]	2113 10 th St.	509-933-7361
Javier Molina	[Signature]	2113 10 th St Apt 3	(909) 258-9553
Rebekah Adeyemo	[Signature]	2113 10 th St Apt	7(909) 851-8332

NA
NA
EBBECCA
FAZAR

different units
different units

Please submit completed forms to:

Jesse Peoples
 City of Berkeley
 Public Works Transportation Division
 1947 Center Street, 4th Floor
 Berkeley, CA 94704
jpeoples@cityofberkeley.info

ROSA
PARKS
SCHOOL



March 8, 2020

To whom it may concern;

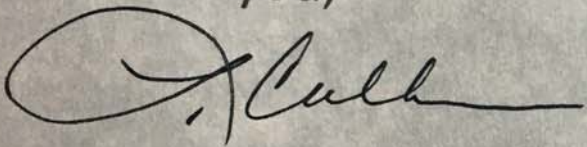
We are very concerned regarding traffic safety in the surrounding area of our school, Rosa Parks Elementary, 920 Allston Way, Berkeley and our neighborhood. There are many Students, Parents and Guardians who walk, ride a bike, scooter, skateboard etc. and drive to school before and after school. Our school population is 470 students, plus staff and parents. We have a small drop off which is always congested, along with through flowing traffic cutting through from University Ave.

We have witnessed too many close calls with cars speeding through the neighborhood and not abiding by the 15 mph speed limit. Not to mention how the cars totally disregard the stops signs; running through and not coming to a complete stop. We do have 2 crossings guards, one located in front of school (Allston & 8th St.) and just recently this year Berkeley Police Dept. Traffic had assigned us a second crossing guard who is located on (Allston & 9th St.)

We are asking for more signage, speed bumps and repainted cross walks.

We have had many families almost hit by cars trying to cross the street. We have trucks of all sizes not abiding by the traffic signs and it's just a matter of time until someone is hurt or a fatality.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lisa Cullen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the beginning and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rosa Parks School

Lisa Cullen/ School Service Asst.

Rosa Parks Elementary

920 Allston Way, Berkeley, 94710

(510) 644-8812



Nia House Learning Center

2234 9th Street
Berkeley, California 94710

March 1, 2020

Jesse Peoples, PE
Assistant Traffic Engineer
City of Berkeley, Public Works – Transportation Division
1947 Center Street, 4th Floor
Berkeley, CA 94704

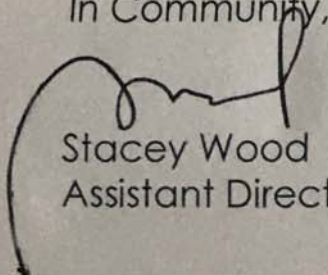
Dear Jesse Peoples,

The Nia House Learning Center community is very excited to see the new changes at George Florence Park! Nia House has a long standing history of taking summer time walks over to this park.

Nia House is a community comprised of children 18 months through six years old. We were so grateful when speed bumps were put along 9th Street, helping to ensure the safety of our children, families, and bikers in the community.

The improvements at George Florence Park will certainly attract more families and children to the area. I write this letter in hopes that the City of Berkeley will keep children safe when visiting the George Florence Park by ensuring a safe flow of traffic along 10th Street. Nia House is in support of the effort to place speed bumps along 10th Street. We are thankful for your consideration and commitment to children's (& all people's) safety.

In Community,



Stacey Wood
Assistant Director, Nia House Learning Center



March 6, 2020

To: Jesse Peoples-City of Berkeley
From: Melanie Mueller-YMCA of the East Bay-Early Childhood Impact
RE: Traffic on Tenth Street-George Florence Park

On behalf of the staff and families at the West Y center on Tenth Street and University Avenue, I am writing a letter of concern regarding the traffic in front of our building and on the next block where George Florence Park is located.

The West Y center serves children from age 12 months through 5 years. On a daily basis, staff and families experience dangers and hazards due to speeding vehicles, and lack of adherence to traffic and parking rules. The street is very narrow and is quite busy. In addition to parking being a challenge due to resident and school needs, there is also a steady flow of delivery trucks and service/emergency vehicles using the street on a daily basis. Even when the street is temporarily blocked by vehicles, it does not seem to deter speeding traffic coming around the corner from University avenue.

We would like to urge the city to consider additional measures to decrease speeding vehicles and increase safety such as speed bumps and more frequent monitoring by traffic enforcement. There is a great concern for the safety of our young children, as just getting in and out of the car and getting into the school can be a challenge with little ones.

When George Florence Park re-opens, there will be an increase in young children using the space. This will create additional safety concerns in the area. This is a good time to make changes while the park is not in use.

Thank you for your consideration. I can be reached at (510) 809-2261 or mmueller@ymcaeastbay.org.

Sincerely,

Melanie Mueller
Executive Director

